



**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

*First Regular Session*

'17 JAN 31 P5:29

SENATE  
S.B. No. **1309**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Poe

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**AN ACT  
STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ENHANCING  
SUPPORT FOR SMALL ORGANIC FARMERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10068 OR THE ORGANIC  
AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2010**

*Explanatory Note*

According to the National Statistics Office, the Philippine population is expected to increase to about 142 million by 2045. This is equivalent to 42 million Filipinos being born in just a span of 30 years, given the current population of 100 million.

This projected increase in population presents a rather daunting task. According to the UN, population growth remains as the single most important driver of food demand. In other words: As the population increases, so does the demand for food. In the case of a developing country like the Philippines, the impact of a burgeoning population is more likely to be felt in the next few years to come. It is therefore imperative to look for more sustainable ways towards meeting the food needs of every Filipino, now and in the future. Now is the time to think in terms of food security.

In many parts of the world, organic farming is increasingly recognized as a viable alternative to conventional farming towards achieving food security. In a statistics yearbook on latest global data on organic farming produced by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and IFOAM – Organics International, organic agriculture has indeed been increasingly taking the centerstage. From 200,000 producers in 1999, the numbers of organic producers increased to 2.3 million in 2014. Around 40 percent of this comes from Asia, followed by Africa, and Latin America. A total of 172 countries are reportedly now engaged in organic activities.

As of 2014, the Philippines ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of the number of organic producers. In Asia, the Philippines is among the top ten (10) countries with the largest organic area at 110,084 hectares or about 0.9 percent in terms of share to total agricultural land.

In 2010, the Philippines institutionalized the promotion and development of organic agriculture with the passage of Republic Act No. 10068 otherwise known as the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010. While the law and its corresponding program is supportive of the propagation of organic farming practices in the country, the government runs short of the necessary support that would genuinely serve the needs especially of small organic farmers and other small Filipino farmers and farmworkers wanting to shift to organic farming. The overall tone of Republic Act No. 10068 focuses on producing organic products for exports in the same profit-oriented framework of chemical-dependent agriculture as opposed to addressing the country's food security and food self-sufficiency.

As an alternative approach, this representation humbly submits the following amendments to the measure:

- Conduct of a nationwide educational and awareness campaign among consumers on the benefits of consuming organic products;
- Adoption of the participatory guarantee system (PGS) as a certification process other than the third party certification;
- Protection of organic resources against cross contamination by genetically engineered organisms including crops, livestock and poultry, and marine products, among others;
- Provision of marketing assistance to organic producers that would ensure decent returns thus making organic venture sustainable.

In view of the foregoing, speedy approval of this bill is eagerly sought.

  
**GRACE POE**



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**AN ACT**  
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**SUPPORT FOR SMALL ORGANIC FARMERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE**  
**CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10068 OR THE ORGANIC**  
**AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2010**

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

1       **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10068 or the Organic Agriculture Act of  
2 2010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote, propagate,  
develop further, and implement the practice of ORGANIC FARMING  
AND OTHER SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES in the  
Philippines that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the  
soil, increase farm productivity, AND FARMERS' INCOMES; reduce  
pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of  
natural resources, further protect the health of farmers, consumers and the  
general public, [and] save on imported inputs, AND PROMOTE FOOD  
SELF SUFFICIENCY.

14

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17

Towards this end, a comprehensive program for the promotion of  
community-based organic agriculture systems which include, among  
others, farmer produced purely organic fertilizers such as compost,  
[pesticides] BIOPESTICIDES and other farm inputs, together with a

1 nationwide educational and promotional campaign for their use and  
2 processing[.].

3  
4 LIKewise, A NATIONWIDE EDUCATIONAL AND  
5 AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AMONG CONSUMERS ON THE  
6 BENEFITS OF CONSUMING ORGANIC PRODUCTS TO BOOST  
7 LOCAL PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC FOOD AND NON-FOOD  
8 PRODUCTS, as well as THE adoption of organic agricultural system  
9 AND OTHER METHODS as viable ALTERNATIVES TO IMPORT-  
10 BASED TOXIC FARMING METHODS shall be undertaken.

