


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

)
) 7 JUL -3 1966
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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. B. No. 872


Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The new millennium poses bigger and even more difficult challenges. The increasing population puts more pressure on our natural resources. The twin demands of the environment and the people brings to fore the recognition of agroforestry as the key to resource rehabilitation, sustainable development and preservation of these natural resources.

Interestingly, the Philippines is one of the first countries to practice agroforestry. For a country with an estimated twenty million (*roughly 24%*) of its population living in the uplands, the magnitude of the practice of agroforestry cannot be overstressed. As a land-use management system, agroforestry is new market opportunities, new business investments, sustainable agricultures, land stewardship, habitat for wildlife, improved water quality, and diversified farm income.

In particular, agroforestry practices help landowners to diversify products, markets, and farm income; improve soil and water quality; reduce erosion, non-point source pollution and damage due to flooding; enhance land and aquatic habitats for fish and wildlife; and improve biodiversity while sustaining land resources for generations to come. A critical mass of quality agroforestry practitioners, therefore, is necessary to advance agroforestry systems and practices to a scale significant for improving the quality of lives in the upland and throughout the landscape.


Yet, despite its irrefutable importance in the country's drive for sustainable agricultural development, agroforestry face a challenge in integrating itself as a profession / field of endeavor in the country's policies. To address the increasing demand for field technicians equipped with the needed agroforestry knowledge and skills, this unique field, which is neither Agriculture nor Forestry demand its recognition as a new and separate occupational cluster of study. 

Although it has been considered as the main production technology / tool in the implementation of the Community-Based Forest Management Program as exemplified in Executive Order No. 263 series of 1995, and is among the fields of agriculture and fisheries that is exemplified in the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997, there is an evident lack of a governing body that will assess, evaluate, standardize, and enhance the Agroforestry curriculum.

This brings to fore the necessity of this measure.

It is envisioned that this bill would establish the distinct role of agroforestry as a science and as a profession in providing the farm households with stable and ready source of sufficient food to reduce the upland farmers' food insecurity. After all, agroforestry is an essential part of the effort to feed the people in our uplands by allowing the production of "more food on less land and less labor."

Approval of the measure is earnestly sought.


EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
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First Regular Session

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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7 JUL -3 P5:36

S E N A T E

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S. B. No. 872

Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

**AN ACT TO STANDARDIZE AND ENHANCE THE
PRACTICE OF AGROFORESTRY IN THE COUNTRY,
CREATING THE BOARD OF AGROFORESTRY
UNDER THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS COMMISSION,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

ARTICLE I

**TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES
AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

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SEC. 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the
“*Philippine Agroforestry Act of 2007.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy
of the State to respond to the need of professionalizing the field of
agroforestry in the country as a tool towards sustainable socio-economic
development and environmental protection.

Toward this end, the State shall establish and maintain a Board
of Agroforestry that shall conduct, among others, a national board
examination to all graduates of a four-year degree program in
agroforestry or its equivalent, regulate, and sustain the practice of the
profession for efficient and effective public service.

SEC 3. *Objectives.* This Act shall provide for and govern:

- a) The standardization and regulation of agroforestry education;

- 1 b) The giving of licensure examinations to graduates of recognized
2 agroforestry schools for the purpose of registration;
3
4 c) The promotion and development of agroforestry research in the
5 country; and
6
7 d) The regulation, control, and supervision of the practice of
8 Agroforestry in the Philippines.
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11 **SEC. 4. *Definitions.*** For purposes of this Act,
12

- 13 a) ***“Board”*** refers to the Professional Regulatory Board of
14 Agroforestry, hereby created as the regulatory body, under the
15 administrative, executive and policy supervision of the
16 Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), for the practice of
17 Agroforestry in the Philippines and tasked with powers, functions
18 and responsibilities herein prescribed;
19
20 b) ***“Commission”*** refers to the Professional Regulations
21 Commission (PRC), created under Republic Act No. 8981 or the
22 *“Professional Regulations Commission Modernization Act of*
23 *2000;”*
24
25 c) ***“Agroforester”*** refers to any person who has passed the
26 licensure examination for the agroforestry professional
27 administered by the Board/Commission, taken the oath of an
28 Agroforester, and duly registered and issued with a certification
29 of good standing and is allowed under this act to engage in or to
30 perform activities, acts or services constituting the professional
31 practice of agroforestry including those who hold a position in the
32 government service or teaches subjects in schools, colleges or
33 universities, requiring the knowledge of Agroforestry;
34
35 d) ***“Agroforestry”*** refers to the science, arts and practice that deals
36 with the production, arrangement and utilization of woody
37 perennials in combination with other agricultural crops, animals,
38 aquatic and /or other resources either zonal, mixed
39 simultaneously or sequentially grown for the twin purpose of
40 conservation and socio-economic productivity; and
41
42 e) ***“Agroforestry professional practice”*** refers to the activities,
43 acts, services or pursuits exclusively performed by PRC
44 registered and licensed professional agroforesters, the scope
45 thereof is prescribed and/or specified herein.

