

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

SENATE

S. No. 654



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'19 JUL 22 P 2 :01

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RECEIVED BY: _____

**AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY
GENERATION AND TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is primarily an agricultural country and agriculture is still one of the country's principal source of income and employment. But the sad reality is that agriculture is dying in our country. Agricultural lands are being converted into malls, gold courses, residential lots, condominiums and subdivisions. Also, our small farm-holders and tenant farmers still rely on traditional farming methods instead of adopting new agricultural techniques and technologies.

In spite of efforts by government agencies, institutions and non-government organizations, to modernize and develop our agricultural industry, some farmers have yet to evolve and adapt to the times, their orthodox way of doing things now hinder them from growing like large new agribusiness farms in the country. The conventional ways of farming they are accustomed to keep them buoyant but also threaten their survival for the coming years. Today's economic climate isn't farmer-friendly, they are starting to feel the weight brought by the times.

A lot of our farmers remain economically powerless and technologically outdated due to the low investment in research and development (R&D) and inadequate generation and ineffective transfer of agricultural technologies.

The Philippines cannot afford to allow the present state of affairs to continue, with the increasing population, the country may not be able to produce or import the food to properly meet the needs of its people and the nation's rapid growth.

In order for our country to become a progressive industrialized nation, it should have a strong and highly productive agricultural sector. Its strength and productivity rely on the empowerment of the majority of farmers and the promotion of the development of cutting-edge agricultural technologies to enable our country to become highly competitive in the international market.

This Act is in response to the strongly felt need to integrate R&D, technology generation and transfer into a single coherent and harmonious national system completely dedicated to the socio-economic well-being of Filipino farmers. It aims to transform traditional agricultural practices to modern highly productive agricultural practices that will elevate their incomes and provide a totally better quality of life.

A sustained expansion of the national economy requires sustained growth in the agricultural sector. We must transform our farmers into a resource of renewed national vigor and creativity in our drive for global competitiveness.

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


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

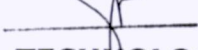
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**TO ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY
GENERATION AND TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This act shall be known as the "Agriculture Technology
2 Generation and Transfer Act".

3 *Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.* -

4 a) The State shall protect and promote the socio-economic welfare and well-
5 being of Filipino farmers, particularly those in the countryside towards this end,
6 it is the purpose of this Act to establish an Integrated System of Agriculture
7 Technology Generation and Transfer that will most efficiently and effectively
8 provide the agricultural technology services as a means of empowerment of
9 farmers and enable them to help sustain a self-sufficient and self-reliant food
10 and agriculture production for its people and accelerate agro-industrial
11 development of the country.

12 b) The State also commits itself to the protection of the environment and the
13 promotion of sustainable agriculture.

14 *Sec. 3. Scope.* - This Act shall apply to and govern all existing agricultural research
15 and extension activities of the National Government, the local government units, farmer's
16 and non-government organizations and the state universities and colleges in the country.

17 *Sec. 4. Definition of Terms.* - The following terms shall mean as defined herein:

18 a) Agriculture. - Refers to the art, science and business of cultivating the soil,
19 planting of crops, growing of fruit trees, management of forests, raising or

1 catching or both of livestock poultry or fish; including the harvesting and post-
2 harvest handling of such products, and other activities and practices performed
3 by persons whether natural or juridical in conjunction with such operations.

4 b) Research and Development (R&D). - Pertains to all organized activities
5 designed to search for new knowledge or modify existing ones, develop new
6 methods and techniques of operation, tools, equipment or types of organisms
7 through the application of the scientific method.

8 c) Technology Generation. - R&D activities that are directed principally towards
9 the development of such methods, techniques, computer software and
10 hardware, tools, equipment, or types of organisms that may be used or applied
11 for the benefit of the product of such activities may be referred to as
12 technologies.

13 d) Technology Transfer. - Pertains to all organized activities designed to enable
14 individuals or groups to effectively adapt a particular technology.

15 e) Farmer. - Any person who engages in any agricultural activity.

16 f) Sustainable Agriculture. - Any principle, method and/or practice that aim to
17 make agriculture economically viable, ecologically sound, socially just, culturally
18 appropriate, and grounded on holistic science.

