



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2236

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Introduced by HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, a barangay is considered urban if it has: a) a population size of five thousand or more; b) if it has at least one establishment with a minimum of 100 employees; or c) if it has five or more establishments with a minimum of 10 to 99 employees, and five or more facilities within the two-kilometer radius from the barangay hall.

Urban population increased by 7.2 Million in just five years this accounts for the 2.8 percentage point increase in the total number of people living in urban areas which is now at 54% according to the 2020 Census on Population and Household. As farmers and farm-workers leave the rural areas to switch from agricultural to other jobs, leaving their farm lands in the process, our food security hangs in the balance.

This bill, which was approved on third reading in the House of Representatives the 18<sup>th</sup>

Congress but failed to become law, aims to institutionalize urban food production as a means to increase food production with the end goal of attaining food security for the years to come.

Under this measure, idle lots suitable for growing crops and raising poultry which may belong to the government or private entities shall be used as community gardens or vertical farms. It mandates at least thirteen (13) agencies and instrumentalities of government to support and implement the program. It also provides incentives to compliant condominium owners and developers and requires local government units to incorporate urban agriculture programs in their Annual Development and Investment Plans. The integration of urban agriculture in the elementary and secondary curriculum is also mandated under this bill.

This measure will expand the public's concept of sustainable agriculture to include not only organic agriculture but other modern and safe ways of growing food which includes, among others: hydroponics, geponics, and aquaponics.

Although urban agricultural methodologies are primarily designed for urban areas, more and more rural farms are adopting the concepts to maximize their crop yield. Thus, this measure will not only benefit urban dwellers but also communities in rural areas.

Thus, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**  
**Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte**



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AN ACT  
PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN AGRICULTURE IN URBAN AREAS  
NATIONWIDE TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “Integrated Urban Agriculture  
2 Act”.

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** The State shall promote and protect the fundamental  
4 right of every person to adequate food and freedom from hunger.  
5 Recognizing the challenges to food security and ecological balance in urban

6 areas, the State shall optimize the use and productivity of urban land  
7 resources and spaces to support sufficient and sustainable food production.  
8 Towards this end, the State shall promote the development of modern, cost-  
9 effective, space-efficient, and environmentally-safe agriculture technologies  
10 in urban areas to contribute in achieving sustainable food production and  
11 food security, ensure adequate nutrition and public health, and improve the  
12 quality of life of urban populations. Accordingly, the State shall ensure the  
13 integration of principles, strategies and technologies on urban agriculture in  
14 urban planning.

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

16 (a) *Community gardens* refer to any piece of land cultivated by a group  
17 of people using either individual or shared plots on public or private  
18 land with the consent of the owner, to produce edibles, such as  
19 herbs, vegetables, fruits or ornamentals. Community gardens may be  
20 found in neighborhoods and schools, or connected to institutions  
21 such as hospitals or located on the grounds or roofs of shared  
22 housing, such as, but not limited to, tenements and apartment  
23 complexes;

24 (b) *Food security* refers to a situation wherein all people have access to  
25 sufficient, safe, nutritious food, at all times, to maintain a healthy  
26 and active life;

27 (c) *Food system* refers to a complex web of activities involving the  
28 production, processing, transport, and consumption of food. Issues  
29 concerning the food system include the governance and economics of  
30 food production, its sustainability, the degree to which we waste

31 food, how food production affects the natural environment and the  
32 impact of food on individual and population health;

33 (d) *Idle lands* refer to non-agricultural lands in urban and urbanizable  
34 areas on which no improvements have been made by the owner, as  
35 certified by the city, municipal or provincial assessor. Idle  
36 government lands refer to lands owned by any government entity  
37 that have been idle and have not been used for the purpose for which  
38 they have been reserved for the past 10 years;

39 (e) *Integrated urban agriculture* refers to the development paradigm  
40 that encompasses principles, management technologies, and the  
41 policies relating to the practice and application of agricultural  
42 production of food and goods in urban areas;

