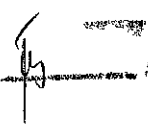


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 JUL -3 P3:15

RECEIVED BY: 

S E N A T E

S. No. 826

Introduced by Senator Biazon

EXPLANATORY NOTE


Agricultural institutions have a big role to play in development efforts of the government for countryside agro-industrialization. Experience in developed countries has shown that colleges and universities involved in agriculture were instrumental in improving the productivity of the farming and rural communities. Through teaching, research and extension, these institutions provided the relevant high-level manpower, technology and services necessary to improve farm yields and incomes of agricultural workers.

This bill aims to establish a National Agriculture Education System (NAES), which is an approach to stratify institutional goals, upgrade standards and increase the school's effectiveness in instruction, research and extension within the nation, region or province. Through the NAES, the State commits to the exposure of all aspects of agriculture to teachers, students and the community to create and maintain an *understanding and appreciation of agriculture and related industries*. It is a great opportunity to promote agriculture awareness and an understanding of the importance of agriculture to all members of society.

Soil is one of our most precious resources. Therefore, we have to work on changing farm policy to emphasize its proper use. We must get farmers into classrooms. We must strive to move student out of the classroom and onto farms which model sustainable systems. Together, we can work toward the goal of sustainable agricultural systems.

The bill attempts to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of agriculture education programs while preserving the concern for equity or democratized access to higher education in the rural areas. It is also a response to the call for greater productivity, higher rural incomes and better quality of life for the Filipino people.

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



RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Senator

7 JUL -3 P3:15

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. No. 826

Introduced by Senator Biazon

AN ACT
RATIONALIZING AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES BY
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS, PROVIDING FOR MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **CHAPTER I. TITLE AND POLICIES**

2 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "**Agriculture**
3 **Education Act of 2007**".

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies.** –

5 a) The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens,
6 regardless of sex, and creed to quality education at all levels and
7 shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to
8 all.

9 b) The State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete and
10 integrated system of agriculture education relevant to the needs of
11 the economy, community and society.

12 c) The State shall provide non-formal education and training to
13 farmers, farmworkers and out-of-school youths in the rural areas.

14 d) Agriculture education shall be coordinated with agricultural policies
15 of the State and shall be oriented particularly towards improvement
16 of the productivity and incomes of small farmers and increased self-
17 sufficiency of rural communities.

1 **CHAPTER II. COVERAGE**

2 **SEC. 3. Scope.** - This Act shall apply to and govern both formal and
3 non-formal continuing agriculture education programs being offered in all public
4 and private educational institutions in the country.

5 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – The following terms shall mean as
6 defined herein:

7 a) **Agriculture** – means cultivation of the soil, planting of crops,
8 growing of fruit trees, management of forests, raising or catching of
9 livestock or both, poultry or fish; including the harvesting and post-
10 harvest handling of such products and other activities and practices
11 performed by a farmer/fisherman/forester in conjunction with such
12 operations done by persons whether natural or juridical.

13 b) **Agriculture and Environmental Education** – pertains to organized
14 and institutionalised instructions relating to professional, technical
15 and vocational skills development, research for technology
16 development, and extension of technologies in the various
17 fields/disciplines in agriculture and allied sciences such as crop
18 science, animal science, agricultural engineering, fisheries, forestry
19 and veterinary medicine. Environmental concerns are integrated in
20 each discipline.

21 **CHAPTER III. THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION SYSTEM**
22 **(NAES)**

23 **SEC. 5. Purpose.** – Qualified existing public and private institutions,
24 colleges and universities shall be developed into a network of an integrated
25 system of agriculture education to respond effectively to agriculture and rural
26 development needs of the country.

27 **SEC. 6. The National Agriculture Education System (NAES)** – The
28 network of qualified public and private education institutions shall be formed and
29 established into a National Agriculture Education System (NAES), in order for

1 agriculture education to have a unified, coordinated and improved system of
2 implementation of academic program thrusts geared toward achieving agriculture
3 and rural development of the community and country. However, in case there is
4 no institution offering agriculture education in the service area which corresponds
5 to the provision of Section 7 of this Act, the same shall be created or established
6 according to implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

7 **SEC. 7. Components of the System.** – From among the qualified
8 agriculture education institutions, regardless of the institution's system of
9 governance as authorized by law, the network shall be composed of five (5) sub-
10 systems, namely: agriculture, agricultural engineering, fisheries, forestry and
11 veterinary medicine. However, administrative organization and structures of the
12 designated institutions shall be governed by their respective charters unless
13 otherwise provided in this Act.

14 a) The Agriculture Education Sub-system shall be composed of one
15 (1) designated National College of Agriculture, one (1) designated
16 Regional College of Agriculture in each region, and at least one (1)
17 designated/converted/created Technical Institute of Agriculture per
18 province as the case may be.

19 b) The Agricultural Engineering Education Sub-system shall be
20 composed of one (1) designated national College of Agricultural
21 Engineering and a designated Regional College of Agricultural
22 Engineering per region to be located within the network of the
23 agriculture education sub-system.

24 c) The Fisheries Education Sub-system shall be composed of one (1)
25 designated Regional College of Fisheries to be located strategically
26 in three (3) selected regions and a designated/converted/created
27 Regional Institute of Fisheries Technology per region.

28 d) The Forestry Education Sub-system shall be composed of one (1)
29 designated National College of Forestry and a designated Regional

1 College of Forestry per region to be located within the agriculture
2 education sub-system, if possible.

- 3 e) The Veterinary Education Sub-system shall be composed of one
4 (1) designated National College of Veterinary Medicine and four (4)
5 designated regional College of Veterinary Medicine to be located
6 strategically in four (4) selected regions within the agriculture
7 education sub-system.

8 CHAPTER IV. ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF INSTITUTIONS

9 IN EACH LEVEL OF THE NETWORK

10 SEC. 8. The National Colleges (NCs) shall:

- 11 a) Concentrate on the post-graduate programs and curricular models
12 in the tertiary level;
- 13 b) Be responsible for the conduct of basic and applied researches and
14 other scientific innovations;
- 15 c) Assist the Regional Colleges and institutions in their development
16 efforts towards excellence, effectiveness and relevance in
17 instruction, research and extension or technology transfer;
- 18 d) Link up with national and international agencies to keep abreast of
19 local needs and scientific advances; and
- 20 e) Share its expertise and facilities with the Government and the
21 private sector as far as policy recommendations, program planning
22 and evaluation, and staff training are concerned.

23 SEC. 9. The Regional Colleges (RCs) shall:

- 24 a) Concentrate on Bachelor of Science degrees with reasonable
25 involvement in the post-graduate and model technology courses;
- 26 b) Focus on adaptive researches needed in the region with
27 reasonable involvement in basic and applied researches and
28 verification projects;

- 1 c) Assist technical institutes in strengthening their institutional
2 capabilities towards relevance, effectiveness and excellence in
3 instruction, action research and technology transfer; and
4 d) Link up with, and assist government regional offices in planning and
5 evaluating their programs and in training their staff for agriculture
6 activities.

7 SEC. 10. The Regional Institutes of Fisheries Technology (RIFT) shall:

- 8 a) Concentrate on the Diploma in Fisheries Technology designed for
9 the training of fisheries technicians on technical skills required of
10 the fisheries industry;
11 b) Conduct verification tests of new techniques developed by research
12 institutions and transfer positive results to field technicians,
13 fishermen and fishfarmers;
14 c) Assist the Fisherman's Training Center of the Bureau of Fisheries
15 and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in planning, implementing and
16 evaluating their programs and training;
17 d) Assist high schools with fishery practical arts subjects in the
18 development of their instructional materials.

19 SEC. 11. The Provincial Technical Institutes (PTIs) shall:

- 20 a) Concentrate their curricular programs on technical and technology
21 courses designed for farming and extension work with reasonable
22 involvement in selected degree and non-degree, post-secondary
23 advanced technology-related courses in agriculture;
24 b) Conduct pilot/action researches and verification trials to
25 demonstrate advances in agricultural technology and transfer the
26 same to technicians and farmers through fields days, short courses
27 and training programs;
28 c) Serve as a learning and technology resource for development
29 agencies in the province in planning and evaluating programs and

1 in training technicians, small farmers, agricultural producers and
2 entrepreneurs; and

3 d) Extend improved appropriate agricultural technologies to secondary
4 and vocational high schools.

5 **SEC. 12. Other Roles and Functions of the Institutions.** – In addition
6 to their regular roles and functions, all the member institutions mentioned above
7 shall also serve as the agricultural training centers in their respective areas and
8 offer continuing and adult education courses for related line agency
9 staff/farmers/fisherfolk and community leaders to hasten technology transfer,
10 improve attitudes towards farming, and inculcate the importance of agriculture in
11 nation building in support to the Magna Carta for Small Farmers. It shall also be
12 the function of the institutions to provide assistance to students in conducting
13 their income-generating projects as well as placement of their graduates.

14 **CHAPTER V. IMPLEMENTING AND COORDINATING MECHANISMS**

15 **SEC. 13. Agricultural Education Development Council (AEDEC).** –
16 The existing Technical Panel for Agricultural Education (TPAE) is hereby
17 transformed into the Agricultural Education Development Council (AEDEC) as
18 the governing advisory policy body which is autonomous and attached to the
19 Department of Education (DepEd) with the following composition and functions:

20 a) **Composition.** – The AEDEC shall be composed of the following
21 members to be appointed by the Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports as
22 its Ex-Officio Chairman:

23 1) One (1) outstanding scientist, educator or practitioner from
24 each of the fields of Crop Science, Animal Science,
25 Agricultural Engineering, Fisheries, Forestry, Veterinary
26 Medicine and Agriculture Teacher Education, who shall be
27 nominated by heads of faculties, scientific or professional
28 groups for a term of three (3) years, and from among them a
29 Vice-Chairman shall be chosen;

- 1 2) One (1) representative each from the Department of
2 Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural
3 Resources, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of
4 Science and Technology, Department of Budget and
5 Management and the National Economic and Development
6 Authority (NEDA);
- 7 3) One (1) representative from the Commission on Higher
8 Education;
- 9 4) One (1) representative from the Professional Regulation
10 Commission;
- 11 5) One (1) representative from the Philippine Federation of
12 Professional Associations;
- 13 6) One (1) representative from the Federation or Association of
14 Colleges of Agriculture in the Philippines; and
- 15 7) One (1) representative from the Fund for Assistance to
16 Private Education.

17 b) Functions. – The AEDEC shall have the following duties and
18 functions:

- 19 1) To study and review the overall philosophy and goals of
20 agriculture and environment education in relation to the
21 regional, national and international developments in
22 agriculture and industry and formulate alternative directions
23 and plans;
- 24 2) To assess and identify the agriculture and environmental
25 education, training and employment needs of the country in
26 consultation with the NEDA and other concerned agencies;
- 27 3) To undertake policy, educational and evaluation research
28 and recommend measures to improve agriculture and
29 environmental education;

- 1 4) To formulate and recommend guidelines and minimum
2 educational standards with respect to curricula, faculty,
3 equipment and facilities, library resources, student services,
4 quality of output and other related criteria which shall be
5 applicable to all NAES member-institutions;
- 6 5) To develop and implement coordinative and collaborative
7 mechanisms of monitoring and evaluation of activities of
8 NAES;
- 9 6) To establish and operate a Management Information System
10 (MIS) for the NAES;
- 11 7) To provide technical assistance to educational institutions in
12 the planning, development and implementation of agriculture
13 and environmental education programs in cooperation with
14 appropriate agencies;
- 15 8) To receive or recommend grants or both for the funding of
16 educational research and development following the existing
17 accounting and auditing manual for research operations;
- 18 9) To appoint AEDEC staff and employees upon the
19 recommendation and endorsement of the Executive Director;
20 and
- 21 10) To formulate implementing rules and regulations of this Act
22 and recommend the same to the Commission on Higher
23 Education within six (6) months after the effectivity of this
24 Act; and
- 25 11) To perform such other functions as may be deemed
26 necessary.

27 **SEC. 14. Secretariat.** – The AEDEC shall be assisted by technical and
28 administrative staff with appointment on permanent status to be headed by an
29 Executive Director. The Secretariat's office shall be at the University where the

1 National College of Agriculture is located. The services of a pool of
2 experts/consultants/resource persons on full-time or part-time status shall be
3 provided on special detail or secondment subject to the guidelines approved by
4 AEDEC.

5 **SEC. 15. Budgetary Scheme shall be as follows:**

6 a) The current appropriations or budgets of the public educational
7 institutions in the NAES designated as the national colleges and regional
8 colleges shall continue and shall be modified or adjusted in succeeding years in
9 order to meet the standards of the rationalized programs of the institutions as
10 approved by the Department of Budget and Management and shall be included
11 in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

12 b) The PTIs/RIFTs in the NAES which are designated or newly
13 created under this Act shall likewise be provided budgetary support based on
14 their programs and new staffing pattern as approved by the Department of
15 Budget and Management and shall be included in the Annual General
16 Appropriations Act. Additional institutes that may be established in the province
17 shall solely be supported by provincial government funds.