19 Sec. 5. *Purpose.* - The purpose of the Integrated System of Agriculture Technology
20 Generation and Transfer is to most effectively and efficiently respond to and provide for the
21 technology needs of farmers and enable them to attain higher productivity and market
22 competitiveness in the context of sustainable agricultural principles and practices.

23 Sec. 6. *The Integrated System of Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer*
24 *(ISATGaT).* - All government agencies and institutions, including local government units and
25 farmers and non-government organizations that are engaged in R&D, training and extension
26 activities in agriculture shall be organized and formed into an Integrated System of
27 Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer (ISATGaT). It shall be organized into
28 hierarchical and interlocking councils at the national, regional and provincial levels. The
29 national and regional councils shall be concerned with both the technology generation and
30 transfer activities while the provincial councils shall be concerned with technology transfer
31 activities.

32 Sec. 7. *Components of the System.* -

33 a) Department of Agriculture

- 1 b) Institutes and Centers for Agricultural Research Development and Training
2 c) Local Government Units
3 d) State Universities and Colleges
4 e) Farmers' and Non-Government Organizations

5 *Sec. 8. The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall:*

- 6 a) Provide the office of the Chairman and the Secretarial of the National
7 Integrated System for Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer
8 (NISATGaT) Council
9 b) Organize and operate a Bureau of Agriculture technology Generation and
10 Transfer (BATGaT) out of its existing research centers and outreach stations
11 and training institutes for purposes of addressing agriculture technology issues
12 or for national concern, and
13 c) Coordinate the activities of the NISATGaT Council with that of the other units
14 within its department and with other agencies and instrumentalities of the
15 Government in order that such activities shall be consistent with and in pursuit
16 of the National programs and objectives of the country.

17 *Sec. 9. The Autonomous National Institutes and Centers for Agricultural Research,*
18 *Development and Training shall: -*

- 19 a) Undertake such technology generation and transfer activities as may be
20 recommended by the NISATGaT Council, and
21 b) Maintain and improve high level of technical manpower and appropriate
22 facilities to be able to effectively undertake whatever technology generation
23 and transfer activities may be deemed necessary.

24 *Sec. 10. The Local Government Units (LGUs) shall: -*

- 25 a) Designate a Provincial Agriculture Officer (PAO)- in each province who will
26 represent the respective provinces in the Regional Integrated System for
27 Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer (RISATGaT) Council and
28 coordinate all activities pertaining to agricultural technology services to farmers
29 in his/her provinces; and
30 b) In collaboration with a duly recognized provincial college of agriculture, shall
31 organize a Provincial Agriculture Technology Transfer (PATT) Council whose
32 members will include the head of the agricultural institution, the PAO, Municipal

1 Agricultural Officers, representatives of recognized local farmers' and non-
2 government organizations.

3 Sec. 11. *The State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) shall: -*

4 a) Designate an Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer (ATGaT)
5 Coordinator who will represent the institution in the Regional Integrated System
6 for Technology Generation and Transfer (RISATGaT) Council in the case of duly
7 accredited regional SUCs;

8 b) Designate an Agriculture Technology Transfer (ATT) Coordinator for the
9 institution and who will represent the institution in the Provincial Integrated
10 System for Agriculture Technology Transfer (PISATT) Council in the case of duly
11 accredited provincial agricultural colleges or provincial technical institutes of
12 agriculture;

13 c) Undertake research, technology generation and/or technology transfer on
14 such areas as may be recommended by the NISATGaT, RISATGaT or PISATT
15 Council in the case of duly accredited national, regional or provincial agricultural
16 institution(s), respectively:

17 d) Provide the office of the Chairman and Secretariat of the RISATGaT Council
18 in the case of the regional state agricultural institution or of the PISATT Council
19 in the case of the provincial agricultural institution as may be designated by the
20 NISATGaT Council, and

21 e) Provide facilities and staff for and conduct training of agricultural
22 technologies, technicians and farmers in the utilization of the various
23 agricultural technologies.