43 (f) *Peri-urban areas* refer to areas where urban and rural features and  
44 processes meet, interact and intertwine, usually located between city  
45 and countryside. Peri-urban areas are semi-dense clusters with a  
46 density of at least 300 inhabitants per square kilometer and a  
47 population of 5,000 or more but are neither contiguous with nor  
48 within two (2) kilometers of an urban area;

49 (g) *Social preparation* refers to the series of activities designed to  
50 prepare the underprivileged and homeless families to cope with the  
51 changes brought about by government development projects;

52 (h) *Urban areas* shall refer to any of the following, per PSA Resolution  
53 No. 01, Series of 2017-098:

54 - If a barangay has a population size of 5,000 or more;

- 55 - If a barangay has at least one establishment with a minimum of  
56 100 employees;  
57 - If a barangay has 5 or more establishments with a minimum of  
58 10 to 99 employees, and 5 or more facilities within the two-  
59 kilometer radius from the barangay hall;

60 (i) *Urban planning* refers to multi-disciplinary art and science of  
61 analyzing, specifying, clarifying, harmonizing, managing and  
62 regulating the use and development of land and water resources, in  
63 relation to their environs, for the development of sustainable  
64 communities and ecosystems in urban and urbanizable areas;

65 (j) *Urbanizable areas* refer to sites and lands which, considering the  
66 present characteristics and prevailing conditions, display marked and  
67 great potential of becoming urban areas within the period of five (5)  
68 years; and

69 (k) *Vertical farming* refers to the method or practice of indoor  
70 agriculture, or growing produce in vertically stacked layers in  
71 skyscrapers and modern buildings using geponic, hydroponic or  
72 aeroponic growing methods.

73 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** This Act shall cover idle or abandoned government or private  
74 lands, subdivisions/villages, public housing, open spaces in all urban, peri-  
75 urban and urbanizable areas in the country; and all available and  
76 appropriate land resources in state or private universities and colleges, and  
77 military camps suitable for growing crops and raising poultry, livestock and  
78 aquaculture.

79 **SEC. 5. Community Gardening and Vertical Farming.** Local government units shall

80 identify and develop idle government and/or private lands, without  
81 prejudice to the rights of owners of private lands, and open spaces,  
82 including roofs of buildings, within their jurisdiction, for full or partial  
83 conversion to community gardens and/or vertical farms to support food  
84 security and nutrition; *Provided*, That, spaces allocated for urban  
85 agriculture shall not be prime lots. LGUs, in coordination with the  
86 Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Cooperative Development  
87 Authority, shall capacitate neighborhood associations and people's  
88 organizations, and/or facilitate the organization and registration of  
89 community-based cooperatives, to undertake community gardening.

90 The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD)  
91 shall ensure the provision of adequate spaces for community gardens and/or  
92 vertical farms in the design and development of subdivision, condominium  
93 and public housing projects. Towards this end, the DHSUD, in coordination  
94 with the DA, shall capacitate homeowners' association to undertake  
95 community gardening and/or vertical farming.

96 The DA shall provide the necessary technical assistance and support  
97 services, including the provision of seeds and seedlings and gardening tools,  
98 access to loans from government financial institutions, and agricultural  
99 training, to ensure the full productivity of community gardens and vertical  
100 farms.

101 The DA, in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology,  
102 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of  
103 Energy, shall also undertake the establishment of rainwater harvesting  
104 facilities, renewable energy systems and solid waste management systems,  
105 including waste-to-energy facilities, to provide sustainable supply of water,  
106 energy and compost to community gardens and vertical farms.

