Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
MINISTRI NG EDUKASYON AT KULTURA
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE)
Maynila

October 16, 1979

MEC M E M O R A N D U M
No. 261, s. 1979

SUBJECT: APIL-APIL TREE PLANTING PROJECT

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Superintendents
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities

1. As part of the national effort to improve the quality of life of the people particularly in the countryside, the Ministry of Human Settlements and the Ministry of Education and Culture are jointly launching a nationwide project on Apil-apil tree planting in selected schools.

2. Specifically, the project requires an area of at least two hectares within the school site to be planted with giant Apil-apil seedlings, distinct from the on-going or existing school orchard and play-ground projects of the school concerned.

3. The Apil-apil tree has multiple uses in economic development. Researchers have discovered the use of Apil-apil for forage and animal feed, reforestation and erosion control, green manure, fertilizers and agro-forestry. Apil-apil is also used for food and beverage, medicine, dye, needlecraft, and as ornamental plant. In some countries young and immature pods and leaves are being sold and eaten raw or cooked in soups, stews, etc. In some parts of the Philippines, the mature dried seeds are roasted and served as coffee.

4. The Apil-apil tree can contribute to the solution of the energy crisis. For instance, in many Scandinavian countries, oil is not used to generate electricity. Those countries have developed dendrothermal plants. They feed large amounts of wood into big burners which generate electricity. When converted into charcoal, Apil-apil is a good retardant for many chemical industries even for industrial filter. It can likewise be converted into charcoal briquets and into rayon.

5. It is desired that work education, elementary agriculture, industrial and Practical Arts Education teachers in all levels instruct their students about planting, care and propagation of ipil-ipil trees. Inclosed are the guidelines for their propagation and care. The importance and socio-economic values of ipil-ipil should be discussed in science, social studies and practical arts classes.

6. A seminar-workshop on agro-industrial uses and various economic aspects of ipil-ipil trees will be organized for heads of schools involved in this national project, the date of which will be announced later.

7. Ipil-ipil seeds may be obtained from Dr. Alfred Ong, Assistant Minister of Human Settlements, Technology Resources Center, Buendia Avenue Extension, Makati, Manila.

8. A quarterly report on the progress of this project should be submitted to this Office.

9. It is desired that this MEC Memorandum be implemented immediately.

(SGD.) ONOFRE D. CORPUZ
Minister of Education and Culture

Incl.:
As stated

Reference:
None

Allotment: 1-2-3-4—(D.O. 1-76)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:
~~CAMPAIGN~~
~~GARDENS~~
~~COMMUNITY, DEVELOPMENT~~
~~PROGRAM, SCHOOL~~
~~PROJECTS~~
~~PUPILS~~
~~SCHOOLS~~
~~STUDENTS~~

(Enclosure to MEC Memorandum No. 263, s. 1979)

GUIDELINES FOR THE PROPAGATION AND CARE
OF IPIL-IPIL TREES

1. Land Preparation - Ipil-ipil requires the usual land preparation. The seeds should first be sown on the seedbeds and then the seedlings should be transplanted in a thoroughly prepared field.

2. Seed Treatment - The ipil-ipil seeds have an impervious testa. Before sowing, scarify the seeds to insure good germination. Place seeds in a container to about 1/4 the volume and fill the container with briskly boiling water, stir to coolness, to attain 80% and above germination of viable seeds.

3. Layouting Plants - Ipil-ipil yield is related to the amount of light intercepted. 2,000 to 3,000 per hectare for wood may be followed, depending upon needed modification entered into the layout based on the exposure, fertility, and slope of the land.

4. Weeding and Cultivation - After planting, work the soil no more than necessary to control weeds by cultivation, preferably by hand-hoeing. Some herbicides such as 2-4d may be detrimental and cause death even when used some distance away.

5. Fertilization - Ipil-ipil grows well even without fertilization, rhizobium treatment or irrigation applied, especially in soils with ph levels from neutral to alkaline. Application of lime and phosphorus is recommended to soil low in ph and available phosphorus. The amount of 30 grams per tree of finely ground limestone and 15 grams per tree of superphosphate phosphorus could be applied two weeks after liming.

6. Pest and Disease Control - Ipil-ipil has few natural enemies and has wide adaptability and ease of growth.

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