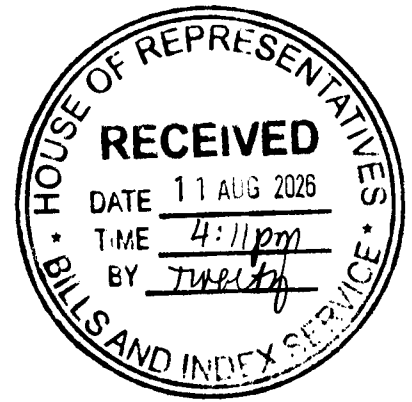


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10723**



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Renowned for its sweetness and premium quality, the Philippine mango holds a unique place in global agriculture. Mango cultivation has been both an economic lifeline for farmers and a symbol of Filipino identity and excellence. Nonetheless, prior to the landmark scientific breakthrough of Dr. Ramon C. Barba in the 1970s, mango production was limited by natural cycles. The trees bore fruit only once every few years, limiting supply, hampering income opportunities for farmers, and curtailing the country's competitiveness in international trade.

Dr. Barba's invention of the mango flowering induction technology, also known as the "Flush solution," which combined a kilo of potassium nitrate (KNO₃) with a hundred liters of water and spraying it on mango trees, revolutionized mango science.

This innovation transformed the industry from subsistence-level cultivation into a dynamic commercial enterprise. The impact was profound—production volumes surged, exports expanded, and Filipino mangoes gained recognition worldwide. This achievement demonstrates how scientific creativity and inventiveness can alter the trajectory of the agriculture sector.

Today, the challenge is to sustain and expand that legacy. Mango science must continue to flourish and evolve—through research in genetics, pest and disease management, climate resilience, and post-harvest technology.

Innovation is never static. It requires institutional support, funding, and collaboration between the government, the academe, and the industry.

Thus, this proposed measure seeks to establish the National Mango Science and Innovation Program (NMSIP) to promote scientific research, technological innovation, and sustainable practices in mango production to further strengthen competitiveness of Philippine mangoes in domestic and international markets.

Through the establishment of the NMSIP, government ensures that mango farmers are not left behind, but are equipped with the necessary tools.

knowledge, and training to adopt new technologies. Capacity-building programs, farmer education, and cooperative training are indispensable to bridge the gap between laboratory breakthroughs and field application.

This bill likewise aims to empower scientists tasked with mango research through proper funding and the creation of a program dedicated to mango science and innovation. Moreover, this measure tasks the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), to facilitate the dissemination of research outputs to mango farmers, through technology transfer, training, and field demonstrations.

Fostering a culture of innovation encourages the nation and the next generation of mango scientists to push boundaries and secure the country's place as a global leader in mango production.

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



ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING SUPPORT FOR MANGO SCIENCE AND
INNOVATION, PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
COMPETITIVENESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Mango Science and Innovation Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote scientific research, technological innovation, and sustainable practices in mango production and strengthen the competitiveness of Philippine mangoes in domestic and international markets.

To this end, the State shall institutionalize support mechanisms that ensure long-term development of mango science and to protect and advance the welfare of mango farmers, cooperatives, and local enterprises.

SECTION 4. Lead Agency. – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), through the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), shall be the lead agency in the implementation of this Act. The DA shall facilitate the dissemination of research outputs through technology transfer, farmer training, and field demonstrations.

SECTION 5. Objectives of the Program. – The Program is established to achieve the following objectives, which include, but are not limited to:

1. Instituting regional mango research centers and demonstration farms;
2. Funding research on mango genetics, pest and disease management, post-harvest technology, and climate resilience;
3. Facilitating technology transfer to farmers, cooperatives, and local enterprises;

4. Supporting innovation in processing, packaging, and value-added products; and

5. Promoting collaboration with international research institutions.

SECTION 6. *Centers of Excellence.* – Regional Mango Research and Innovation Centers shall be established in major mango-producing provinces, including Guimaras, Zambales, Pangasinan, and Davao, to serve as hubs for research and development, training, and technology transfer.

SECTION 7. *Mango Innovation Fund.* – A Mango Innovation Fund (MIF) is hereby created, with an initial amount of Five hundred million pesos (P500,000,000.00) to be taken from the existing budget of the DOST. Thereafter, the MIF shall be sourced from the amounts appropriated in the General Appropriations Act in the year following its enactment into law. Other sources of funds, including but not limited to borrowings from local and financial institutions, shall also be considered to further support the fund.

The MIF shall be utilized to finance research grants, scholarships, farmer training, and commercialization of mango-based innovations. The Fund shall be administered by DOST in consultation with the DA, and DTI.

SECTION 8. *Technology Transfer and Extension Services.* – The DA, in coordination with the DOST, shall integrate research outputs into farmer training programs, demonstration farms, and extension services to encourage general adoption.

SECTION 9. *Market Development and Promotion.* – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall, in consultation with the DOST and the DA, promote Philippine mangoes in domestic and international markets, support branding initiatives, and facilitate export opportunities.

SECTION 10. *Inter-Agency Committee.* – A Committee is hereby created to formulate and prescribe, after public hearing and publication, as required by law the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The Committee shall be composed of one (1) representative from the following agencies and the private sector:

- a. Department of Science and Technology (DOST), as Chairperson;
- b. Department of Agriculture (DA), as Vice-Chairperson;
- c. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- d. Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- e. Cooperative Development Authority (CDA);

- f. Department of Finance (DOF);
- g. Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- h. Mango growers; and
- i. Mango commercial producers.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly: Provided, however, that nothing in this Act shall be construed or applied as amending the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and other laws on agrarian reform.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any of the provisions of this Act is declared invalid, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,