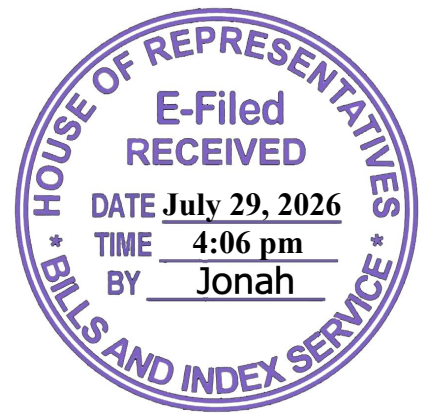


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10385**



Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

1
2 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIAL CROPS RESEARCH**
3 **INSTITUTE (PICRI) UNDER THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM),**
4 **DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**
5 **THEREFOR**

6 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

7 The Philippines' industrial crops sector, comprising coffee, cacao, oil palm, banana, spices,
8 ramie, kenaf, and other emerging commodities, plays a vital role in generating rural employment,
9 foreign exchange earnings, and countryside development. Despite this economic significance, the
10 sector continues to suffer from a fragmented and uncoordinated research and development
11 landscape, with no single national institution tasked to consolidate, prioritize, and sustain science-
12 based interventions across the industrial crops value chain.

13 In 1986, Executive Order No. 1089 established the Philippine Industrial Crops Research
14 Institute (PICRI) under the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in Kabacan, Cotabato, in
15 recognition of the strategic role Mindanao plays as the country's primary producer of industrial
16 crops. For nearly four decades, however, PICRI has operated on the strength of an executive
17 issuance alone, without a statutory charter, a dedicated funding mechanism, or a governance
18 structure capable of insulating its research agenda and institutional continuity from shifts in
19 administrative priorities.

20 This bill seeks to remedy that structural gap by elevating PICRI into a permanent statutory
21 institution through an Act of Congress. It formalizes USM's administrative supervision over the
22 Institute, on account of the University's existing laboratory facilities, experimental stations, trained
23 research personnel, and established linkages with government agencies, state universities and
24 colleges, and private sector partners engaged in industrial crops research and development.

25 The measure defines PICRI's mandate and powers with particularity: the formulation of a
26 comprehensive national industrial crops research and development agenda; the conduct of basic,
27 applied, and strategic research on crop improvement, biotechnology, crop protection, and climate
28 resilience; the establishment of germplasm collections and gene banks; technology transfer,

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30 extension, and commercialization support for farmers, processors, and entrepreneurs; and the
31 maintenance of a national repository and database for evidence-based industry policymaking. To
32 keep PICRI's plans, programs, and priorities responsive to both national development objectives
33 and industry needs, the bill creates an Advisory Board chaired by the USM President, with the
34 Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources
35 Research and Development (PCAARRD) as Vice-Chairperson, together with representatives of
36 the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Science and Technology in Region XII,
37 industry representatives, and the Institute's Director as Board Secretary.

38 Critically, the bill secures PICRI's fiscal sustainability by mandating that, after an initial
39 implementation period charged against USM's current appropriations, the sums necessary for the
40 Institute's continued operation and maintenance shall be included as a specific item in the annual
41 General Appropriations Act, insulating the Institute from the year-to-year budgetary uncertainty
42 that has historically constrained similarly situated, under-resourced research institutions.

43 By institutionalizing PICRI's mandate, this measure directly supports the national
44 government's agenda of agricultural modernization, food and economic security, countryside
45 development, poverty alleviation, and the global competitiveness of Philippine industrial crop
46 exports. It likewise repeals and supersedes Executive Order No. 1089, series of 1986, ensuring a
47 clean transition from executive to statutory authority without disruption to PICRI's ongoing
48 programs and personnel.

49 In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

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Hon. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.
Representative, 1st District of Cotabato

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2 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIAL CROPS RESEARCH**
3 **INSTITUTE (PICRI) UNDER THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO**
4 **(USM), DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING**
5 **FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

8 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Industrial Crops
9 Research Institute Act.”

10 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
11 promote the sustainable development, productivity, profitability, and global competitiveness
12 of the Philippine industrial crops sector. Towards this end, the State shall support scientific
13 research, innovation, technology development, extension, and capacity-building programs for
14 industrial crops, particularly coffee, cacao, oil palm, banana, spices, ramie, kenaf, and other
15 emerging industrial crops, to enhance agricultural productivity, generate employment, improve
16 rural livelihoods, and contribute to national economic development.

17 **SECTION 3. *Creation of the Philippine Industrial Crops Research Institute.*** The
18 Philippine Industrial Crops Research Institute (PICRI) is hereby established under the
19 administrative supervision of the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in Kabacan,
20 Cotabato.

