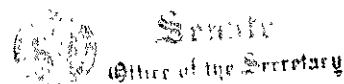


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Second Regular Session


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15 JUN 10 P1:42

SENATE

P. S. RES. No. 1400

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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1 RESOLUTION

2 DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF  
3 LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE  
4 PROGRAM IN RELATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS – FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
5 ORGANIZATION DECLARATION OF 2015 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOILS

6 WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly, through the Food and Agriculture  
7 Organization (FAO), declared 2015 as 'International Year of Soils' to raise awareness of the  
8 importance of soils for food security and essential eco-system functions. As FAO Director  
9 General José Graziano da Silva cited: "We need healthy soils to achieve our food security and  
10 nutrition goals, to fight climate change and to ensure overall sustainable development;"

11 WHEREAS, FAO estimated that by 2050, agricultural production must increase by 60  
12 percent globally – and by almost 100 percent in developing countries – in order to meet food  
13 demand alone. This is a problem since 33 percent of soil is moderately to highly degraded due  
14 to erosion, nutrient depletion, acidification, salinization, compaction and chemical pollution;

15 WHEREAS, a shortage of any one of the 15 nutrients required for plant growth can limit  
16 crop yield. In most developing countries, there is little room for expansion of arable land. In  
17 sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, more than 70 percent suffers from soil and terrain  
18 constraints. More efficient use of water, reduced use of pesticides and improvements in soil  
19 health can lead to average crop yield increases of 79 percent;

20 WHEREAS, soil is a finite and nonrenewable resource, meaning its loss and degradation  
21 is not recoverable within a human lifespan. As a core component of land resources, agricultural  
22 development and ecological sustainability, it is the basis for food, feed, fuel and fiber  
23 production and for many critical ecosystem services. It is therefore a highly valuable natural  
24 resource, yet it is often overlooked. Soils need to be recognized and valued for their productive

1 capacities as well as their contribution to food security and the maintenance of key ecosystem  
2 services;

3 **WHEREAS**, Organic Farming also helps maintain the health of soils as it retains higher  
4 levels of essential organic matter. And there is more to organic farming than reducing the use  
5 of pesticides. It also includes crop rotations and composting;

6 **WHEREAS**, a study made by the Colorado State University revealed that Compost  
7 improves soil structure, it provides a means to improve its water holding capacity, improve  
8 plant root zone environment, provide nutrients to plants, modifies and stabilizes soil pH;  
9 stimulate microbial growth and activity and suppress plant diseases among others<sup>1</sup>;

10 **WHEREAS**, recycling food wastes into value-added products such as compost decreases  
11 disposal costs and the recycle nutrients are valuable inputs for maintaining and improving soil  
12 quality and crop growth<sup>2</sup>. Disposal of organic materials including food wastes is constrained due  
13 to decreased landfill areas. Composting has become an attractive means for diverting food  
14 wastes from landfills and reducing waste management costs;

15 **WHEREAS**, our country has a National Organic Agriculture Program, which envisions the  
16 organic agriculture sector contributing to the overall agricultural growth and development of  
17 the country in terms of sustainability, competitiveness and food security. Under the said  
18 Program, at least five (5) percent of Philippine agricultural farm will be converted into organic  
19 farms by 2016;

20 **WHEREAS**, the said Program is mandated under Republic Act No. 10068 or the "Organic  
21 Agriculture Act of 2010," which was passed on February 1, 2010;

22 **WHEREAS**, Section 2 of RA 10068 specifically states that "the State shall promote, propagate,  
23 develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines that will  
24 cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity, reduce pollution  
25 and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources, further protect the  
26 health of farmers, consumers, and the general public, and save on imported farm inputs."

27 **WHEREAS**, Section 4 of the Act shall cover the following areas:

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.extsoilcrop.colostate.edu/Soils/powerpoint/compost/CompostEffectsonSoilQuality.pdf>

- 1           “(a) Policy formulation on regulation, registration, accreditation, certification and  
2           labeling on organic agriculture;
- 3           (b) Research, development and extension of appropriate, sustainable environment and  
4           gender-friendly organic agriculture;
- 5           (c) Promotion and encouragement of the establishment of facilities, equipment and  
6           processing plants that would accelerate the production and commercialization of  
7           organic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other commercialization of organic  
8           fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other appropriate farm inputs; and
- 9           (d) Implementation of organic agricultural programs, projects and activities, including  
10           the provision and delivery of support services with focus on the farmers and other  
11           stakeholders.”;

12           **WHEREAS**, Section 6 mandates the National Organic Agricultural Board (NOAB) to carry  
13           out the policies and the Program and shall provide direction and general guidelines for the  
14           implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Program. The NOAB is attached to the  
15           Department of Agriculture (DA);

16           **WHEREAS**, the NOAB is tasked to formulate policies, plans, programs and projects to  
17           develop and promote organic agriculture, production, processing and trade. The NOAB is also  
18           mandated to submit annual and other periodic reports to the President, Secretary of the DA  
19           and Congress of the Philippines;

20           **WHEREAS**, more than two-thirds of our population is involved in agriculture and  
21           majority of them are poor farmers. A reduction in the cost of farm inputs can help our farmers,  
22           through, among others, the promotion of the use of organic fertilizer instead of synthetic  
23           fertilizer. Healthy soils will not only provide abundant and nutritious food, but will also increase  
24           the farmers’ crop yields. With abundant harvest, the economy of the Philippines, as an  
25           agricultural country, will also grow abundantly;

26           **WHEREAS**, there is a need to review the National Organic Agriculture Program to  
27           determine its contribution to the objectives of the FAO to preserve and protect healthy soils  
28           which is essential for food production, nutrition, fighting climate change, and achieving overall  
29           sustainable development;

1           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines to direct  
2 the proper Senate Committee to conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, on the  
3 implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Program in relation to the United Nations –  
4 Food and Agriculture Organization Declaration of 2015 as “International Year of Soils”

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6           *Adopted,*

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**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**