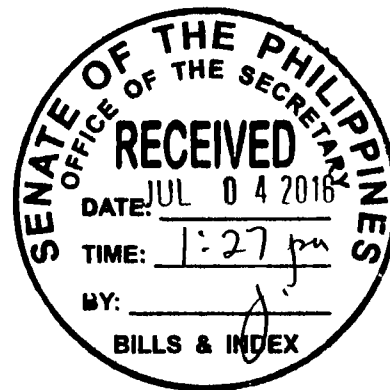


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

Senate Bill No. 322

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONTINUING NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR HYBRID AND
OTHER QUALITY SEEDS PRODUCTION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Hybrid rice is a type of rice that has been bred from two different parents. It can significantly outyield other rice varieties. The International Rice Research Institute in Laguna is working with its partners to develop new improved hybrid rice varieties. Because hybrid rice can outyield other varieties of rice, it is a key technology that meets the increasing global demand of rice. In the 1970s, China's hybrid rice breeding program averted an impending famine. Today, hybrid rice closes yield gaps evident in many areas. It also raises yield potential. Bountiful harvest means that farmers earn higher incomes and rice becomes available and affordable to more consumers.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) is set to establish a P2- million rice- seed processing facility in Nueva Ecija to help farmers and seed growers in neighboring provinces have access to high-quality seeds. The facility, funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency, will house advanced equipment that can process up the 2 tons of seeds per day. It is expected to be finished by 2017. The establishment of the facility is intended for the processing and distribution of high- quality seeds to Central Luzon and Pangasinan. The Phil Rice, quoting the studies, said the adoption of high-quality seeds can contribute a 5- percent to 10- percent increase in yield.

Despite the passage of Republic Act No. 3708 otherwise known as the "Seeds Industry Development Act of 1992", there is still a need to promote comprehensive quality seed production to farmers and farmer organizations by developing and propagating quality seeds for them.

The establishment of a seed production program will greatly enhance farm productivity by providing farmers with quality, hybrid and affordable seeds, as well as the needed technical and other support services. This should include production of quality corn seeds and high value crops as well as the needed technical and other support services. There is also a need to the transfer seed production knowledge to farmers and farmer organizations who may want to venture into a viable seed production agribusiness venture.

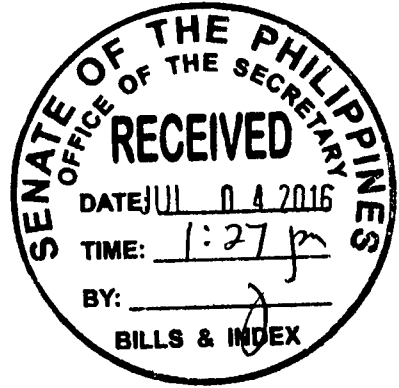
Under this legislative measure, the National Government shall undertake a comprehensive program on the production of hybrid and other quality seeds at a subsidize cost, and encourage farmers to intensify their efforts in increasing farm productivity. The Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Plant Industry hereby designated as the implementing Agency of this program. Through this legislative endeavour, the development and mass of good quality seeds will be achieved.

Approval of this bill is therefore earnestly requested.



CYNTHIA A. VILLAR
Senator

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Title- This Act shall be known as "The National Seeds Production Act of
2 2016".
- 3 SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to optimize the
4 farm productivity through a systematic production of hybrid and other quality seeds which are
5 readily available and affordable to farmers. Towards this end, the government shall formulate a
6 system that will ensure the production of hybrid and other quality seeds sufficient to address the
7 requirements of the farmers and whereby the farmers could buy seeds to various accessible
8 centers at a subsidize price.
- 9 SECTION 3. Definition of Terms- For purposes of this Act, the following terms
10 shall be defined as follows:
- 11 a) Seed shall mean a plant material used for the production of food, forage, fibers, industrial
12 crops, oil, flowers, grasses, herbs, and aquatic plants, including but not limited to,
13 meristem and clonal propagules such tubers, corms, cuttings, seedlings, and micro-
14 propagated plantlets;
- 15 b) Hybrid seeds shall mean improved seeds certified by the National
16 Seed Quality Control Services under the Bureau of Plant Industry with proven
17 capacity for high yield; Hybrids result from the deliberate crossing of two different
18 parent varieties from the same species.

1 c) Continuing program shall mean an all year round program of production based
2 on a pre-determined volume of requirement that should be carried out on a
3 regular basis;

4
5 d) Local levels shall mean the regional offices of the Department of Agriculture,
6 provincial agriculture offices and the municipal agriculture offices;

7
8 e) Subsidize price shall mean the value of the seeds which is half of its acquisition
9 and/or production cost as determined by the Department of Agriculture, through
10 the Bureau of Plant Industry;

11 SECTION 4.- Coverage. The National Government shall undertake a comprehensive
12 program on the production of hybrid and other quality seeds, guided by the following
13 objectives:

14 a) Policy formulation on regulation and distribution of hybrid and other quality seeds
15 to the farmers at a subsidize cost;

16
17 b) Promotion and encouragement to the farmers of the use of hybrid and other
18 quality seeds in their effort to increase farm productivity;

19
20 c) Conduct of information dissemination, seminars and other support services to the
21 farmers;

22
23 d) Research and development pertaining to hybrid and other quality seeds, in
24 coordination Philippine Rice Institute and other specialized agencies.

25 SECTION 5 - Implementing Mechanism- The Department of Agriculture, through the
26 Bureau of Plant Industry is hereby designated as the implementing Agency of this
27 program and shall initiate, supervise, coordinate, monitor its implementation at the
28 national and local levels. It shall ensure the following:

29 a) The active participation of the private sectors in the mass production of hybrid
30 and other quality seeds in sufficient quantity;

31 b) The seeds that shall be mass produced in sufficient quantity should only be those
32 hybrid and other quality seeds that are certified by the National Seed Quality
33 Control Services, created under Republic Act 7308;

34
35 c) The establishments of areas devoted to the production of hybrid and other quality
36 seeds in each region and province, as may be deemed necessary, to augment
37 any deficiency of production from the private sector.

38 e) The establishments of buying/distribution centers in each municipality, through
39 the municipal agriculture office.

1 SECTION 6. Appropriations- The sum of Five Hundred Million pesos
2 (Php500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act which
3 shall be incorporated in the Annual Budget of the Department of Agriculture, and
4 thereafter the amount necessary to carry out the program implementation shall be
5 incorporated in the General Appropriations Act.

6
7 SECTION 7- Annual Report. - The Department of Agriculture shall render an
8 annual report to Congress on the accomplishment of the program. A review on
9 the viability of the program shall be made by the concerned agencies after
10 three (3) years of its implementation.

11
12 SECTION 8- Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of
13 Agriculture shall issue rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act
14 within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

15
16 SECTION 9. Penal Provisions- Any person, firm or association who shall
17 obstruct, impedes or in any manner defeats the purpose of this act, shall, upon
18 conviction, be punished with a fine of not more than One Hundred Thousand
19 pesos (Php 1 00,000.00) or imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or both, in
20 the discretion of the court. Provided, that in case of a firm or association, the
21 penalty of imprisonment shall be imposed upon the officer(s) who knowingly
22 participated, abetted, or consented to the commission of such punishable acts.

23
24 SECTION 10. Separability Clause- If any provision of this Act is declared
25 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain
26 in full force and effect.

27
28 SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.-All laws, presidential decrees, executive
29 orders; presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary
30 to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

31
32 SECTION 12. Effectivity.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
33 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

34
35 Approved.