21 The Institute shall serve as the national center for research, development, innovation,
22 training, and technology transfer on industrial crops and shall build upon the functions and
23 mandates originally established under Executive Order No. 1089, series of 1986.

24 **SECTION 4. *Mandate.*** The Institute shall serve as the lead national institution for
25 industrial crops research and development and shall undertake programs and activities aimed
26 at increasing productivity, improving product quality, enhancing value addition, strengthening
27 market competitiveness, and ensuring the sustainability of industrial crop industries in the
28 Philippines.

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SECTION 5. Powers and Functions. The Institute shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive national industrial crops research and development agenda;
- (b) Conduct basic, applied, and strategic research on industrial crops, including crop improvement, biotechnology, crop protection, soil fertility management, climate resilience, precision agriculture, postharvest technologies, processing, and value addition;
- (c) Develop and promote high-yielding, climate-resilient, and disease-resistant varieties of industrial crops;
- (d) Establish and maintain germplasm collections, gene banks, and breeding programs for industrial crops;
- (e) Generate, validate, package, and disseminate production technologies and best management practices for industrial crops;
- (f) Conduct technology transfer, extension, demonstration, and commercialization activities for farmers, processors, cooperatives, entrepreneurs, and industry stakeholders;
- (g) Conduct training programs, seminars, workshops, and certification courses on industrial crops production, processing, marketing, and entrepreneurship;
- (h) Serve as the national repository and resource center for scientific, technical, and economic information related to industrial crops;
- (i) Maintain databases and information systems to support evidence-based policymaking and industry development;
- (j) Establish collaborative linkages and partnerships with government agencies, state universities and colleges, research institutions, local government units, private sector organizations, farmer associations, and international organizations;
- (k) Mobilize grants, donations, endowments, and research funds from local and international sources, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations;
- (l) Provide technical advice and policy recommendations to the national government and other stakeholders on matters relating to industrial crops; and

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(m) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 6. *The Advisory Board.* The plans, policies, programs, and priorities of the Institute shall be approved by an Advisory Board composed of the following:

Chairperson: President, University of Southern Mindanao

Vice-Chairperson: Executive Director, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)

Members:

1. Regional Executive Director, Department of Agriculture Region XII;
2. Regional Director, Department of Science and Technology Region XII;
3. Two (2) representatives from the industrial crops sector to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture upon recommendation of recognized industry organizations; and
4. Director of the Institute, who shall serve as Board Secretary.

The Board may invite representatives from other government agencies, state universities and colleges, research institutions, and private organizations as resource persons whenever necessary.

SECTION 7. *Director of the Institute.* The Institute shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Board of Regents of the University of Southern Mindanao upon recommendation of the Advisory Board.

The Director shall:

- (a) Be a Filipino citizen;
- (b) Possess a doctorate degree or equivalent qualifications in agriculture, crop science, agricultural research, or related fields;
- (c) Have at least five (5) years of experience in agricultural research and development; and
- (d) Be recognized for expertise and leadership in agricultural sciences.

The Director shall exercise overall supervision and management of the Institute and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Advisory Board.

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93 **SECTION 8. *Organizational Structure and Personnel.*** The Institute shall establish the
94 necessary research, extension, training, administrative, and support units needed to effectively
95 implement its mandate.

96 The University of Southern Mindanao shall create and fill plantilla positions necessary
97 for the operation of the Institute, subject to existing civil service, budgeting, and compensation
98 laws, rules, and regulations.

99 **SECTION 9. *Research and Development Centers.*** The Institute may establish regional
100 research stations, satellite laboratories, demonstration farms, field testing sites, and technology
101 innovation centers in strategic industrial crop-producing areas throughout the country, subject
102 to the approval of the Advisory Board and availability of funds.

103 **SECTION 10. *Coordination with Government Agencies.*** The Institute shall closely
104 coordinate with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology,
105 PCAARRD, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Environment and Natural
106 Resources, local government units, and other concerned agencies to ensure effective
107 implementation of national programs relating to industrial crops.

108 **SECTION 11. *Appropriations.*** The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
109 this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the University of Southern
110 Mindanao.

111 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance
112 of the Institute shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

113 **SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within sixty (60) days from the
114 effectivity of this Act, the University of Southern Mindanao, in coordination with the
115 Department of Agriculture, PCAARRD, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the
116 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

117
118 **SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is declared
119 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be
120 in full force and effect.

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SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* Executive Order No. 1089, series of 1986, entitled
“Establishing the Philippine Industrial Crops Research Institute at the University of Southern
Mindanao, Kabacan, Cotabato,” is hereby repealed and superseded by this Act.

All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
accordingly.

SECTION 15. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED,