

# [ PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1107, March 21, 1977 ]

## **ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ROOT CROPS RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER IN THE VISAYAS STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE BAYBAY, LEYTE**

**WHEREAS**, root crops have gained attention as an important source of food, feed, and industrial products in view of their versatility in uses, high yield potential, and adaptability to various cropping systems;

**WHEREAS**, it is difficult to maintain production of traditional crops such as rice and corn sufficient to keep up with our rapidly increasing population and the demands of our expanding livestock industry, especially because of frequent adverse climatic conditions and the recurrent outbreaks of destructive pests and diseases;

**WHEREAS**, Filipinos consume root crops as major substitutes or supplementary energy food to our traditional staple crops;

**WHEREAS**, there is great potential for expanded production and export of root crops for feed and industrial uses, provided the quality of the products, by proper processing, handling and storage so important in international commerce, is improved;

**WHEREAS**, root crops have not been given priority attention on a national scale and scientific studies on root crops have been carried out so far only on a piecemeal and uncoordinated basis;

**WHEREAS**, the country must organize a comprehensive and integrated root crop research program to develop high yielding varieties and improved cultural management, post-harvest handling, processing and utilization practices;

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing considerations require the services of highly competent, full-time teams of agricultural scientists, amply supported with facilities, funds, staff and working conditions conducive to the development of improved varieties and production and utilization techniques in the shortest time possible;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Resources Research (PCARR) has recommended the establishment of a National Root Crops Research Center at the Visayas State College of Agriculture (VISCA) in Baybay, Leyte, and Mt. Province State College in Trinidad, Benguet.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby decree and order the following:

**SECTION 1.** There is hereby established the PHILIPPINE ROOT CROPS RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER in the Visayas State College of Agriculture (VISCA), Baybay, Leyte, (hereinafter referred to as the Southern Root Crops Center as well as Mountain State College, Trinidad, Benguet to be known as the Northern Root Crops Center, to integrate and to conduct researches on root crops all over the country in line with the national root crops research program developed by the Philippine

Council for Agriculture and Resources Research (PCARR). The specific functions of the Root Crops Center are the following:

- a. To develop high yielding, good quality and pest resistant varieties of sweet potato, cassava, gabi and other root crops;
- b. To develop improved production and harvesting techniques and effective cropping systems for root crops;
- c. To undertake investigations in controlling pest and diseases attacking root crops and their by-products;
- d. To conduct studies on modern processing, post-harvest handling, marketing and utilization techniques for human food, animal feed, and industrial uses;
- e. To provide training to farmers, students, specialists and extension workers on production, post-harvesting handling, processing and utilization of root crops;
- f. To disseminate improved varieties and release up-to-date information on production, post-harvesting handling, processing and utilization techniques; and
- g. To enter into agreements or relationships with other institutions or organizations-private and public, national and foreign in furtherance of the above purposes.

**SECTION 2.** The amount of P6.5 million p.a. for FY 1977 and 1978 shall be appropriated from the Special Activities Fund of the President or from any other source, said amount to be disbursed to VISCA and the Mountain State College for the capital requirements of the Root Crops Center which will include acquisition and development of about 325 hectares of experimental fields, construction of buildings, laboratories and housing for the Center's staff and trainees and acquisition of equipment; Provided, however, That of the above amount the sum not to exceed P2 million may be made available to finance the Center's initial operating expenses.

**SECTION 3.** In accordance with the objectives of the Root Crops Center, the Visayas State College of Agriculture is hereby authorized to acquire by negotiated sale or by expropriation the private agricultural properties described in Annex "A" which is made an integral part of this Decree. The Secretary of Education will determine the areas where the Mountain State College may exercise the same power of negotiated sale or expropriation.

**SECTION 4.** Landowners of private agriculture properties described in Annex "A" shall file their prospective claims in a negotiated sale with the Root Crops Center within 60 days from the approval of this Decree, otherwise, the Root Crops Center shall acquire said properties by expropriation proceedings and the Visayas State College of Agriculture shall take immediate possession of said properties as soon as the requisites of Presidential Decree No. 42 are complied with.

**SECTION 5.** The acquisition cost of the private agricultural lands devoted solely to rice including existing crops shall, in case of negotiated sale, be in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) per hectare, that of other agriculture lands including existing crops and/or permanent trees shall be in the amount of Seven