

## Food, Forests, and Farmers *Finding Sustainable Pathways for the Future*



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### ABSTRACT

## **Ensuring the Rights of Our Corn Farmers under the Magna Carta of Small Farmers R.A. 7607 of 1992**

by Engr. Roger V. Navarro

In 1992, the Philippine Government declared a policy known as the Republic Act (RA) 7607, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Small Farmers in the Philippines. This policy gives importance to the development of agriculture as well as the improvement of the lives of small farmers through an equitable distribution of benefits and opportunities. Ten rights of small farmers were identified to empower them in their economic endeavors.

The Philippine Maize Federation, Inc (PhilMaize), established in the 1990s, consolidates all stakeholders and forms a nationwide organisation that promotes the interest of the growing population of corn farmers in the country. Last year, PhilMaize hosted its 16th National Corn Congress, highlighting the contribution of corn growers to the country's economic recovery. The federation continues to lobby the creation of a Corn Development Fund that proposes the allocation of a portion of the tariff to the corn industry to finance post harvest facilities and to improve agricultural infrastructure such as dryer and silos.

#### **About the Author**

**Engr. Roger V. Navarro** is the President of the Philippine Maize Federation, Inc. (PhilMaize), the largest group of corn growers in the country that was organised in the late 1990s. Engr. Navarro represents the vast members of PhilMaize and upholds the interest of the corn farmers in the Philippines. He is also a firm advocate of inclusive growth and development in the corn sector through multi-stakeholders dialogue and collaboration.