46 **SEC. 5. *Scope of Practice.*** The practice of Agroforestry shall
47 include, but not be limited to, the following:
48

- 49 a) Preparation and certification of Agroforestry systems and
50 interactive diagnosis and design, feasibility studies, and

1 specifications for the production, harvesting, processing,
2 utilization and marketing of woody perennials and agricultural
3 crops and/ or animals for multiple products and services
4 including conservation and cleaner production practices;
5

6 b) Development of management plans with a step-by-step time-line
7 plans with recommendations on appropriate species and
8 strategies for the unique site; a plan for long-term fertility
9 management; for marketing final products including budget and
10 economic projections; farm and pasture diversification plans of
11 ranches, fruit growers and farms to diversity products and
12 integrate more trees into their plantings, with appropriate
13 species and techniques to support existing crops, reduce expenses
14 and increase the diversity and economic resiliency of the project.
15 These may include animal fodder, windbreaks, much bank, shade
16 integrated timber or native trees, and many other practices;
17

18 c) Planning and implementation of agroforestry nurseries including
19 seed orchards, tissue-culture and clonal banks operations; soil
20 and water resources conservation measures' conduct of
21 environmental risk and impact assessments and geospatial
22 analysis and management of resources; and wood products
23 manufacturing and marketing;
24

25 d) Provision of related activities or services such as the conduct of
26 agroforestry experiments, research, extension, development,
27 training or communications; the teaching of subjects in academic
28 institutions and for licensure examinations in conformity with
29 Section 11 of Republic Act No 8981; undertaking, supervision
30 and/ or administration of studies, program, stations, center,
31 community/ provincial/ regional/ national offices of government
32 agencies and institutions requiring agroforestry professionals;
33 technical or management consultants needed by or required of
34 local government units, private corporations, foundations, non-
35 government association and foreign assisted projects; and
36

37 e) All agroforestry concerns, projects, business activities or related
38 services must be certified by a professional Agroforester before
39 such will be accepted by any entity for registration, getting
40 business permits or licenses in municipalities, any financial
41 institutions, legal transactions and the like. Such requirement
42 shall ensure that agroforestry activities will conform to the
43 observance of the requirements of good agroforestry
44 environmental protection, pollution prevention, conservation,
45 health risk and cleaner production practices affecting the natural
46 resources and the ecosystem. Furthermore, the certification of
47 and by an Agroforester on projects/ businesses is an evidence of
48 careful studies made on the projects in accordance with Strategic
49 Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones (SAFDZs), the land
50 use and zoning ordinances, protection of watersheds areas, the

1 housing and land use regulations as provided for in Republic Act
2 No. 8435 and other laws.

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6 **ARTICLE II**

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8 **PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF AGROFORESTRY**
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11 **SEC. 6. *The Professional Regulatory Board of Agroforestry***
12 ***and its Composition.*** The Professional Regulatory Board of
13 Agroforestry, hereinafter referred to as the “**Board,**” under the
14 supervision and administrative control of the Professional Regulation
15 Commission, hereinafter referred to as the “**Commission,**” shall be
16 composed of a Chairman and four (4) members, to be appointed by the
17 President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) recommendees for
18 each position and ranked by the Commission from a list of five (5)
19 qualified nominees endorsed by the accredited professional
20 organization of certified agroforesters, within ninety (90) working days
21 after the approval of this Act.
22

23 The Board shall elect a vice-chairman from among its members
24 for a term of one (1) year. The Chairman shall preside in all meetings of
25 the Board and in the event of a vacancy in the office of the chairman,
26 the vice-chairman shall assume the post until such time as a chairman
27 is appointed.
28

