

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

10 JUL -8 P2:14

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 1026

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The cultivation of high value crops is key to the modernization of the country's agricultural sector. However, our extremely fragmented farm sector leaves farmers with no access to technology and capital and financial resources that would enable them to engage more profitably in the production of high value crops.

This bill promotes the attainment of economies of scale by encouraging the adoption of cooperatives systems in the consolidation of small landholdings and participation of the corporate sector in the production of high value crops.


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


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7900, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
HIGH-VALUE CROPS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995, BY ENCOURAGING
THE ADOPTION OF COOPERATIVES SYSTEMS IN THE
CONSOLIDATION OF SMALL LANDHOLDINGS AND PARTICIPATION OF
THE CORPORATE SECTOR IN THE PRODUCTION OF HIGH VALUE
CROPS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Sections 3 of R.A. No. 7900, otherwise known as the "High Value Crops Development Act of 1995" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. Scope of Application. - This Act shall cover **BUT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO** upland dwellers as well as lowland tenants, indigenous and cultural communities. Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) beneficiaries, upland farm-owners, farmers, farmer's organizations / associations / cooperatives, community associations and farm workers and to the extent therein provided, the departments, offices, agencies, subdivisions, branches or instrumentalities in the areas identified by the Department of Agriculture as key commercial crop production areas."

SEC. 2. Sections 5 of R.A. No. 7900, otherwise known as the "High Value Crops Development Act of 1995" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5. Site Identification. - The Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the municipal concerned, **ALONG WITH PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE OR**

VOLUNTEER, shall identify the broad areas suitable for high-value crops production, within six (6) months after effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That such site identification shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals to ensure consistency with agrarian reform program and the national land use policy.”

SEC. 3. Sections 7 of R.A. No. 7900, otherwise known as the “High Value Crops Development Act of 1995” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“**Sec. 7. Farm Model.** - For the program. [farmers may adopt] **PORTIONS OF LARGE LANDHOLDINGS MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS FOR THE ADOPTION OF** the cooperative system in putting up economically-sized farms for high-value crop farming. Farming members shall collectively manage individual farms which include contracting process and means of production, planning and coordinating crop varieties, raising breed and hectarage, distribution and some production measures with reference to the market it shall serve. Said farm models may be replicated by farmers’ organizations all over the country. “

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. - All laws or parts thereof, 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 amending R.A. 6657 and other laws on Agrarian Reform.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. - If any of the provisions of this Act is declared invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,