18 c) This Act shall hereby allocate an endowment lumpsum amount of
19 Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) per annum for the next ten (10) years and
20 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act starting calendar year 2008.
21 This fund shall be called as the Agriculture Education Program Development
22 Fund to support the development, improvement and implementation of priority
23 agriculture education and farmers' entrepreneurial training programs of NAES
24 member institutions: *Provided, further,* That such fund shall be invested in
25 government bonds and securities and managed by AEDEC using only the
26 interest earnings of the said fund.

27 d) The operations of the AEDEC shall be funded initially from the
28 CHED budget allocation for the Technical Panel for Agricultural Education
29 (TPAE). Upon the effectivity of this Act, TPAE shall be replaced by the AEDEC

1 and all equipment, qualified personnel and projects of the TPAE shall be
2 transferred to AEDEC. Subsequently, the initial amount of at least Three million
3 pesos (P3,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the AEDEC in the Annual General
4 Appropriations Act.

5 **SEC. 16. Fiduciary, Endowment and Revolving Funds.** – The Fiduciary
6 and Revolving Funds centralized under P.D. 711 are hereby authorized and
7 reallocated to the institutions in NAES to encourage them to demonstrate the
8 technologies that they develop in their laboratories, experimental farms and
9 income-generating projects, furthermore endowment funds shall be authorized to
10 be accumulated in the institutions, out of any funds generated from unallocated
11 savings, earnings or from any other external sources to be used as incentives for
12 professorial chairs, teachers/employees incentives award systems, faculty
13 fellowship programs and the like. Such funds shall be disbursed in accordance
14 with law and guidelines set by AEDEC and the Commission on Audit.

15 **CHAPTER VI. INCENTIVES, PRIVILEGES AND BENEFITS**

16 **SEC. 17. Incentives for Private Institutions.** - Private colleges or
17 universities that may be designated to perform any role in the system shall
18 basically be supported out of their private funds raised and solicited for its
19 operations. They shall be supported through the Fund for Assistance to Private
20 Education (FAPE), national grants, educational development subsidies, and
21 other forms of incentives such as deregulation of tuition and other fees and tax
22 exemptions especially on importation of books and equipment.

23 **SEC. 18. Incentives for Agriculture Education Graduates.** – The
24 following incentives are hereby provided to graduates to facilitate and maximize
25 their contributions to agriculture and national government:

26 a) **Agriculture Education Entrepreneurial Loan.** – *Graduates desiring*
27 *to establish agribusiness enterprises shall be provided with a loan not exceeding*
28 *One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) upon submission of an*
29 *authenticated diploma, a good feasibility study and is secured by a chattel*

1 mortgage of assets acquired from the loan. Mechanisms to operationalize said
2 loan shall be provided by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas through the Land Bank
3 of the Philippines and other interested commercial or cooperative banks with the
4 assistance of the AEDEC.

5 b) Tax Incentives. – Graduates venturing into priority agribusiness
6 processing and manufacturing industries may avail of tax incentives under the
7 Board of Investments priority plan as provided by law and the Kalakalan 20 under
8 R.A. No. 1648.

9 CHAPTER VII. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

10 SEC. 19. By virtue of this Act, the non-chartered CHED managed
11 colleges that may be designated to perform the role of a regional college in the
12 NAES shall follow the structure of a state college as provided for in the guidelines
13 of the Department of Budget and Management starting at level four.

14 SEC. 20. **Provincial Technical Institutes.** – This Act shall hereby
15 authorize the Chairman of CHED upon endorsement of the AEDEC through the
16 recommendations of the provincial government or the regional development
17 councils as the case may be in the designations and/or change of status of
18 potential institutions into Technical Institutes of Agriculture in each province and
19 Institutes of Fisheries Technology in each region within the NAES: *Provided,*
20 *however,* That such designations including the institutions identified within the
21 NAES be published in the Government's official gazette: *Provided, further,* That
22 such institutes shall be headed by a Director and shall be allowed to adopt the
23 existing titles and academic ranks accorded to a college faculty: *Provided,*
24 *furthermore,* That such institutes which are attached to mother units shall have a
25 Director by designation whereas those independent institutes shall have a
26 Director with a plantilla position.

27 SEC. 21. **Repealing Clause.** – All existing laws, rules, and regulations or
28 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
29 superseded, or modified accordingly.

1 **SEC. 22. Separability Clause.** – If any part, section or provision of this
2 Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision
3 hereof shall be affected thereby.

4 **SEC. 23. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

6 Approved,

7