11  
12 The State recognizes and supports the central role of the farmers,  
13 indigenous people, and other stakeholders at the grassroots in this  
14 program.

15  
16 **SECTION 2.** Section 3 on definition of terms is hereby amended to read as follows:

17  
18 a. *Organic* refers to the particular farming and processing  
19 systems, described in the standards and not in the classical chemical sense.  
20 The term "organic" is synonymous in other languages to "biological" or  
21 "ecological." It is also a labelling term that denotes products considered  
22 organic based on the Philippine National Standards for organic  
23 agriculture;

24  
25 xxx

26 c. *Organic production system* is a system designed to:  
27 (1) enhance biological diversity within the whole system;

28  
29 xxx

30 (7) develop and promote the use of biotechnology in  
31 agriculture BASED ON THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE UNDER  
32 THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY.

33  
34 xxx

1 g. ~~Commercialization~~ PROPAGATION IS A PROCESS  
2 OF INTRODUCING NEW AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY EITHER  
3 AS PRODUCT, PROCESS, OR SERVICE THAT HAS UNDERGONE  
4 THE INTENSIVE INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES OF ASSESSMENT,  
5 PROMOTION, AND TRANSFER NOT NECESSARILY FOR  
6 COMMERCIAL PROFIT BUT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING  
7 ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGY  
8 ADAPTABLE TO THE LOCALITIES WHERE IT IS BEING  
9 INTRODUCED.

10 xxx

11 o. PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS (PGS)  
12 ARE LOCALLY FOCUSED QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEMS.  
13 THEY CERTIFY PRODUCERS BASED ON ACTIVE  
14 PARTICIPATION OF STAKEHOLDERS AND ARE BUILT ON A  
15 FOUNDATION OF TRUST, SOCIAL NETWORKS, AND  
16 KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE.

17  
18 **SECTION 3.** Section 4 On Coverage is hereby amended to read as follows:  
19

20 The provisions of this Act shall apply to the development and  
21 promotion of organic agriculture and shall include, but not be limited to,  
22 the following:  
23

24 a. Policy formulation on regulation, registration,  
25 accreditation, certification, and labelling on organic agriculture;  
26

27 xxx

28  
29 c. Promotion and encouragement of the establishment of  
30 facilities, equipment, and processing plants that would accelerate the  
31 production and [COMMERCIALIZATION] PROPAGATION of the use  
32 of organic fertilizers, [PESTICIDES] BIO-PESTICIDES [HERBICIDES]  
33 BIO-HERBICIDES and other appropriate farm inputs; and  
34

1 d. Implementation of organic agricultural programs, projects,  
2 and activities, including the provision and delivery of support services  
3 with focus on the farmers, PRIORITIZING SMALL FARMERS AND  
4 THEIR ORGANIZATIONS, and other stakeholders  
5

6 **SECTION 4.** Section 5 on the National Organic Agricultural Program is hereby  
7 amended to read as follows:  
8

9 There is hereby established a comprehensive organic agricultural  
10 program through the promotion and [COMMERCIALIZATION]  
11 PROPAGATION of organic farming practices, cultivation, and adoption  
12 of production and processing methods which have already been  
13 developed, or to be developed, continuing research and upgrading thereof,  
14 the capacity building of farmers and the education of consumers thereon,  
15 the extension of assistance to local government units (LGUs), peoples'  
16 organizations (POs), nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and other  
17 stakeholders including individuals and groups who are willing to do other  
18 pertinent activities, and documentation and evaluation of the program.  
19

20 **SECTION 5.** Section 7 on the composition of the NOAB is hereby amended to read  
21 as follows:  
22

23 The NOAB shall consist of:  
24

25 a. The Secretary of Agriculture, or his duly authorized  
26 permanent representative, with a rank of Undersecretary, as Chairperson;  
27

28 **XXX**  
29

30 The representatives of small farmers and NGOs, and of agricultural  
31 colleges and universities, shall be chosen by the Secretaries of Agriculture  
32 and Science and Technology respectively, from among nominees  
33 submitted to the agency concerned by their respective national  
34 organizations. These representatives must REPRESENT THE LARGEST

