OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

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SENATE

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The cultivation of high value crops is key to the modernization of the country's agricultural sector. However, our extremely fragmented farm sector leaves farmers with no access to technology and capital and financial resources that would enable them to engage more profitably in the production of high value crops.

This bill promotes the attainment of economies of scale by encouraging the adoption of cooperatives systems in the consolidation of small landholdings and participation of the corporate sector in the production of high value crops.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly urged.

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

S No. 786

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

AN ACT

TO AMEND R.A. 7900 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE HIGH-VALUE CROPS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Sections 3, 5 and 7 of R.A. 7900 otherwise known as the High Value Crops Development Act of 1995 and for other purposes are hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. Scope of Application. - This Act shall cover BUT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO upland dwellers as well as lowland tenants, indigenous and cultural communities. Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CAR.P). beneficiaries, upland farm-owners, farmers, farmer's organizations/ associations/cooperatives, community associations and farmworkers and to the extent therein provided, the departments, offices, agencies, subdivisions, branches or instrumentalities in the areas identified by the Department of Agriculture as key commercial crop production areas.

Sec. 3. Site Idenfification. - The Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources: and the municipal concerned. ALONG WITH PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE OR VOLUNTEER, shall identify the broad areas suitable for high-value crops production, within six (6) months after effectivity of this Act.

Provided: That such site identification shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals to ensure consistency with agrarian reform program and the national land use policy.

Sec. 4. farm Model. - For the program. [farmers may adopt] PORTIONS
OF LARGE LANDHOLDINGS MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS FOR
THE ADOPTION OF the cooperative system in putting up economically-sized
farms for high-value crop farming. Farming members shall collectively manage
individual farms which includes contracting process and means of production,
planning and coordinating crop varieties; and raising breed, hectarage.

Distribution and some production measures with reference to the market it shall
serve. Said farm models may be replicated by farmers' organizations all over the
country.

Sec. 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly: Provided, however, That nothing in this Act shall be construed or applied amending R.A. 6657 and other laws on Agrarian Reform.

Sec. 6. Separability Clause. - If any of the provisions of this Act is declared invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,