


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
THIRD REGULAR SESSION)

6 SEP 20 2018

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. Resolution No. 568

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE POSSIBLE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THE SO-CALLED "GE BACTERIAL BLIGHT RESISTANT RICE", A GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM (GMO), WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that, "*the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;*"

WHEREAS, the Constitution further mandates that, "*the State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems;*"

WHEREAS, the Philippines recently ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety which provides, "*parties shall ensure the developments, handling, transport, use, transfer and release of any living modified organisms are undertaken in a manner that prevents or reduces the risks to biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health;*"

WHEREAS, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is in the process of finalizing its research and tests on the "Genetically Engineered Bacterial Blight Resistant Rice" (G.E. Rice), which involves the use of a genetic mapping technique by hyper-activating the Sub-1A gene of a rice variety for the production of G.E Rice that is tolerant to submergence during floods;

WHEREAS, rice is the Philippines' most important staple food and predominates the diet of every Filipino, including that of babies inasmuch as they are fed with rice flour and gruel during weaning;

WHEREAS, rice is consumed by more than half of the world's population and, when genetically engineered, would account for a radical increase in the exposure of the human diet to genetically engineered organisms;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is considered a center of diversity in rice, and if genetically engineered rice is planted commercially, it can lead to the contamination of other rice varieties and may also harm wild rice;

WHEREAS, although rice is largely self-pollinating, pollen is strongly influenced by wind speed and direction, and can travel up to one hundred (100) meters;

WHEREAS, once G.E. Rice is released commercially, only a handful of seed producers, such as Monsanto Corporation (Monsanto), would be capable of supplying rice seedlings to farmers such that the latter may be unfairly subjected to the whim and caprice of these rice seedling producers;

WHEREAS, there are reliable reports that the production of G.E. Rice, like that of other GMO species, causes the corruption of the soil where it is planted, and that the soil's fertility level may only be restored through the use of a distinctive type of fertilizers which are largely, if not exclusively, produced by Monsanto;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Food and Agriculture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the possible harmful effects of the so-called "GE Bacterial Blight Resistant Rice," a genetically modified organism, with the end in view of enacting appropriate legislation.

Adopted,


M.A. MADRIGAL