1 MEMBERSHIP OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS NATIONWIDE,  
2 PROMOTING ORGANIC AND OTHER SUSTAINABLE  
3 AGRICULTURE PRACTICES AND MEMBERSHIP ADAPTING  
4 ORGANIC FARMING, be conversant in organic agriculture and  
5 committed to the policies and programs provided under this Act.  
6

7 **SECTION 6.** Section 16 on the registration of organic food and organic input  
8 producers is hereby amended to read as follows:  
9

10 Registration of Organic Food and Organic Input Producers. – All  
11 organic food and input establishments must register with the director,  
12 BAFPS, registration under this section shall begin within ninety (90) days  
13 of the enactment of this Act. Each such registration shall be submitted to  
14 the director through an electronic portal and shall contain such  
15 information as the director by guidance may determine to be appropriate.  
16 Such registration shall contain the following information:  
17

18 a. The name, address and emergency contact information of  
19 each organic food or input establishment that the registrant owns or  
20 operates;  
21

22 **xxx**

23 g. IN THE CASE OF DIRECT SELLING TO  
24 CONSUMERS, DONE BY SMALL OR FAMILY FARMERS,  
25 PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED WITH BAFPS OR LGU  
26 COUNTERPART, CERTIFICATION IS OPTIONAL.  
27

28 **SECTION 7.** Section 17 on the Labeling of Organic produce is hereby amended to  
29 read as follows:  
30

31 The label of organic produce shall contain the name, logo or seal  
32 of the organic certifying body and the accreditation number issued by the  
33 BAFPS. [ONLY THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATION] THE ORGANIC

1 LABEL SHALL ALSO INCLUDE THE TRADE NAME AND ORIGIN  
2 ADDRESS OF THE PRODUCE.

3  
4 **xxx**

5  
6 **SECTION 8.** Section 19 on Availability of Trading post for Organic Inputs is hereby  
7 amended to read as follows:

8  
9 Local chief executives shall establish, as far as practicable, at least  
10 one (1) trading post for organic inputs for every LGU in the area of  
11 jurisdiction. "THE AREA SHOULD BE IN AN AREA  
12 STRATEGICALLY LOCATED I.E., AT THE PUBLIC MARKET  
13 AREA, CENTERS OF TRADING AND LOCAL BUSINESS  
14 ACTIVITIES.

15  
16 **SECTION 9.** Section 20 on Research, Development and Extension is hereby  
17 amended to read as follows:

18  
19 The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), as the lead agency,  
20 shall coordinate with the other agencies of the DA, the Department of  
21 Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Department of Science and Technology  
22 (DOST), the Department of Education (DepED), the Department of  
23 Interior and Local Government (DILG), the strategic agricultural-based  
24 state universities and colleges (SUCs), including private organizations,  
25 "AND NGOs and POs WITH ESTABLISHED TRACK RECORD IN  
26 THE PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL METHODS  
27 OF PRODUCTION" to develop, enhance, support and consolidate  
28 activities and related technologies for the formulation and implementation  
29 of a unified and integrated organic agriculture RDE plan and programs for  
30 the national to the field level. The organic agriculture RDE plans and  
31 programs shall include, but not limited to the following:  
32



1           a.     Research, development and [COMMERCTALIZATION]  
2 "PROPAGATION" of appropriate, innovative and viable organic  
3 agricultural technologies;

4  
5           b.     Nationwide promotion of developed and  
6 [COMMERCIALY] viable biodegradable farm wastes and by-products  
7 through various extension strategies to accelerate the production, use and  
8 distribution of organic fertilizers; and

9  
10       **SECTION 10.** Sections 25 through 31 are hereby amended to read as follows:

11  
12               SECTION 25. PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS ORGANIC  
13 RESOURCES AGAINST CROSS-CONTAMINATION. THE  
14 INTEGRITY OF ORGANIC CROPS AND LIVESTOCK SHALL BE  
15 STRICTLY ENSURED AND MONITORED. RISK OF CROSS-  
16 CONTAMINATION FROM ENGINEERED CROPS AND LIVESTOCK  
17 SHALL BE PREVENTED AT ALL TIMES. BAFPS SHALL MONITOR  
18 ALL APPLICATIONS FOR FIELD-TESTINGS/PRODUCTION OF  
19 ENGINEERED CROPS AND LIVESTOCK, AND SHALL HAVE THE  
20 POWER TO DENY ANY APPLICATION IF IT FINDS SUFFICIENT  
21 CAUSE, THEREFOR.

