


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
 REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
 First Regular Session )

7 JUL 20 2015

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: S.B. No. **1376**


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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a comprehensive Organic Agriculture Program for the sustainable development and appropriate promotion of organic agriculture in the country through the development of appropriate technologies, adoption and promotion of organic cultivation and production methods in the countryside and the provision of support services such as training and extension, credit, facilities, equipment and technical assistance.

Section 5 Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services.

On 27 December 2005, Executive Order No. 481 was promulgated by the President of the Philippines to promote organic agriculture as a farming scheme especially in rural farming communities and ensure the integrity of organic products through the approved organic certification procedures and organic production, handling and processing standards. E.O. 481 likewise created a National Organic Agriculture Program under the Department of Agriculture which shall focus on, but not be limited to: (a) Regulations and Guidelines; (b) Certification and Accreditation; (c) Market Promotion and Networking; (d) Organic Information for Producers, Handlers and Processors; and (e) Research, Development and Extension. Under said E.O., a National Organic Agriculture Board was also constituted composed of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture as Chairperson; The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry as Vice-Chair; The Secretary of the Department of Health as Vice-Chair; The Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government; The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology. Although such Executive Order is in place, the sustainability of the program is vulnerable to changes in political conditions. There is therefore a need to ensure the sustainability of the program thru legislation.

According to the International Federation of Organic Movements, the total organic area in Asia is 4.1 million hectares managed by almost 130,000 farmers and the Asian organic food market is valued at about US\$750 million. On the other hand, the Philippine Development Assistance Program President Jerry Pacturan estimates that the organic market in the Philippines is growing at a significant rate of 10-20% yearly.

In the Philippines, certified organic products include rice, vegetables, sugar, banana, and coconut. Export-bound organic products include muscovado sugar, banana chips, coconut cooking oil, virgin coconut oil, desiccated coconut, and dried

banana leaves. Organic farming system benefits small and marginal farmers because the processes involved require fewer external inputs. Although it may be labor-intensive, this could support rural employment. The premium price of organic products generally has a margin of 20-30%, which means higher income for farmers. There is also a growing awareness for health and the environment stimulates the interest of consumers in natural and organic products, which means that the market for organic products will continue to thrive in the coming years.

While the potential of organic agriculture and organic markets in the Philippines is strong and must be taken advantage of by the government, there are specific requirements to ensure organic products' integrity and suitable marketing strategies need to be explored.

This bill aims to institutionalize the program on organic agriculture and provide funds for its operations and sustainability. Through this proposed measure, the government adopts organic agriculture as a sustainable program that will redound to the economic benefits of farmers while ensuring the health of our people and sustainability of natural resources in our country.


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



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

7 JUL 26 2011

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE  
S.B. No. 1376

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE PROMOTION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

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

**SECTION 1. Title** - This Act shall be known as "Organic Agriculture Promotion Act of 2007".

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy** - It shall be the policy of the State to promote and accelerate organic agriculture in the country through the production, processing, manufacture and distribution of bio-organic fertilizers, pesticides, weedkillers and other organic agriculture inputs which will continuously improve soil fertility, increase farm yield, reduce pollution and protect the environment, prevent depletion of natural resource, and reduce dependence on the importation of fertilizer and pesticides.

**SECTION 3. Definition of Terms** - As used in this Act, Organic Agriculture includes all agricultural systems that promote the environmentally, socially and economically sound production of food and fibers. Organic agriculture dramatically reduces external inputs by refraining from the use of chemo-synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and pharmaceuticals. It also covers areas such as but not limited to soil fertility management, varietal breeding and selection under chemical and pesticide-free conditions, and other cultural practices that enhance productivity without destroying the soil and harming farmers, consumers and the environment.

**SECTION 4. Coverage** - The provisions of this Act shall apply to the sustainable development and appropriate promotion of organic agriculture and shall include the following:

1. Policy formulation and implementation of bio organic farming program, projects and activities, and provision and delivery of support services to the farmers
2. Research and development, and extension of appropriate, sustainable and environment and gender friendly bio-organic farming;
3. Establishment of facilities, equipment and processing plants that would accelerate the production and distribution of bio-organic fertilizers, pesticides weedkillers and farm inputs.

