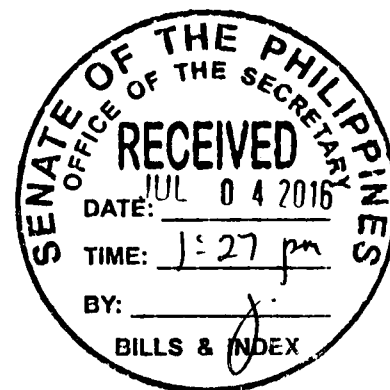


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

Senate Bill No. 323

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MULBERRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Morus alba a genus of a flowering plant in the family of Moraceae, comprises 10-16 species of deciduous trees known as mulberries, growing both in the wild and under cultivation in the temperate parts of the world. Mulberries grow fast when they are young but rarely exceed 10-15 meters tall. The trees can adapt to a very wide variety of local conditions. They can grow in temperate and warm regions and in high elevation or even sea level areas. They require very little maintenance, no fertilization and do not need irrigation. The mulberry fruit is a multiple fruit, 2-3 cm. long. Most fruits are white, green or pale yellow when immature. In most species the fruits turn pink, red while ripening then dark purple or black and have a sweet flavor when ripe. The fruits are edible and are widely used in tarts, pies, jams, sauces and wine. The fruits and the leaves are sold in various forms as nutritional supplement. In a 100-g serving raw mulberries provide 43 calories, 44% of the daily value of vitamin C and 40% of the daily value for iron.

Mulberry leaves particularly from the white mulberry plant, are ecologically important as the sole food source of food for silkworms, the pupa or cocoon of which are made into silk cloth. Mulberry fruit color are being studied for basic research mechanism for certain diseases. It can also be used for diabetes and Alzheimer's control. In the United Kingdom, they manufacture mulberry into a super juice drink full of antioxidants and a source of resveratrol which is considered to be good for heart. Recently, China, Japan and South Korea have developed their own mulberry juice boosting of the same therapeutic effect. The fruit coloring of mulberry is easily extractable and is used for natural food colorant. ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morus_\(plant\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morus_(plant))). The leaves can also be eaten as vegetable or can be a nutritious feed to the cattle and other ruminants. Fruit yields

yields 4-14 tons a hectare. Mulberry can also be used for paper production. It is also used for handicraft, woodworks and in landscaping.

Mulberry (*Morus* sp) is generally utilized for feeding silkworms to obtain silk. But the fruits have tremendous potentials for providing various valuable products of economic value for people.

Mulberry is grown in India for their silk industry, as forage of animal feeds in Costa Rica and as tea in Japan and China.

Unfortunately, in the Philippines, the mulberry production and its beneficial impact has not been given enough focus. There are two programs both in silk production, one in the Sericulture Research and Development Institute at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMSU) in La Union and at the Bago City, Negros Occidental Silk Production Project of OISCA and the Province of Negros. (OISCA is a Japanese Organization – the Organization for Spiritual and Cultural Advancement-International working for the development of sustainable communities and the environment).

In order for the country to be more competitive in its agriculture sector and to provide income to our small holder farmers, the benefits of the mulberry industry in the country should be given emphasis.

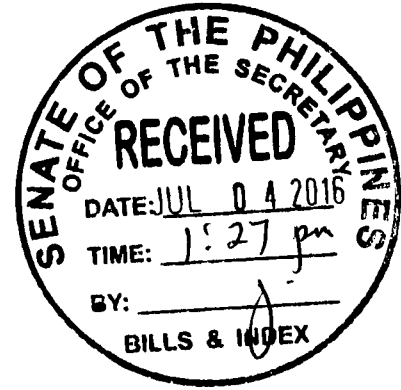
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR
Senator

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MULBERRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM,
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. Title This, Act shall be known as the "National Mulberry Development Act
2 of 2016".

3 SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to
4 ensure the general welfare of its people towards achieving better health and nutrition,
5 higher levels of rural income, promote environmental protection and enhance the
6 general well-being of the rural farming families, through the production and promotion of
7 the mulberry as an industry.

8 SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - For this purpose, the following terms shall refer to -

- 9 a) Program - the Philippine Mulberry Development Program designed to promote
10 the Mulberry Industry in the country.
11 b) Council - the Council established under this Act.
12 c) Secretariat - the Secretariat established to provide assistance to the council
13 under this Act.

