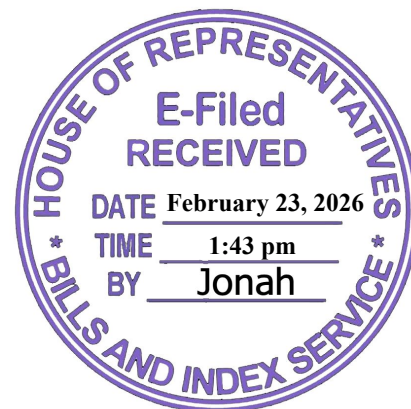




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7944



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
PROMOTING CORPORATIVE FARMING AND PROVIDING
INCENTIVES FOR ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector, encourages private enterprise, and provides incentives to needed investments. Guided by this mandate, this bill seeks to engage the private sector as a key partner in advancing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security through corporative farming.

Food security remains one of the most pressing challenges faced by the Philippines. Despite vast tracts of fertile land, agricultural productivity continues to be constrained by fragmented farm holdings, limited access to technology, and inadequate capital investment. To address these challenges, this bill proposes the adoption of a corporative farming framework that harnesses private sector resources, expertise, and efficiency to complement the efforts of farmers, cooperatives, and government agencies in achieving sustainable food production.

This bill seeks to encourage private corporations that report earnings for the past four (4) years to voluntarily venture into the production of rice/corn for their employees' requirements. Corporate participation may be through existing agricultural landholdings of the corporation, long-term lease or purchase of agricultural lands, and by any form of contractual arrangements with farmers' organization and cooperatives who can simultaneously manage the landholding.

In ensuring private participation and securing the financial viability of the corporations, this bill seeks to grant incentive packages in the form of customs exemption for import of agricultural products, value-added tax (VAT) exemption on importation of agricultural inputs, capital gains tax exemption, and income tax holidays. Private corporations may likewise sell to the local market produce in excess of their employees' consumption requirements.

Ultimately, this proposed legislation aims to augment agricultural food sources to address food insecurity in the country. By combining corporate resources and management expertise with local farming capability, corporative farming will promote sustainable agricultural development, create rural employment, and enhance the country's resilience against food supply disruptions.

This measure was also filed during the 19th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Domestic Corporations and Partnerships. – For the purpose of this Act, domestic corporations and partnerships shall refer to all corporations and partnerships organized and existing under Philippine laws, operating for profit: *Provided*, That said corporations and partnerships report earnings over the last four (4) years that allow them to engage in the production of rice/ corn for their employees' requirements without adversely affecting their financial viability. Appropriate guidelines shall be issued to determine the corporations and partnerships that are to be covered by this Act.

Section 2. Corporative Farming Arrangements. – Participation in Corporative Farming programs shall be on a voluntary basis. For the purpose of this Act, corporations/partnerships may engage in the following Corporative Farming programs:

(a) Corporations/partnerships with existing landholdings suitable for rice/corn production may manage the land and produce the rice/corn or may enter into a management/contractual arrangement with farmers' groups such as farmers' associations, cooperatives, and agrarian reform communities (ARCS).

(b) Corporations/partnerships may purchase or lease, on a long-term basis, public or private agricultural land suitable for rice/corn production, whereby the corporations/partnerships are given full management and production control over the purchased or leased lands or may enter into contractual arrangements, or joint ventures with landowners, farmers' organizations and ARCS.

Agricultural land purchased or leased for the purpose cannot be converted to other uses. Should the Corporative Farming venture cease to be financially viable and the partners declare bankruptcy or insolvency, land ownership shall automatically revert to the agrarian reform beneficiaries within a period of three (3) years in the case of public agriculture lands and private lands originally distributed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Fifty percent (50%) of the land should have been developed within a period of three (3) years, and ninety percent (90%) within a period of five (5) years.

(c) Corporations/partnerships may enter into contractual arrangements with farmers' organizations/ ARCS, whereby the corporations and partnerships will provide the production inputs and technical and related services, then buy back the produce. Provided, that the farm

inputs that shall be utilized shall subscribe to the requirements set forth by Republic Act 10068 or the "Organic Agriculture Act of 2010."

Local Government Units (LGUs) shall be required to identify appropriate land areas for Corporative Farming in consonance with their comprehensive land-use plan and ordinances. The LGU shall require the participating corporations/partnerships to provide livelihood projects/opportunities to families who will not be hired by the said entities.

Further, the LGUs may also identify local taxes that may be offered as incentives for Corporative Farming.

