

**IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND COCOA
AFFAIRS**

ON THE

TREE CROPS DEVELOPMENT BILL 2019

NOVEMBER, 2019

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND COCOA
AFFAIRS ON THE TREE CROPS DEVELOPMENT BILL, 2019

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.0 The Tree Crops Development Bill, 2019 was on Thursday, 4th July, 2019 presented to Parliament by Hon. Kennedy Osei Nyarko, the Hon. Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture in charge of crops, on behalf of the Minister for Food and Agriculture Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie - Akoto. In accordance with Article 106 (4) and (5) of the Constitution and Standing Order 176, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Bill to the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs for consideration and report.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2.1 The committee met with the Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture, Hon. Kennedy Osei Nyarko, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Mr. B. Gyasi, Consultants to the Ministry, Professor Paa Nii T. Johnson and Mr Kwesi Korboe, the Chief State Attorney, Ms Fredericka Salamatu Illiasu and representative of all stakeholders during the consideration of the Bill.

3.0 DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO;

3.1 The committee referred to the following documents in the consideration of the Bill;

- i. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana,

- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament,
- iii. The Trees and Timber Act 1974, NRCD 273,
- iv. Forest Plantation Development Act, 2000, Act 583.

4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The tree crops industry is generally fraught with challenges due to the divergent management of the tree crops. Currently, tree crops production is largely under-developed in terms of production levels, and value addition compared to cocoa. As a result, tree crops production is not competitive in Ghana as compared to countries in Europe and Asia.

- 4.1 The tree crops industry in Ghana follows a tradition of local processing involving small and medium scale enterprises that operate local mills and crushers to generate significant rural employment. The degree of industrialisation is however declining and more development is required to achieve the full potential of the industry. To solve the problems confronting the industry, the tree crops policy was developed in 2012 to guide the production and value addition of the crops.
- 4.2 However, in view of the tremendous potential of the sector and its contribution to the growth of the economy, there is the need to develop technical, financial and institutional support to regulate it. The Price regimes of the world market on tree crops as well as the improvement for private sector participation, justifies the establishment of an Authority to coordinate the development of an overall framework for the effective implementation and monitoring of activities of tree crops production in the country.

5.0 PURPOSE OF THE BILL

5.1 The purpose of this Bill is to establish the Tree Crops Development Authority (TCDA). It will also do the following:

- Regulate and manage the production, processing and trading of tree crops.
- Provide guidelines for the development of the sub-sector and identify activities and areas to which technical and financial resources should be directed.
- Domesticate the 2003 African Union Maputo Declaration on agriculture and food security by ensuring that the right expenditure is made by government to the agricultural sector.

6.0 SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

6.1 The Bill is made up of twenty seven clauses that deal with different issues confronting the tree crops industry. The breakdown is as follows:

- a. Clause 1 - seeks to establish the Tree Crops Development Authority as a cooperate body.
- b. Clauses 2 - seeks to regulate the management, production, processing and trading in tree crops.
- c. Clause 3 - deals with the Object and Functions of the Authority. It is also among others to assist and encourage scientific and economic research and to train farmers in the improved methods of cultivation, manuring, pest and disease management as well as harvesting.
- d. Clauses 4 - deals with the governing Board of the Authority. The tenure of office of the Board, representation of sector players on the Board, acquisition of offices, establishment of working committees, allowances and policy issues.
- e. Clauses 5 to 7- Provide for the Standard Provisions on the tenure of office of the Board, meetings of the Board, and disclosure of interests.

- f. Clause 8 - Make provision for the establishment of Committees, payment of allowances and creation of regional offices of the Authority.
- g. Clause 11 - Deals with directives to the Board on matters of policy to be given by the Minister for Food and Agriculture.
- h. Clauses 12 – 14- Provide for the administration and appointment of Executive Officer and other staff to the Authority. It also spells out the conditions for engagement and termination.
- i. Clauses 15-22 - Capture the financial provisions of the Authority. These include the establishment of Tree Crops Fund, capital and recurrent expenditures and the sources of moneys to be paid into the fund. It also provides for the appointment of a body to manage the fund and produce annual reports.
- j. Clauses 23-27 - cover miscellaneous matters including collaboration with subvented agencies, offences, penalties, regulations, interpretation and transitional provisions.

7.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee observed that the Tree Crops Industry in Ghana has the potential to be developed to provide consequential benefits to the economy of Ghana. It would also create a competitive and sustainable tree crops sub-sector with focus on value chain development. The value chain when developed would also create employment to most Ghanaians. The Committee therefore commends the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for the introduction of the Bill and hopes that the provisions of the Bill when passed would be implemented to ensure maximum development in the tree crops industry.
- 7.2 The Committee also noted that the Bill makes provision for the development of the public private sector collaboration which would eventually lead to expansion and development of the economy as well as government's flagship programme of "Planting for export and rural development". Since private sector is considered as the engine of growth of the economy, the Committee is of the opinion that the collaboration to be created by the promulgation of this law would go a long way to contribute to job creation and an increase to the economy as a whole.

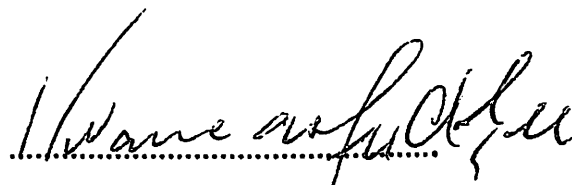
- 7.3 The Committee observed again that the Bill makes provision for the establishment of the Tree Crops Fund to provide for development of the industry. Key among the expenditure items indicated in the Bill is research and development. This, the Committee deems essential in the development of tree crops such as shea, rubber, oil palm and cashew among others. The Committee recommends the judicious and pragmatic use of the fund to ensure maximum growth and development in the tree crops industry.
- 7.4 The Committee finally noted that countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Cote d' Ivoire have well developed and matured tree crops industries that Ghana can learn from. The Committee therefore recommends collaboration with these countries to ensure fruitful competition, efficient marketing and growth in the tree crops industry.
- 7.5 The Committee met and considered the draft bill prior to its laying and proposed amendments which were taken into consideration in the bill before the House. The committee therefore hence no further proposed amendment to the bill.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee has scrutinised the Bill in the light of relevant laws and in the establishment of an Authority. The Committee is satisfied that the Tree Crops Development Authority Bill would significantly improve the Tree Crops industry in Ghana by providing the needed guidance to equip industry players and contribute to the economic growth of the country.

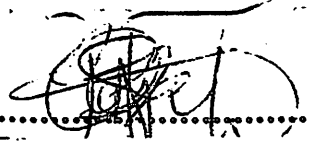
The Committee therefore recommends to the House to adopt its report and pass the Tree Crops Development Authority Bill, 2019 in accordance with the Article 106 of the 1992 Constitution and Standing Order 183 of the House.

Respectfully submitted.



Hon. Kwame Asafu-Adjei
Chairman, COMMITTEE ON FOOD,
AGRICULTURE AND COCOA AFFAIRS

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Ms Anita Quartey-Papafio
Clerk, COMMITTEE ON FOOD,
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