24 Sec. 12. *Farmers and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) shall: -*

25 a) Volunteer facilities or certain portions of their farms for tests and/or
26 demonstration of certain agricultural technologies that are of potential benefit
27 to them;

28 b) Actively participate in the problem opportunity identification, planning and
29 implementation of research and development of promising technologies; and c)

30 Share in the cost of research and development of technologies that are
31 potentially beneficial to them.

32

1 Sec. 13. *Creation of the National Integrated System for Agriculture Technology*
2 *Generation and Transfer (NISATGaT) Council.* - To carry out the programs for generation
3 and transfer of agriculture technologies of the country, the National Integrated System for
4 Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer (NISATGaT) Council is hereby created and
5 attached to the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes only, with the
6 following composition and functions:

7 a) Composition. - The following shall serve as members of the NISATGaT with
8 its Chairman to be elected to serve for a period of three (3) years:

9 1) One outstanding scientist from each of the fields of Crop Science,
10 Animal Science, Agricultural Engineering, Fisheries, Forestry and
11 Veterinary Medicine who shall be nominated by heads of faculties,
12 scientific or professional groups for a term of three (3) years, and from
13 among themselves, a Co-chairperson shall be chosen;

14 2) The Director of the Bureau of Agriculture Research, Technology
15 Generation and Transfer (BARTGaT) who shall also serve as the
16 Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Council;

17 3) The Dean, College of Agriculture of the University Council of the
18 Philippines at Los Baños;

19 4) The President of the Philippine Association of Agricultural Colleges and
20 Universities;

21 5) The Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and
22 Resources Research and Development (PCARRD);

23 6) One representative of the National Farmers' Organizations and one
24 representative of the National NGOs involved with agricultural
25 technology transfer;

26 7) Chairperson of each of the RISATGaT Councils;

27 8) The Director, Bureau of Animal Industry; and

28 9) The Director, Bureau of Plant Industry; and

29 10) The Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

30 b) Functions. - The NISATGaT Council shall have the following duties and
31 functions:

- 1) Scan the environment of the Philippine agriculture and study new development and trends where problems and opportunities could arise and taken advantage of by developing new technologies;
- 2) Study new technologies in agriculture and related fields and determine whether these could be advantageously adapted by Filipino farmers,
- 3) Formulate policies that will encourage and promote the expeditious generation and transfer of technologies that are most beneficial to the Filipino people,
- 4) Prioritize national programs for research, technology generation and transfer that government should support;
- 5) Make representation with the Department of Budget and Management and see to the timely and sufficient allocation of funds for agriculture research, technology generation and transfer programs as recommended by NISATGaT, and
- 6) Formulate policies regarding technology, protection, commercialization and dissemination.

Sec. 14. *Creation of the Regional Integrated System for Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer Council.* - To carry out the regional programs for generation and transfer of technologies appropriate for each of the regions, a Regional Agricultural Technology Generation and Transfer (RISATGaT) Council is hereby created in each of the geographical regions of the country and attached to a chartered regional state university or college as designated by the MSATGaT Council.

a) *Composition.* - The RISATGaT Council shall be composed of the following members whose Chairman shall be elected by its members for a term of three (3) years and assisted by a Secretariat:

- 1) The Heads of the accredited agricultural university(ies) and college(s) of the region,
- 2) The Directors/ Heads of Regional Integrated Agriculture Research Centers and of other duly recognized agricultural commodity research and training centers in the region,
- 3) The Manager/ head of the Regional Outreach Station;
- 4) The Provincial Agricultural Officers of each province of the region,

1 5) The President (s) or Chairperson (s) of duly recognized farmers and
2 non-government organizations involved in the promotion of agriculture
3 in the region; and

4 6) The Coordinator of Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer of
5 the institution to which the RISATGaT is attached and who shall also
6 serve as in charge of the Secretariat.

7 b) Function. - The RISATGaT Council shall have the following duties and
8 functions:

9 1. Periodically discuss problems and opportunities for developing
10 agriculture in the province and plan and cause the implementation of
11 research, technology generation and transfer programs that will most
12 effectively address such issues;

13 2. Coordinate the research, technology generation and technology
14 transfer activities in the region and see that they are consistent with the
15 plans and programs approved by the RISATGaT;

16 3. Determine the priorities for research, technology generation and
17 transfer that may be implemented in the region and accordingly
18 recommend financial support by the Government or by any interested
19 parties;

20 4. Periodically review on-going research and development projects and
21 programs and see that they are squarely address their objectives; and

22 5. Plan and facilitate the transfer of new and appropriate agricultural
23 technologies to farmers and other end-users in the region.

24 *Sec. 15. Creation of Provincial Integrated System for Agriculture Technology Transfer*
25 *Council.* - To effectively transfer agriculture technologies to farmers in the provinces and
26 municipalities, the Provincial Agriculture Technology Transfer (PATT) Council shall be
27 established in each of the provinces and attached to the provincial agricultural college
28 designated by the RISATGaT Council.