107 **SEC. 6. Urban Agriculture in Urban Planning.** The DHSUD, in coordination with  
108 the DA, shall ensure the integration of concepts and principles of urban  
109 agriculture and its relationship to other processes in the food system in  
110 urban planning. Accordingly, the DHSUD and DA shall promote  
111 sustainable, smart and organic food production systems that harness the  
112 benefits of new technologies and methods in soil, nutrient, water and energy  
113 management, such as composting, rainwater harvesting and utilization of  
114 renewable energy. The DHSUD shall also ensure the rational use of land  
115 resources in urban planning to promote sustainable peri-urban interface, as  
116 well as for the spatial requirements of supply chain management and  
117 logistics to strengthen urban-rural foodshed linkages.

118 Towards these ends, the DHSUD shall promulgate guidelines for the  
119 harmonization of Comprehensive Land Use Plans and zoning ordinances of  
120 local government units with urban agriculture policies, frameworks,  
121 strategies and standards.

122 LGUs are hereby mandated to incorporate urban agricultural development  
123 in their respective Annual Development Plans, Annual Investment Plans,  
124 Physical Framework Plans, and Development Master Plans.

125 LGUs, with the assistance of the DA, Department of Interior and Local  
126 Government and the Department of Information and Communications  
127 Technology, shall establish and maintain a digital information system to  
128 facilitate the efficient collection, management and analysis of urban food  
129 system, agriculture and nutrition data, as well as monitoring and evaluation  
130 of LGU performance vis-à-vis food system, agriculture and nutrition targets,  
131 to inform local planning, policy-making and programming, and to ensure  
132 open public access to data.

133 **SEC. 7. Urban Agriculture Education.** Urban agriculture shall be integrated in the  
134 academic curriculum for elementary, secondary and tertiary level students of  
135 both public and private academic institutions offering courses in  
136 Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related  
137 to agriculture. A course curriculum on gardening shall be developed and  
138 included in the regular curriculum of elementary and secondary education.  
139 Instructional materials shall likewise be developed.

140 The Department of Education shall strengthen the implementation of  
141 *Gulayan sa Paaralan* Program in elementary and secondary schools,  
142 establishing school gardens to ensure continuous supply of vegetables for  
143 school feeding, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11037, entitled ‘An  
144 Act Institutionalizing a National Feeding Program for Undernourished  
145 Children in Public Day Care, Kindergarten and Elementary Schools to  
146 Combat Hunger and Undernutrition among Filipino Children and  
147 Appropriating Funds Therefor’.

148 For universities and colleges, urban agriculture shall form part of the  
149 required period of time spent by students in the National Service Training  
150 Program or the Citizens' Military Training. A plan for the utilization or  
151 maximization of space occupied by schools shall be formulated specifically  
152 for urban agriculture purposes.

153 **SEC. 8. Research and Development.** The DA and the Department of Science and  
154 Technology, as well as relevant state universities, government research and  
155 development institutions, and the private sector, shall intensify research on  
156 methods and technologies to support urban agriculture, including the  
157 development and operation of demonstration urban community gardens  
158 and vertical farms.

159 **SEC. 9. Incentives.** Compliance by subdivision and condominium developers and/or  
160 owners with Section 5 of this Act may qualify them for incentives provided  
161 for under Republic Act No. 10771, entitled ‘An Act Promoting the Creation  
162 of Green Jobs, Granting Incentives and Appropriating Funds Therefor’,  
163 subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance  
164 and the DHSUD.

165           The commitment and performance of LGUs in the implementation of  
166 this Act shall be included in the criteria for the awarding of the Seal of  
167 Good Local Governance and the provision of incentives, provided for under  
168 Republic Act No. 11292, entitled ‘An Act Establishing and  
169 Institutionalizing the Seal of Good Local Governance for Local Government  
170 Units, and Allocating for this Purpose the Seal of Good Local Governance  
171 Fund’.

172           Loans extended by government and private banks to participating  
173 individuals, corporations and partnerships shall be treated as compliance to  
174 Republic Act No. 10000, entitled An Act Providing for an Agriculture and  
175 Agrarian Reform Credit and Financing System through Banking  
176 Institutions’.

