**PHILIPPINES**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Overall Executive Summary**

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) has the primary task of promoting the development of plant industries through research and development, crop production and protection and effective technology promotion and transfer. It is the main agency in the Department of Agriculture, which sets the directions for the accelerated development of modern crop technologies, proper packaging and dissemination to the end-users that would increase their farm productivity and ultimately improve the living standards of the farmers.

1. **Crop Production**

The BPI was created to perform the task of plant research and crop production. The Production Division handles planning and programming of seed production and seed certification and propagation. These are in addition to the BPI’s established functions on plant research and development, crop utilization, production and technology transfer.

1. **Plant Quarantine**

Plant quarantine which is a major activity necessary in crop protection specifically mandates the BPI “to prevent the introduction of exotic pests in the country and prevent further spread of plant pests already existing from infested to pest-free areas and to enforce phytosanitary measures for the export of plants, plant products and regulated articles.”

1. **Seed Quality**

The BPI also has a role in the development of the seed industry and its inherent function seed and plant material certification, the act strengthen the Seed Quality Control Section to become the National Seed Quality Control Services and given control supervision over existing field inspections and control services and seed testing laboratories.

1. **Crop Protection**

To strengthen the BPI’s crop protection function, Regional Crop Protection Centers are established to serve the research and protection needs covering all the regions. Pesticide Residue Analysis and Monitoring is also a mandate of the BPI.

1. **Pesticide Residue Analysis**

Pesticide Laboratories all over the country are established to monitor the levels of pesticide residue in crops to protect the local and international consumers from possible health hazards, check on possible indiscriminate use and application of pesticides on food crops and other agricultural products, determine pesticide degradation rates for different crops to be able to improve/change agricultural practices and determine and evaluate practices on the use of pesticides for possible modification resulting in acceptable low residues in agricultural products.

The BPI functions to ensure safe supply of fresh agricultural crops, improve the quality of local fresh agricultural crops and encourage its export, and promote use of organic fertilizer and integrated pest management.