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31 **SEC. 7. *Qualifications of Members of the Professional***
32 ***Regulatory Board.*** A member of the Board shall, at the time of his /
33 her appointment, possess the following qualifications:
34

- 35 a) Must be a natural-born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
36 b) Must have engaged in the practice of Agroforestry for at least ten
37 (10) years;
38 c) Must be of good moral character and must not have been
39 convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude; and
40 d) Must not have any pecuniary interest, for a period of at least one
41 (1) year prior to his or her appointment, directly or indirectly, in
42 any school, college, university or institution conferring an
43 academic degree necessary for admission to the practice of
44 agroforestry or where review classes in preparation for the
45 licensure examination are being offered or conducted, nor shall
46 he / she be a member of the faculty or administration thereof at
47 the time of his / her appointment to the Board.
48
49

1 **SEC. 8. *Term of Office.*** The chairman and members of the
2 Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years without prejudice
3 for reappointment to another term, but in no case shall he/she serve
4 continuously for more than six (6) years.
5

6 At the expiration of the term of the Chairperson, the most senior
7 of the remaining members of the Board shall assume and perform the
8 duties and functions and receive the emoluments and entitlements of
9 the Chairperson. The incumbent members of the Board shall continue
10 to serve their respective remaining terms until their successors shall
11 have been appointed and have qualified in accordance with this Act.
12
13
14

15 **SEC 9. *Powers and Functions of the Board.*** The Board shall
16 exercise the following powers, functions and responsibilities, in
17 addition to the pertinent general functions of the Commission under
18 Republic Act 8981:
19

- 20 a) To create a registry of agroforestry professionals in the country;
21 b) To prepare, conduct and administer the agroforestry licensure
22 examinations;
23
24 c) To provide information and other educational materials,
25 promotions and networking services to facilitate the activities of
26 the Board;
27
28 d) To hear and investigate cases, issue summons and subpoena
29 *duces tecum*, and conduct summary proceedings in cases arising
30 from violations of this Act;
31
32 e) To suspend, revoke, reissue, reinstate certificates of registration
33 or licenses for cause allowed by law;
34
35 f) Subject to the approval of the Commission, to adopt and
36 promulgate rules and regulations implementing this Act,
37 including its Code of Ethics to effectively execute the provisions
38 of this Act; and
39
40 g) To exercise such other powers as may be provided by law as well
41 as those which may be implied from, or which are necessary or
42 incidental in carrying out the express powers granted to the
43 Board to achieve the objectives of this Act.
44
45

46 **SEC. 10. *Grounds for Suspension or Removal of Members of***
47 ***the Board.*** The President of the Philippines, after due process has
48 been undertaken by and upon recommendation of the Commission, may
49 suspend or remove any member of the Board for cause on the following
50 grounds:

- 1
2 a) Neglect of duty or incompetence;
3 b) Violation or tolerance of any violation of this Act or any of its
4 implementing rules and regulations;
5 c) Final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude;
6 d) Manipulation or rigging of the agroforestry licensure examination
7 results, disclosure of secret and confidential information in the
8 examination questions prior to the conduct of the said
9 examination or tampering of grades; and
10 e) Graft and Corruption.
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14 ARTICLE III

15 EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION AND LICENSURE 16

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19 **SEC 11. *The Agroforestry Licensure Examination.*** All
20 applicants for registration for the practice of agroforestry shall be
21 required to undergo a licensure examination to be given by the Board
22 in such places and dates as the Commission may designate subject to
23 the requirements prescribed by the Commission.
24

25
26 **SEC 12. *Qualifications of Applicants for Examination.*** Any
27 person applying for examination shall establish, to the satisfaction of
28 the Board, the following requisites:
29

- 30 a) That he / she is a Filipino citizen and a resident of the
31 Philippines;
32 b) That he / she is of good moral character;
33 c) That he / she is a holder of a degree of Bachelor of Science in
34 Agroforestry conferred by a school, college, or institute duly
35 recognized and / or accredited by the CHED or other authorized
36 government offices; and
37 d) That he / she has not been convicted of an offense involving moral
38 turpitude.
39
40

41 **SEC 13. *Scope of Examination.*** The licensure examination for
42 licensed agroforesters shall cover, but are not limited to, the following
43 subjects:
44

- 45 a) Crop Science in Agroforestry Systems;
46
47 b) Animal Science in Agroforestry Systems;
48
49 c) Integrated Pests and Disease Management;
50