177 **SEC. 10. Inter-Agency Coordination.** There is hereby established a National  
178 Convergence Program on Urban Agriculture. The Department of  
179 Agriculture is hereby designated as the Lead Implementing Agency and the  
180 Secretariat of the Convergence Program. The following agencies shall  
181 perform duties and responsibilities in order to develop and sustain  
182 concerted action to promote urban agriculture:

183 a) The Department of Agriculture shall provide technical assistance and  
184 support services to local government units, community-based  
185 cooperatives, homeowners' associations, neighborhood associations  
186 and people's organizations to ensure the viability and cost-  
187 effectiveness of urban agriculture projects;

188 b) The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development  
189 shall ensure the integration of urban agriculture principles, policies,  
190 strategies, frameworks and standards in the design and development  
191 of subdivision, condominium and public housing projects, and in the  
192 preparation or updating of development and investment plans,  
193 CLUPs and zoning ordinances of LGUs, promulgate rules thereof  
194 and monitor their compliance therewith. The DHSUD shall provide  
195 assistance to homeowners' associations to strengthen their capacity  
196 to undertake urban agriculture projects in their neighborhoods and  
197 communities;

198 c) The Department of Interior and Local Government shall monitor the  
199 compliance of LGUs with the provisions of this Act in order to  
200 determine their qualification for incentives provided for under  
201 Republic Act No. 11292;

202 d) The Department of Education (DepEd) shall integrate the principles  
203 and practice of urban agriculture into primary and secondary  
204 education curricula, including the establishment of school gardens  
205 under the *Gulayan sa Paaralan* Program. DepEd shall ensure the  
206 adequate training of teachers and the development of appropriate  
207 instructional materials for this purpose;

- 208 e) Department of Science and Technology shall conduct research on  
209 modern, cost-effective methods and technologies to support urban  
210 agricultural production, as well as post-harvest handling of surplus  
211 produce from urban agriculture projects;
- 212 f) Department of Trade and Industry shall provide technical assistance  
213 in processing and packaging of surplus produce from urban  
214 agriculture projects and ensure access of local government units,  
215 cooperatives, homeowners' associations, and people's organizations  
216 to markets;
- 217 g) Department of Finance shall administer the grant of incentives under  
218 Section 9 of this Act to qualified persons based on their compliance  
219 to Section 5 of this Act;
- 220 h) Department of Budget and Management shall ensure adequate  
221 funding for the functions and programs provided for by under this  
222 Act;
- 223 i) The Commission on Higher Education shall develop and implement  
224 curriculum and related standards and instructional materials in  
225 support of urban agriculture;  
226
- 227 j) The Cooperative Development Authority shall provide guidance and  
228 assistance to LGUs in the development of cooperatives within their  
229 jurisdiction;
- 230 k) The Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor shall undertake  
231 social preparation activities to encourage participation and empower  
232 poor and underprivileged communities from the preparation and

233 planning to implementation and evaluation of urban development  
234 projects; and,

235 l) Philippine Information Agency shall undertake a nationwide  
236 information campaign, utilizing all forms of media, to raise  
237 awareness and encourage participation of the public in the  
238 implementation of this Act.

239 **SEC. 11. Periodic report to Congress.** The Department of Agriculture and partner  
240 agencies in the National Convergence Program on Urban Agriculture shall  
241 submit annual performance reports to Congress.

242 **SEC. 12. Appropriations.** The funds necessary to carry out the initial implementation  
243 of this Act shall be charged against the respective budgets of concerned  
244 agencies for the current year. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for  
245 the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual  
246 General Appropriations Act.

247 **SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within six (6) months from the  
248 effectivity of this Act, the agencies under the National Convergence  
249 Program on Urban Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary implementing  
250 rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

251 **SEC. 14. Separability Clause.** If any part or provision of this Act is held  
252 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not  
253 affected shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

254 **SEC. 15. Repealing Clause.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and  
255 regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or  
256 modified accordingly.

257 **SEC. 16.** **Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in  
258 a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*