29 a) Composition. - The PATT Council shall be composed of the following
30 members with the Chairman to be elected from among the members and serve
31 for three (3) years:

32 1) The Head(s) of recognized provincial agricultural college(s) or
33 institute(s)

1 2) The Provincial Agricultural Officer (PAO) who shall also serve as
2 Coordinator of Technology Transfer and in-charge of the PATT Council
3 Secretariat.

4 3) The Municipal Agricultural Officer of each municipality; and

5 4) The chairperson(s) of duly recognized farmers and non-government
6 organizations involved in agriculture in the province.

7 b) Functions. - PATT Council shall have the following duties and functions:

8 1) Periodically discuss problems and opportunities for developing
9 agriculture in the province and plan and cause the implementation of
10 appropriate technology for transfer to farmers and other local end-users;

11 2) Coordinate technology transfer activities in the region and see that
12 they are consistent with its approved plans and programs;

13 3) Determine priority technology transfer activities that may be
14 implemented in the province and accordingly recommend financial
15 support by the local government or by any interested parties;

16 4) Periodically review on-going technology transfer activities in the
17 province and see that they squarely address their objectives; and

18 5) Plan and facilitate the transfer of new and appropriate agriculture
19 technologies to farmers and other end-users in the province.

20 Sec. 16. *Budgetary Scheme.* – The budget shall be as follows: -

21 a) The current appropriations or budgets for agriculture research, technology
22 generation and transfer program of the state agencies, institutes and centers
23 and local government units and SUCs shall be increased from the present level
24 by annual increment of 0.2% of the GVA of the agriculture sector for the next
25 ten (10) years as recommended by the NISATGaT Council and approved by the
26 Department of Budget and Management and shall be included in the Annual
27 General Appropriations Act.

28 b) This Act hereby allocates an endowment lump sum amount of Fifty million
29 pesos (Php 50,000,000.00) per annum for the next ten (10) years and shall be
30 included in the General Appropriations Act starting 2020. This fund shall be
31 called the Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer Fund to support high
32 priority technology generation and transfer programs of the NISATGaT Council
33 the RISATGaT Councils and the PATT Councils. Provided, that such find shall be

1 invested in government bonds and securities and managed by the NISATGaT
2 Council using only the interest earnings of the said kind.

3 c) The operations of the Bureau of Agriculture Research, Technology Generation
4 and Transfer shall be funded initially from the DA allocation for the operation of
5 both its Bureaus of Agricultural Research (BAR) and Agricultural Training
6 Institute (ATI) upon the effectivity of this Act, the BAR and ATI shall be replaced
7 by the BARTGaT. Subsequently, the appropriation of the BARTGaT shall be
8 incremented according to the provisions of subsection (a) hereof.

9
10 Sec. 18. *Incentives for Private Institutions.* - Private institutions and organizations
11 may avail of the research, technology generation and transfer fund. Provided, That their
12 programs are approved for funding by the NISATGaT Council. Furthermore, their
13 expenditures for research and development activities shall be eligible for tax exemptions
14 Provided, That the information that they derive therefrom are shared with the community
15 of researches through scientific publications, seminars, symposia and the like.

16 Sec. 19. *Incentives and Benefits for Technologists and Technicians and Farmers*
17 *Participating in Technology Generation and Transfer.*

18
19 a) Technologist and technicians involved in research, technology generation and
20 transfer shall be paid salaries, at least, equal to the teaching staff of the SUCs
21 of equivalent academic training and qualifications. They shall also be given
22 corresponding incentives and benefits for any patent on products or processes
23 that they have developed

24 b) Farmers who participate in the planning and implementation of technology
25 generation and transfer activities or make available certain areas of their farm
26 lots or farm facilities for such activities shall be entitled to certain incentives
27 and benefits as may be recommended by the supervising Council and approved
28 by the Commission on Audit.

29
30 Sec. 20. *Repealing Clause.* - All existing laws, rules and regulations or parts thereof
31 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
32

1 Sec. 21. *Separability Clause.* - If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held
2 invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision hereof shall be affected
3 thereby.

4 Sec 22. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
5 two (2) newspapers of general circulation

6
7 *Approved,*