S. No. 204 / 47 OG No. 6, 2831 (June, 1951)

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 622, June 05, 1951]

AN ACT CREATING THE BUREAU OF SOIL CONSERVATION, DEFINING ITS POWERS, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, there is hereby created a bureau, which shall be known as the Bureau of Soil Conservation, and shall be under the executive control and supervision of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

SEC. 2. The Bureau of Soil Conservation shall have a head, who shall be known as the Director of Soil Conservation, to be appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the Congress and shall receive a compensation at the rate of seven thousand and two hundred pesos *per annum.* There shall be in the said Bureau such technical personnel and other employees to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources as may be required to carry out the purposes of this Act: *Provided, however,* That the present personnel of the Division of Soil Survey and Conservation of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources shall be retained.

Subject to the general supervision and control of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Director of Soil Conservation shall possess the powers generally conferred upon Bureau Chiefs.

SEC. 3. All the divisions, sections, field activities and agencies of the Government connected with soils work are hereby transferred to the Bureau of Soil Conservation and such powers, functions and duties relative to soils vested by law or executive orders are hereby vested in the Director of Soil Conservation.

The Director of Soil Conservation shall, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, organize its personnel in such divisions or sections as will insure maximum efficiency.

SEC. 4. The Bureau of Soil Conservation shall have the following powers, duties and functions:

a. To investigate the genesis and morphological properties of soils in the fields which includes the depth, structure, and other visible characteristics which make up the soil in which plant roots develop and from which plants obtain their nourishment.
b. To conduct both reconnaissance and detailed soil surveys, classifying and mapping such soils into series and types.

c. To undertake land valuation surveys, which lay the foundation for the development of a permanent system of soil management and as basis in formulating the land assessment for taxation and the agricultural and money value of the land.
d. To survey and map the different agricultural areas, and determine the extent of damages to the soil caused by soil erosion, and from these data, to plan a proper land-use program.
e. To compile the different soil survey data which are transmitted into soil maps for lithography and printing.
f. To conduct chemical analysis of soils especially for the determination of the amounts of the various nutrients to plants, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron and sulphur; total humus content for determining the amount of organic carbon in the soils; and also the silica contents as well as pH value of the soil.
g. To conduct spectrographic analysis of the soil for minor elements; namely, manganese, copper, zinc, and boron, and study their influence to plant growth.
h. To discover through chemical, physical and biological analysis the compounds responsible for the fixation of fertilizers in the soil, the degree to which different fertilizers are fixed and the ways whereby undesirable fixation which makes nutrients unavailable for use by plants may be overcome.
i. To obtain information needed to establish the relationship between the nature of the soil and the quality of food plants which may be grown on it as a basis for improving quality through the selection of crops for specific soil types and through fertilization.
j. To study the work, beneficial or harmful, done by each kind of micro-organism of the soil; namely, bacteria, fungi, algae, protozoa, as well as other fauna and flora of the soil which are busy bringing about chemical and physical changes of enormous importance to man's use of the soil.
k. To recommend and regulate the application of fertilizers for the maintenance of desirable soil properties for the establishment of optimum conditions for plant growth.
l. To select and determine the best planting materials or legumes as effective cover crop to prevent soil erosion and build up the organic matter of the soil.
m. To furnish information and data on the proper methods of land operations adaptable to certain soil types taking into account the degree of slope of the topography for optimum crop production.
n. To propagate the use of erosion control practices in agriculture through (1) demonstrations of practical soil-conservation measures, (2) treatment of government-owned lands, and (3) active assistance to soil conserving farmers.
o. To cooperate with other government offices or agencies and to determine what part upstream land treatment and waterflow retardation can be expected to play in minimizing downstream flood hazards.
p. To rejuvenate submarginal lands and determine their best utilizations, whether as cropland, grazing land, farm-woodland, or for recreational purposes.