**A. History**

On January 1, 1930 by the virtue of Republic Act No. 3639 of the Philippine Legislature, the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) was created from the Bureau of Agriculture. The said Act defines the powers and functions of BPI taking over the task on plant research and crop production.

In 1932, upon the promulgation of Republic Act No. 4007 known as the “Reorganization Law of 1932”, the BPI was re-organized to consist of the following divisions: Administrative, Plant Investigation, Agricultural Extension, Plant Sanitation, and Plant Propagation.

On August 1, 1936, General Memorandum Order No. 186 issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce fused the Home Economics Division of the Bureau of Science with Agricultural Chemistry Section of BPI to form the plant utilization division.

On January 6, 1957, Reorganization Plan No. 30-A as implemented by EO No. 216, created the Research Division and renamed the Plant Pest and Disease Control Division to Pest and Disease Control Division. A Production Division was created to handle planning and programming of seed production and propagation. It also created the Laboratory Services Division responsible for providing common laboratory services and for undertaking research on the utilization of plant products.

A new division, the Crop Development Services was later renamed as Field Trial Services by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1050 dated January 1, 1977.

In 1978, through a Special Order from the Office of the Minister of Agriculture, the Pesticide Analytical Laboratory was created as one of the sections under the Crop Protection Division.

In 1986, Executive Order No. 116 signed by then President Corazon C. Aquino placed the BPI under the Production Group and made the BPI as one of the Staff Bureaus from functioning as a Line Bureau before.

The BPI shall be responsible for the production planning of improved planting materials; protection of agricultural crops from pests and diseases; development and improvement of farm equipment and other related structures to the plant industry; preparation of a program for the selection, production, and certification of improved planting materials as well as guidelines for its implementation; recommendation of plant quarantine policies; and prescription of rules and regulations for the prevention, control, and eradication of pests, diseases, and injuries to plants and plant products. For its own sector, BPI shall be responsible for the recommendation of plans, programs, policies, rules, and regulations to the Minister of Agriculture and provide technical assistance in its implementation.

Through Republic Act No. 7308 also known as the Seed Industry Development Act of 1992, the National Seed Industry Council was created with BPI Director as the Executive Director. A Council Secretariat was likewise established to provide administrative and other support services to the Council, which is placed under the supervision of the Executive Director. Further, the Seed Quality Control Section under the Crop Production Division was constituted as the National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS). The NSQCS shall have control and supervision over existing field inspection and control services and seed testing laboratories established throughout the country.

Executive Order No. 366 of 2013 otherwise known as “Reorganization Plan of the Government Sector” created two Divisions namely, Crop Research and Production Support Division (CRPSD) and Plant Product Safety Services Division (PPSSD). The CRPSD is mandated to develop crop farming technologies to increase farmer’s productivity, conserve and utilize plant genetic resources, and ensure availability of quality seeds and plant materials. On the other hand, PPSSD is created to ensure plant product safety through formulation of food safety protocols for fresh and minimally processed agricultural produce and monitoring for compliance with food safety schemes as supported by its laboratory activities.

In March 2019, upon signing of RA 11203 or “An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and for Other Purposes”, the food safety functions of the National Food Authority (NFA) was transferred to the BPI.

Through the years, BPI’s nomenclature has passed the scrutiny of our policy makers and legislators, creating laws and issuances that have been affecting the BPI organization.

1. **Mandates**

* Ensure availability of high quality seeds and planting materials (EO 366, EO 116, and RA 7308);
* Research & Development/Technology generation (EO 366 and EO 116);
* Management of crop pest and diseases (EO 366 and EO 116);
* Sustainable conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (RA 7308);
* Plant quarantine (PD 1433, EO 366, and EO 116);
* Seeds and plant materials certification (RA 7308, EO 366, and EO 116);
* Plant variety registration and protection (RA 7308 and EO 366);
* Food safety (LOI 986, EO 366, RA 10611, and RA 11203); and
* Biotechnology (Joint Department Circular No. 1, s. 2016)

1. **Vision**

The Bureau of Plant Industry is a competent and well-respected agency supportive of a competitive plant industry.

1. **Mission**

We ensure availability of quality seeds, safety of plant food, and development of crop farming technologies and safeguard the plant industry.

1. **Core Values (SPICE IT)**

* Service – orientation: We are proactive & we value our clients
* Professionalism: We are competent and we abide with the government Code of Ethics. We are fair & just in the delivery of our service to our clients and personnel
* Integrity: We are transparent, honest & accountable for our action
* Commitment: We work with passion and commitment
* Excellence: We produce the best result
* Innovation: We find new solutions
* Teamwork: We exercise partnership & camaraderie

*Sources:*

*Bureau of Plant Industry 50th Anniversary Coffee Book*

*Strategic Plan 2017-2022*

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