

Sixteenth Congress of the )  
Republic of the Philippines )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

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S.B. No. 293

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Introduced by HON. RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

A previous legislation-Republic Act 7900 or High Value Crops Development Act promotes the development of high value crops and provides the market orientation of developing the industry.

High Value Crops Program provides the national directions and framework for harmonizing local initiatives. High value crops offer alternative profitable opportunities to smallholders and lend well to value adding activities and marketing agreements or joint ventures with users or processors. The market orientation of high value crops production systems is imperative in a free market economy and within the full implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) where large corporations will have to explore new management, production and marketing approaches to sustain their business operations. Structural adjustments need to be made to involve smallholders. Policy reforms have been defined with some in full implementation providing clear signals to the private sector as basis for making medium and long term investment decisions.

The proposed amendment will further heighten the development of high value crops that will significantly be more competitive in a free market, develop agriculture in general, improve investment climate, competencies and efficiency of agribusiness and develop high value crops as export that that will significantly expand the foreign exchange earnings of the country.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.

  
RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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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:*

SECTION 1. Sections 3, 5, and 7 of Republic Act No. 7900, otherwise known as the High Value Development Act of 1995 and or other purposes is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 3. Scope of Application - This Act shall cover, **BUT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO**, upland dwellers as well as lowland tenant, indigenous and cultural communities, Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) beneficiaries, upland farm owners, farmers, organization/associations/cooperatives, community associations and farm workers, and to the extent herein provided, the departments, offices, agencies, subdivisions, branches of instrumentalities in the areas.

“Section 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 government concerned, **ALONG WITH PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE OR VOLUNTEERS**, shall identify the broad areas suitable for high value crops production within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act. Provided, that such identification shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals to ensure consistency with agrarian reform program and the national land use policy.

“Section 7. Farm Model - For the program, [farmers may adopt] **PORTIONS OF LARGE LANDHOLDINGS NOT**

**COVERED UNDER CARP MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO LANDLESS FARMERS FOR THE ADOPTION OF** the cooperative system in putting up economically-sized farms for high value crops farming. Farmers-members shall collectively manage an individual farm which includes the contracting process and mean of production; planning and coordinating crop varieties; and raising breed hectarage, distribution and some measures with reference to the market it shall serve. Said farm models may be replicated by farmers' organizations all over the country."

SECTION 2. 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 construed or applied as amending the CARE' and other laws on Agrarian Reform.

SECTION 3. Separability Clause - If any of the provisions o this Act is declared invalid, he other provisions not affected thereby shall remain full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall be effective fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,