22  
23               ALL FIELD TESTING, PLANTING, OR RAISING OF  
24 GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS SHOULD NOT BE  
25 ALLOWED IN THE VICINITY WHERE ORGANIC FARMING IS  
26 BEING CONDUCTED. BAFOSM IN COORDINATION WITH NOAB,  
27 SHALL IMPLEMENT AN ORGANIC ZONE TO ESTABLISH THE  
28 RADIUS WHERE THE ORGANIC PRODUCE IS NOT IN DIRECT OR  
29 IMMEDIATE CONTACT OR INFLUENCE OF ENGINEERED  
30 ORGANISMS.

31  
32               IN THE EVENT OF CONTAMINATION BY GENETICALY-  
33 MODIFIED ORGANISM, PATENTED OR OTHERWISE, THE LGU,  
34 BAFPS AND/OR ORGANIC PRODUCER MAY HOLD THE GMO

1 PATENT OWNER LIABLE FOR ECONOMIC AND  
2 ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES.

3  
4 SECTION 26. RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ORDINANCES  
5 AND OTHER ISSUANCES. CONSISTENT WITH ITS MANDATE  
6 UNDER SECTION 16 – GENERAL WELFARE OF R.A. 7160, LOCAL  
7 GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUS) HAVE THE POWER TO ENACT  
8 ORDINANCES FOR THE GENERAL HEALTH AND WELFARE OF  
9 ITS CONSTITUENCY.

10  
11 PURSUANT TO THIS, LOCAL ORDINANCES, POLICIES  
12 AND/OR ISSUANCES ON AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING BUT NOT  
13 LIMITED TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND PROHIBITION OF  
14 GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS, SHALL BE  
15 RECOGNIZED BY ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

16  
17 LGUS, IN COORDINATION WITH BAFPS SHALL STRICTLY  
18 MONITOR THE CONDUCT OF AGRICULTURE IN ORDER TO  
19 ENSURE THE QUALITY AND INTEGRITY OF ORGANIC  
20 PRODUCE. TESTING OR FIELD TRIALS OF ANY TYPE OF  
21 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT OR METHOD SHALL REQUIRE LGU  
22 CLEARANCE APART FROM THE REQUIREMENTS SET BY THE  
23 GOVERNMENT AGENCY CONCERNED.

24  
25 SEC. [25] 27. Appropriations. xxx

26  
27 SEC. [26] 28 on Penal Provision. - Any person who wilfully and  
28 deliberately:

29  
30 a. obstructs the development of propagation of organic  
31 agriculture, or the manufacture, production, sale or use of organic  
32 agricultural inputs. THIS MAY INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,  
33 ANY FORM OF HARASSMENT OR PERSECUTION OF GROUPS OR  
34 INDIVIDUALS PURSUING THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF

1 FARMERS IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS ACT, BY GROUPS OR  
2 INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS OR JURIDICAL ENTITIES,  
3 INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;  
4

5 **xxx**  
6

7 SEC. [27] 29. Implementing Rules and Regulations. **x x x**

8 SEC. [28] 30. Annual Report. **xxx**

9 SEC. [29] 31. Congressional Oversight Committee. **x x x**

10 SEC. [30] 32. Seperability Clause. **x x x**

11 SEC. [31] 33. Repealing Clause. **x x x**

12 SEC. [32] 34. Effectivity. **x x x**  
13

14 **SECTION 11.** *Repealing Clause.* All other laws, acts, decrees, executive orders,  
15 issuances, and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent  
16 with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.  
17

18 **SECTION 12.** *Seperability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is subsequently  
19 declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full  
20 force and effect.  
21

22 **SECTION 13.** *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect immediately after its  
23 complete publication either in the official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in  
24 the Philippines.

*Approved,*