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13<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

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SENATE

**1379**

S. BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

**Explanatory Note**

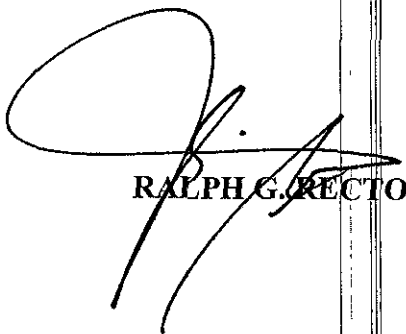
In spite of our thrust towards industrialization, agriculture remains to be a vital industry as it plays a significant role in supplying food to our growing population, providing raw materials to industries, jobs to the labor force, and to some extent, entrepreneurship and the needed dollar exchange.

In response to agriculture's dominant role towards nation building, Republic Act 7900 otherwise known as the High Value Crops Development Act of 1995 was enacted to accelerate the growth and development of agriculture in general, and to develop the viability of high-value crops in particular. This was expected to enhance the productivity and incomes of farmers, improve investment climate, competencies and efficiency of agribusiness.

Nine years after its enactment, it is recognized that in order to maximize the benefits from this law, amendments should be proposed in order to include various-sized farms in the coverage of the law, and to encourage the private sector in spearheading pilot projects on high-value crops.

It is believed that these proposed amendments will further boost the development of high-value crops as export crops that will significantly augment the foreign exchange earnings of the country. Private sector participation will also significantly contribute to the all-out promotion of the production, processing, marketing, and distribution of high-value crops in suitable areas of the country.

In view of the foregoing, consideration of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**RALPH G. RECTO**

13<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

'04 JUL -6 A11 :41

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SENATE

S. BILL NO. 1379

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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AN ACT  
AMENDING SECTIONS 3, 5 AND 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7900,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE HIGH VALUE CROPS DEVELOPMENT ACT  
OF 1995 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Sections 3, 5 and 7 of Republic Act No. 7900, otherwise known as  
2 the High Value Crops Development Act of 1995 and For Other Purposes is hereby  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 "SEC. 3. *Scope of Application.* - This Act shall cover, **BUT SHALL**  
5 **NOT BE LIMITED TO**, upland dwellers as well as lowland tenants, indigenous  
6 and cultural communities, Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)  
7 beneficiaries, upland farm owners, farmers, farmers'  
8 organizations/associations/cooperatives, community associations and farm  
9 workers, and to the extent herein provided, the departments, offices, agencies,  
10 subdivisions, branches of instrumentalities in the areas.

11 "SEC 5. *Site Identification.* - The Department of Agrarian Reform and  
12 the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of  
13 Environment and Natural Resources, and the municipal government concerned,  
14 **ALONG WITH PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE OR VOLUNTEERS,**  
15 shall identify the broad areas suitable for high value crops production, within six  
16 (6) months after the effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That such site identification

1 shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals to ensure consistency with agrarian  
2 reform program and the national land use policy.

3 "SEC 7. *Farm Model.* – For the program, [farmers may adopt]  
4 **PORTIONS OF LARGE LANDHOLDINGS NOT COVERED UNDER**  
5 **CARP MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO LANDLESS FARMERS FOR**  
6 **THE ADOPTION OF** the cooperative system in putting up economically-sized  
7 farms for high value crops farming. Farmer-members shall collectively manage  
8 individual farms which includes the contracting process and means of production;  
9 planning and coordinating crop varieties; and raising breed, hectarage,  
10 distribution and some production measures with reference to the market it shall  
11 serve. Said farm models may be replicated by farmers' organizations all over the  
12 country."

13 **SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and  
14 regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
15 accordingly: *Provided, however,* That nothing in this Act shall be construed or applied as  
16 amending the CARP and other laws on Agrarian Reform.

17 **SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.*** – If any of the provisions of this  
18 Act is declared invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force  
19 and effect.

20 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall be effective fifteen (15) days after  
21 completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general  
22 circulation.

*Approved,*