- 1 d) Soil Science and Water Conservation;
2
3 e) Agroforestry Science and Technology system; and
4
5 f) Applied Sociology and Extension.
6

7 The Board, upon approval of the Commission, may revise or
8 exclude any of the subjects and their syllabi, and add new ones as the
9 need arises.
10

11 **SEC. 14. *Rating in the Licensure Examination.*** To qualify as
12 having passed the licensure examination for agroforesters, a candidate
13 must obtain a general average of seventy five percent (75%), with no
14 grade lower than sixty-five percent (65%) in any given subject.
15

16 **SEC.15. *Report of Rating.*** The Board shall submit to the
17 Commission the rating obtained by each candidate within ten (10)
18 calendar days after the examination, unless extended for just cause.
19 Upon the release of the results of the examination, the Commission
20 shall send by mail the rating received by each examinee at his / her
21 given address using the mailing envelope submitted during the
22 examination.
23

24 **SEC. 16. *Oath.*** All successful candidates in the examination
25 shall required to take an oath of profession before any member of the
26 Board or before any government official authorized of the Commission
27 or any person authorized by law to administer oaths upon presentation
28 of proof of his/her qualification, prior to entering upon the practice of
29 the profession.
30

31 **SEC. 17. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration and***
32 ***Professional Identification Card.*** A certificate of registration shall
33 be issued to examinees who passes the licensure examination subject to
34 payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. The Certificate of
35 Registration shall bear the signature of the chairperson of the
36 Commission and the chairman and members of the Board, stamped
37 with the official seal of the Commission and of the Board, indicating
38 that the person named therein is entitled to the practice of the
39 profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto. The said
40 certificate shall remain in full force and effect until withdrawn,
41 suspended or revoked in accordance with this Act.

42 A Professional Identification Card bearing the registration
43 number date of issuance, expiry date, duly signed by the chairperson of

1 the Commission, shall likewise be issued to every registrant renewable
2 every three (3) years.

3

4 **SEC 18. *Roster of Licensed Agroforesters.*** A roster showing
5 the names and place of business of all registered professional
6 agroforesters shall be prepared and updated by the Board, and copies
7 thereof shall be made available to any party as may deemed necessary.

8

9 **SEC. 19. *Indication of Certificate of Registration,***
10 ***Identification Card and Professional Tax Receipt.*** The licensed
11 Agroforester shall be required to indicate his / her certificate of
12 registration number, the date of issuance, the duration of validity,
13 including the Professional Tax Receipt number on the documents he /
14 she signs, uses, or issues in connection with the practice of his / her
15 profession.

16

17 **SEC. 20. *Refusal to Issue Certificate of Registration and***
18 ***Professional Identification Card.*** The Board shall not register and
19 issue a certificate of registration and Professional Identification Card to
20 any successful examinee convicted by the court of competent
21 jurisdiction of a criminal offence involving moral turpitude or guilty of
22 immoral and dishonorable conduct to any person or unsound mind. In
23 the event of refusal to issue certificate for any reason, the Board shall
24 give the applicant a written statement setting forth the reasons for
25 such action, which statement shall be incorporated in the record of the
26 Board.

27

28 **Sec. 21. *Suspension and Revocation of Certificate of***
29 ***Registration and Professional Identification Card and***
30 ***Cancellation of Special Permit.*** The Board shall have the power,
31 upon the notice and hearing, to suspend or revoke the practitioner's
32 certificate of registration and professional identification card or
33 suspend his/her from the practice of his/her profession or cancel his/her
34 special permit for any of the causes or ground mentioned under Section
35 23 of this Act or any of the provisions of this Act, and its implementing
36 rules and regulations, the certified Public Accountant's Code of Ethics
37 and the technical and professional standards of practice for certified
38 public accountants.

39 **SEC. 22. *Reinstatement, Reissuance and Replacement of***
40 ***Revoked or Lost Certificates.*** The Board may, after the expiration of
41 two (2) years from the date of revocation of a certificate of registration
42 and upon application and for reasons deemed proper and sufficient,

1 reinstate the validity of a revoked certificate of registration and in so
2 doing, may, in its discretion, exempt the applicant from taking another
3 examination.

4 A new certificate of registration to replace lost, destroyed, or
5 mutilated certificate/license may be issued, subject to the rules and
6 promulgated by the Board and the Commission, upon the payment of
7 the required fees.