**SECTION 5. Organic Agriculture Program** - There is hereby established Comprehensive Organic Agriculture Program which shall continuously develop appropriate technologies, adopt and develop the promotion of organic cultivation and production methods in the countryside through the provision of support services such as training and extension, credit, facilities and equipment and technical assistance.

**SECTION 6. Research, Development and Extension** - The Bureau of Soils and Water Management shall coordinate with the Bureau of Agricultural Research, Philippine Coconut Authority, Department of Science and Technology, local government units and state colleges and universities for the formulation and implementation of a unified and integrated organic agriculture Research, Development and Extension (RDE) Plans and Programs from the national to the field level.

The Organic Agriculture RDE Plans and Programs shall include but not limited to the following:

- a. Development, pilot testing and commercialization of appropriate and efficient bio-organic farming technologies;
- b. Massive promotion of developed and commercially viable bio-organic fertilizer, pesticides and farm inputs through techno-demo centers;
- c. Promotion on the domestic utilization of coconut peat in bio-organic farming;
- d. Development and promotion appropriate mechanization technologies to accelerate bio-organic fertilizers and pesticide production and distribution; and
- e. Conduct of training to farmers, manufacturer, planner, extension workers, professionals in the agriculture sectors and other stakeholders.

**SECTION 7. Organic Agriculture RDE Network** - an Organic Agriculture Research, Development and extension (RDE) network is hereby organized, composed of research and educational institutions, local government units, non-government agencies and the recognized association of bio-organic fertilizers manufacturer and distributors, agricultural engineers, agriculturist, soil technologist farmers and groups/associations.

**SECTION 8. Research Development and Extension Centers** - National, regional and, provincial Organic R&D and Extension Centers shall be organized and established within ninety days following the approval of this Act, which shall be integrated program to develop and promote organic agriculture throughout the country.

**SECTION 9. Organic Fertilizers and Pesticides Production and Processing Centers** - Organic Fertilizers and Pesticides Production and Processing Centers shall be established in strategic Agricultural and Fishery Development Zones and the agrarian reform communities.

**SECTION 10. Implementation Mechanism** - The Bureau of Soils and Water Management is hereby restructured and strengthened to serve as the implementing agency of the National Organic Farming Program and shall be tasked to provide the over-all supervision, coordination, monitoring of its implementation at the national to the local levels.

The Regional Offices of the Department of Agriculture shall be the implementing unit of the program at the regional level, while the local government units through their provincial, city and municipal agriculturist offices and agricultural engineering departments shall implement at the provincial, city and municipal levels.

**SECTION 11. Organic Agriculture Council** - an Organic Agriculture Council, whose main function is to formulate policies and program on organic agriculture is hereby organized of the composed of nine (9) members, as follows;

- a. the Secretary of Agriculture as Chairperson;
- b. the Director of Bureau of Soil and Water Management as Vice-Chairperson;
- c. The Secretaries of DENR, DAR, DOST, DTI as members; and
- d. Representatives from the agriculture, fisheries and environmental protection sector, based on the nomination and recommendation of the sectors that they respectively represent - as members

**SECTION 12. Incentives** - The Government shall extend incentives for the manufacture and propagation of organic agriculture inputs by maximizing their research and demonstration program. The Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Education, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Finance, Land Bank of the Philippines and other government lending institutions, shall assist organic agriculture input producers through the provision of adequate financial, technical, marketing and other support service.

**SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - The Department of Agriculture together with Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry and in consultation with duly recognized organization of farmers, agricultural machinery dealers and manufacturers, agriculture engineers shall promulgate and implements rules and regulations within ninety days following the approval of this Act.

**SECTION 14. Appropriations** - The sum of Fifty Million pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act which shall be incorporated in the Annual Budget of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, and thereafter the amount necessary to carry out the program implementation shall be incorporated in the General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 15. Repealing Clause.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamation, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 16. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not effect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

**SECTION 17. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,