(d) Corporations/partnerships may enter into contractual arrangements with farmers' organizations/ARCs, whereby farmers' organization shall be responsible for the production of raw agricultural materials while the corporations/partnerships shall perform the agro-processing / value-addition and look for domestic and international markets.

(e) Farmers or other agricultural cooperatives with existing landholdings and sufficient capitalization to undertake a "corporative" farming scheme for rice/corn.

Section 3. *Disposition of Excess Production.* – The corporations or partnerships shall be required to provide a minimum of six hundred (600) kilograms of rice/corn per employee per year or fifty (50) kilograms per employee per month. Production in excess of the employees' consumption requirements

may be sold in the local markets: *Provided*, That such will be reported to the National Food Authority (NFA).

Section 4. *Implementing Agencies and Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall be the lead agencies to institute measures to ensure higher rice/corn productivity through Corporative Farming schemes.

Moreover, the DA and the DAR shall facilitate with the appropriate government agencies, the processing of management contracts between the corporations/ partnerships and farmers' groups. Further, the DA and the DAR shall oversee and monitor the IRR and guidelines of this Act. The DA and the DAR shall exercise the following functions:

- (a) Develop eligibility criteria for both corporations/partnerships and farmers' groups, cooperatives and/or ARCs for consideration under this Act and to institute their accreditation: *Provided*, that the farmers' group criteria should include management capabilities, technical and production skills critical to the effective operation of the Corporative farm;
- (b) Identify suitable private and public-owned rice/ corn production areas for Corporative farming and determine the maximum ceiling of landholdings for Corporative Farming arrangements: *Provided*, that the DA and the DAR shall periodically determine the need to expand/reduce rice/corn production areas for Corporative Farming schemes on the basis of rice/corn demand-supply gaps;

- (c) Facilitate and promote grassroots cooperation to access agricultural services such as information, inputs, and technical assistance;
- (d) Initiate and develop periodic rural/arm assembly markets to provide avenues to showcase their produce;
- (e) Exercise regulatory functions with respect to the adherence to the provisions of contracts and arrangements entered into by both corporations/ partnerships and farmers' groups, cooperatives and/or ARCs and to develop mechanism to facilitate negotiations and mediate in disputes between stakeholders on matters of contract enforcement;
- (f) Coordinate with the appropriate government agencies to ensure the timely establishment of support services such as credit, infrastructure, extension services, and others;
- (g) In consultation with other concerned government agencies, non-government organizations, private sectors, and farmers' groups involved in rice/corn production, formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) necessary to operationalize the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from approval; and
- (h) Facilitate the registration of the participating corporations/partnerships with the NFA.

Section 5. *Incentive package.* – Corporations/partnerships which shall participate in the Corporative Farming Act shall be entitled to tax incentives covering all aspects of the operation germane to Corporative Farming activities.

These include the following:

- (a) Exemption from the payment of customs duties on the importation of all types of agricultural Inputs, particularly seeds, fertilizers, agricultural machinery, and other agricultural implements as provided under Republic Act No. 9281, which amends Republic Act No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act;
- (b) Exemption from the value-added tax (VAT) on the importation of agricultural inputs in accordance with Section 109(d) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended; *Provided*, That the importation requirement shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10068 or the "Organic Agriculture Act of 2010;
- (c)
- (d) Exemption from the payment of capital gain tax for a person either natural or juridical, who sells and or transfers idle agricultural land to corporations and partnerships engaged in Corporative Farming; and
- (e)
- (f) Tax incentives, including income tax holiday, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order No. 226 or the Omnibus Investment Incentives Code, as amended.

Section 6. *Other Incentives.* – Loans extended by banks, both government and private, to participating corporations/partnerships shall be treated as compliance to Republic Act No. 10000 or "*The Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act of 2009.*"

Section 7. *Duration.* – Participating corporations/partnerships with

existing landholdings may engage in rice/corn production within a period of time to be determined by this Act. However, those corporations/partnerships which purchased agricultural lands for the purpose cannot convert the land to other uses and must relinquish land ownership in favor of agrarian reform beneficiaries within a period of three (3) years in the case of public agricultural lands and for private lands originally distributed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program should they wish to terminate the Corporative Farming agreement.

Arrangements/negotiations for leased public or idle private agricultural lands shall be for a period not less than ten (10) years.

Section 8. *Automatic review.* – The DA and the DAR, being the lead government agencies in the Corporative Farming Program, shall submit periodic reports to both Houses of Congress on the accomplishments of the Program.

A review on the viability of the program shall be made by the concerned agencies after five (5) years of its implementation.

Section 9. *Effectivity.* – This act shall take effect after (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,