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10 **ARTICLE IV**

11 **PENAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

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14 **SEC. 23. *Penal Provisions.*** Any person who shall practice the
15 Agroforestry profession in the Philippines within the meaning of this
16 Act without a certificate of registration and / or professional license in
17 accordance herewith, or any person presenting or using as his / her own
18 Certificate of Registration or professional licensure belonging to
19 another, or any person giving any false or forged evidence to the
20 Commission in order to secure a professional license, or any person
21 assuming, using or advertising as a registered professional agroforester
22 without having been conferred such title, or advertising any title
23 description tending to convey the impression that he or she is a
24 registered professional Agroforester, shall, upon conviction, by a fine of
25 not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (50,000.00) or by imprisonment for
26 a period not exceeding two (2) years or both, at the discretion of the
27 court.

28
29 **SEC. 24. *Employment of Agroforesters in the Government.***
30 In furtherance of the national government's program for sustainable
31 agricultural development, there is a need to adopt mechanisms for the
32 placement and employment of agroforestry graduates in the
33 government sector.

34
35 Thus, it is hereby mandated that all municipalities with at least
36 twenty *per centum* (20%) of the total upland area of the municipality
37 shall create at least one (1) plantilla position for Agroforestry Officer at
38 the Municipal Agriculturist Office, all provinces shall create at least
39 one (1) plantilla position for Agroforestry Specialist at the Office of the
40 Provincial Agriculturist. The aforesaid agroforestry plantilla positions
41 shall be occupied by a professional Agroforester as defined in this Act.

42
43 Whenever necessary, national government agencies concerned in
44 agroforestry-related activities may also create plantilla positions for
45 agroforesters as they may deem appropriate.

1 The Board shall initiate the development of a position
2 classification standards to be led by the Civil Service Commission in
3 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of
4 Interior and Local Government and the Department of Environment
5 and Natural Resources, one (1) year after the approval of this Act in
6 accordance with existing Salary Standardization Laws.

7
8 **SEC. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within
9 ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Board, subject to
10 the approval of the Commission and in coordination with accredited
11 national professional organization of licensed agroforesters, shall adopt
12 and promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the
13 provisions of this Act.

14
15 **SEC. 26. *Funding Provision.*** The chairperson of the
16 Professional Regulation Commission shall immediately include in the
17 Commission's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of
18 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19
20 **SEC. 27. *Transitory Provision.*** The incumbent chairman and
21 members of the Board shall continue to serve in their respective
22 positions under the terms for they have been appointed under
23 Presidential Decree No. 692, without the need of new appointments.

24 All graduates with Bachelors Degree, Major in Agroforestry shall
25 be allowed to take the Agroforestry Licensure Examination within two
26 (2) years from the effectivity of this Act under the rules and regulations
27 to be promulgated by the Board subject to the approval by the
28 Commission.

29
30
31 **SEC 28. *Foreign Reciprocity.*** Except in the case of persons
32 otherwise exempt under the provisions of this Act, no agroforester who
33 is a citizen of a foreign country or a particular state shall be granted
34 any of the rights of privilege under this Act, unless the country or state
35 of which he is a subject or a citizen permits agroforesters who are
36 Filipino citizens to practice within its territorial limits on the same
37 basis as the subjects or citizens of such country or state but under the
38 circumstances shall such a set-up be initiated by the Philippine
39 Government.

40
41
42 **SEC. 29. *Enforcement.*** The Professional Regulation
43 Commission (PRC) shall be the enforcement agency of the Board. As

1 such, the Commission shall implement the concerned provisions of this
2 act, enforce its Implementing Rules and regulations (IRR) as adopted
3 by the Board, conduct investigations of complaints including violations
4 of the Code of Ethics/Conduct of the profession and prosecute when so
5 warranted. If necessary, the Commission may seek the assistance of
6 other duly constituted authorities in the enforcement of the law.

7
8
9 **SEC 30. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act or an
10 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid,
11 the other provisions of this Act, and the application of such provision to
12 other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

13
14
15 **SEC. 31. Repealing Clause.** All existing laws, orders, rules and
16 regulations or parts thereof deemed inconsistent with the provisions of
17 this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

18
19
20 **SEC. 32. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
21 following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any two
22 (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes first.

23
24
25 *Approved,*