

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. 10510



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**Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The series of community quarantine implemented to manage the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has underlined the importance of food security. At its onset, a lot of people were seen hoarding food supplies in groceries and wet markets, panicking at the idea of a possible, indefinite lockdown. This pandemic has shed light on the sheer importance of food security, proving that one has to learn sustainable food production.

This bill seeks to promote instructional gardens in primary and secondary school curricula and foster the use of urban agriculture in all metropolitan areas nationwide to address the food security concerns of the country. It shall impart knowledge and skills, not only in urban and agriculture and vertical farming, but in agricultural food production in general.

Agriculture is the past, present, and the future. It is the way forward and is the way to further ensure survival. Learning about planting and farming strengthens the creation of an environmentally sustainable community. Its inclusion in school curricula shall also aid in raising socially aware and responsible citizens.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
ERIC GO YAP

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**AN ACT**  
**PROMOTING INSTRUCTIONAL GARDENS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY**  
**SCHOOL CURRICULA AND PROMOTING THE USE OF URBAN**  
**AGRICULTURE IN ALL METROPOLITAN AREAS NATIONWIDE TO**  
**ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREOF**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the “*Instructional Gardens and Integrated Urban Agriculture Act of 2021*”.

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** The State shall ensure that the fundamental right of every person to adequate food and to be free from hunger is guaranteed and protected. As such, the achievement of self-sufficiency and sustainability in food production is adopted as a primary State policy. Towards this end, the State shall develop climate-resilient communities in the metropolitan areas through the promotion of modern, appropriate, cost-effective, and environmentally safe agriculture technologies to ensure food security, promote a healthy citizenry and an improved quality of life for urban dwellers.

**SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** As used in this Act:

- a. Food security refers to a situation wherein food is available and affordable at all times, and where all people have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life; agricultural production of food and goods in urban areas.
- b. Instructional gardens refer to a program of instruction in all elementary and secondary schools, where knowledge and skills, not only in urban and agriculture and vertical farming, but in agricultural food production in general, are imparted to school children through relevant theories and actual engagement in agricultural cultivation/ production. The theories and actual production shall revolve around the concepts of composting, waste

management techniques, healthy nutritious farm produce, sustainable farm practices, among others.

- c. Integrated urban agriculture refers to the development paradigm that encompasses principles, management technologies, and the policies relating to the practice and application of agricultural production of food and goods in urban areas; and
- d. Vertical farming refers to the method of farming that is brought to the urban space by employing concepts of indoor agriculture in skyscrapers and other modern buildings.

**SEC. 4. *Promotion of and Comprehensive Research on Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming.*** For purposes of this Act, the respective Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby mandated to promote the use of urban agriculture and vertical farming in the country's urban areas and in other areas in the country where such farming methods are suited, as an intervention mechanism for further addressing food security concerns of the country.

Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either the national government or local governments or available land resources in state universities and colleges shall be considered for growing crops, raising livestock, and producing food using the said methods.

**SEC. 5. *Institutionalization of Instructional Gardens in School Curricula.*** Instructional Gardens program shall be integrated in the academic curricula for elementary and secondary level students of both public and private academic institutions, particularly in subjects in Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics, and/or other related subjects.

The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Section within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 6. *Participation of Local Government Units.*** The local government units (LGUs), shall formulate policies on the practice of urban agriculture and vertical farming, and on utilizing urban spaces, unused spaces, and idle lands, consistent with its existing policy on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and zoning ordinances. The LGUs in cities and urban areas are required to enact local legislation institutionalizing urban agriculture as a regular component in the annual appropriations of the LGUs. LGUs shall also grant necessary incentives to their constituents who actively participate in urban farming activities.

All homeowners' associations, neighborhood associations, community associations, people's organizations, and local business establishments shall be encouraged by the LGU to participate in urban agriculture activities.

**SEC. 7. *Tax Incentives.*** All allocations of grants, endowments, donations, or contributions and technical assistance provided by private individuals or corporations to schools for the promotion and implementation of Institutional Gardens in the school curricula, as certified by the DepEd, shall be exempt from taxes and duties.

**SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** The funds necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's budget of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DA and the Department of Science and Technology, in coordination with the concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary IRR: *Provided, that, spaces for urban agriculture shall not be prime lots or areas suitable for investments.* The LGUs in cities and urban areas are required to enact local legislation institutionalizing urban necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** Should any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof that are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper or general circulation.

Approved,