14 SEC. 4. Institutionalizing the Philippine Mulberry Industry Development Program - There
15 is hereby established and institutionalized the Philippine Mulberry Industry Development
16 Program under the High Value Crops Development Act or R.A. No. 7900.

17 SEC. 5. Objectives of the Philippine Mulberry Development Program (PMDP) - The
18 PMDP aims to make the Philippine Mulberry Industry competitive in the local and global
19 markets while establishing community based enterprises and providing opportunities for
20 local employment and for the people to avail of its medicinal benefits.

21 SEC. 6. Creation of the National Mulberry Inter-agency Council. There is hereby created
22 a convergence policy-making and directing body called the National Mulberry

1 Council, which shall have the general powers and attributes given under the
2 Department of Agriculture, High Value Crops Development Program.

3
4
5 SEC. 7. Members of the Mulberry Inter-agency Council. The Inter-agency Council
6 shall be chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Undersecretary for Crops as
7 Vice Chair, with the following as members: -

- 8 (a) The Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform or his designate;
- 9 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry or his designate;
- 10 (c) The Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government or his
11 designate;
- 12 (d) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology or his
13 designate;
- 14 (e) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or
15 his designate;
- 16 (f) Three (3) representative from mulberry farmers, processors and marketing
17 service providers.

18
19 To provide continuity, the designate of the Cabinet Secretaries shall be named and shall
20 be their regular representative in the Council in case they are absent.

21
22 SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the Council. - The powers, functions of the Council
23 shall be to -

- 24 (a) Update scientific research and development for the mulberry industry to
25 enhanced production efficiency for its optimum economic advantage;
- 26 (b) Promote the propagation of the trees on suitable land and location
27 nationwide;
- 28 (c) Improve the small holder farmers' performance to reduce cost in the
29 production, processing and promotion of mulberry trees and fruits, in
30 accordance with good agricultural practices;
- 31 (d) Ensure the development and availability of locally manufactured machines for
32 the efficient and cost effective processing of the mulberry products;
- 33 (e) Facilitate the establishment of a shared facility program for the development
34 for the industry players' enterprise;
- 35 (f) Promote the establishment of a credit and/or financing scheme for mulberry
36 industry players to include marginal farmers, cooperatives, and associations;
- 37 (g) Ensure the markets for mulberry products locally and internationally;
- 38 (h) Annually review and submit a report to the COCAFAM on the mulberry
39 development performance;

40
41 SEC. 7. Meetings and Quorum. The Council, shall meet regularly at least once every
42 quarter on a date to be determined by the Chair with prior notice. The Chair on his own
43 may convene special meetings to discuss urgent matters needing immediate resolution
44 and actions. To constitute a quorum and arrive to a decision, there should be at least
45 five (5) members of the council present.

1 SEC. 8. Secretariat and Support Staff - The High Value Crops Unit of the DA shall
2 appoint, from among its personnel anIn-charge to manage and who perform the direct
3 the day-to-day operations of the council.
4

5 SEC. 9. Cooperation with other Government Agencies and PrivateBusiness
6 Organization - All units and agencies of the government shall support and cooperate
7 with the National Mulberry Development Council in the implementation of its functions
8 and programs.
9

10 SEC. 10. Funding. – On the year following the approval of this Act, there shall be a
11 provision annually in the General Appropriations Act under the Department of
12 Agriculture, High Value Crops Development Program an additional the amount of Fifty
13 Million (P50,000,000.00) Pesos for the implementation of the objectives of the Mulberry
14 Development Act of 2016.
15

16 SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. A committee, composed of
17 representatives from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Reform,
18 the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Department of Science and Technology, the
19 Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Environment and Natural
20 Resources, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government and one (1) each
21 from the small farmers and commercial producers sectors to be designated by the
22 Secretary of Agriculture, shall formulate and prescribe, after public hearing and
23 publication as required by law, the implementing rules and regulations in order to carry
24 out the provisions of this Act. The representatives from the Department of Agriculture
25 and the Department of Trade and Industry shall be the chairman and the vice-chairman,
26 of the committee.
27

28 SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. — All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and
29 regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
30 accordingly.
31

32 SEC. 13. Separability Clause. — If any of the provisions of this Act is declared invalid,
33 the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
34

35 SEC. 14. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect immediately following its
36 publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation
37

38 Approved