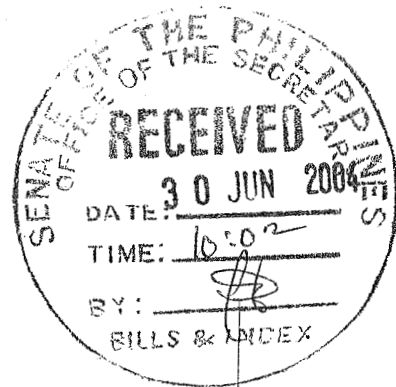


**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session**



**SENATE**

**Senate Bill No. 1162**

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**Introduced by Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay, Jr.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Being an agricultural country, it is sad to note that the Philippines' agriculture and fisheries sector are among those that have been most neglected. We still import most of our food requirements because we are unable to raise enough food for our people. Ironically, while about seventy percent (70%) of our people are engaged in agriculture, only twenty percent (20%) of the sector contributes to our gross domestic product (GDP).

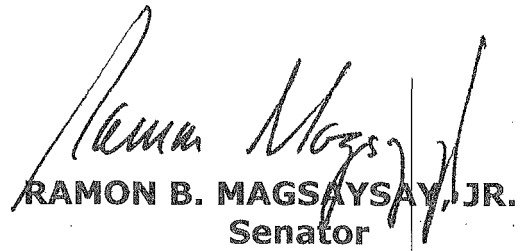
As a result, there is very little investment in the agricultural and fisheries sector. For every peso loan extended in the country, only a centavo goes to agriculture. To make matters worse, the Filipino farmer has grown old. At 67 years, he is older than all of his Asian counterparts and produces less than the Vietnamese, Thai, and Chinese farmers. Moreover, the Filipino farmer resists the application of modern technology relying instead on outmoded and outdated traditional farming methods.

The current situation in the agriculture and fisheries sector has likewise affected our young graduates. More agriculture and fisheries graduates choose to concentrate on other fields. They would rather go to the cities or go abroad to work in jobs as domestic helpers or caregivers after four (4) years of college. But they cannot be faulted for this because aside from an educational system that promotes employment rather than entrepreneurship, they find little or no prospects in agriculture or fisheries.

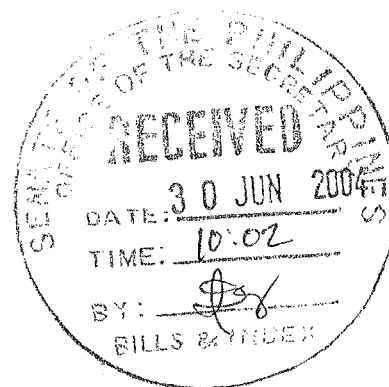
Therefore, this bill aims to further strengthen the active participation of the Filipino youth in agricultural productivity by institutionalizing the Young Farmers Program (YFP). The YFP intends to equip the youth with the necessary technical and entrepreneurial skills, to provide them production and marketing support, and to aid them in capital formation with the hope that they may contribute to food security, generate employment in the countryside and energize the agri-fisheries sector to meet the challenges of globalization.

This proposed legislative measure further intends to effectively instill to the Filipino youth the needed dedication and commitment to be effective partners in nation-building in order to attain sustainable development in the agriculture and fisheries sector, which will help the country's economic recovery program.

In view of the foregoing, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY, JR.  
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session



SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1162

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Introduced by Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay, Jr.

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AN ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE YOUNG FARMERS PROGRAM,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1       **Section 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Young  
2 Farmers Program Act of 2004”

3  
4       **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy  
5 of the State to instill in the Filipino youth the necessary dedication and  
6 commitment to be effective and self-sustaining partners for the further  
7 productivity and development of the country’s agricultural and  
8 fisheries sector through entrepreneurship and agribusiness.

9  
10       **Sec. 3. Statement of Objectives.** – This Act shall have the  
11 following objectives:

- 12  
13       a) To encourage young agriculture and fisheries graduates to go  
14       into agribusiness and nurture them to become entrepreneurs  
15       and strong partners in nation building;  
16  
17       b) To prevent the departure of young farmers for urban centers  
18       by generating more employment opportunities in the  
19       countryside;  
20  
21       c) To enlist young and competent entrepreneurs in enhancing  
22       the competitiveness of local agriculture and fisheries;

1 d) To demonstrate to young graduates the high income potential  
2 in agribusiness thru value-adding activities;

3  
4 e) To underscore to the youth their important role in economic  
5 development.

6  
7 **Sec. 4. Definition of Terms.** – The following terms shall be  
8 defined under this Act:

9  
10 a) "Program" refers to the Young Farmers Program or YFP as  
11 established under this Act;

12  
13 b) "Department" refers to the Department of Agriculture;

14  
15 c) "Youth" refers to individuals 18-35 years old at the start of the  
16 Program or who are born after approval of this Act – *Provided,*  
17 That they are college graduates or individuals with at least two  
18 (2) years of college education or have completed a vocational  
19 course and are currently engaged in an agribusiness or  
20 agriculture-related enterprise or have, at least, three (3) years  
21 experience in agribusiness.

22  
23 d) "Young Farmer Entrepreneur" or "YFE" refers to an individual  
24 18-35 years old, a graduate of any Agriculture, Fisheries or  
25 Agribusiness course and presently unemployed or a college  
26 graduate of any course but presently engaged in an agriculture  
27 or fisheries enterprise who shall submit a project proposal or  
28 feasibility study for possible funding. Upon approval of his/her  
29 project, the YFE shall undergo training to be conducted by the  
30 Department, in coordination with state colleges and universities  
31 (SCUs), after which he/she shall be expected to implement his  
32 project.

33  
34 e) "Young Farmer Volunteer" or "YFV" refers to an individual 18-35  
35 years old, a graduate of any Agriculture, Fisheries or  
36 Agribusiness course who shall be chosen from the SCUs to

1 represent their respective regions. The YFV shall undergo  
2 training to be conducted by the Department, in coordination  
3 with state colleges and universities (SCUs), after which he/she  
4 shall be deployed to his region to undertake advocacy activities  
5 and monitor the YFEs in his/her region.  
6

7 **Sec. 5. Implementation of the Program.** – An Executive  
8 Committee is hereby created to implement the Young Farmers  
9 Program (YFP) to be composed of representatives from the National  
10 Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFC), the Agricultural Fishery  
11 Council Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. (AFCFPI), the Agricultural  
12 Training Institute (ATI), Quedancor and the Congressional Oversight  
13 Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM).  
14

15 The YFP Executive Committee shall oversee and monitor the  
16 implementation of the Program. It shall likewise promulgate rules and  
17 regulations to implement the Program and adopt procedures and  
18 guidelines to effectively carry out the Program.  
19

20 **Sec. 6. Role of LGUs** – The LGUs shall endeavor to support the  
21 Program through additional counterpart funding assistance,  
22 production, processing, technical and marketing support.  
23

24 **Sec. 7. Role of the SCUs.** - The SCUs shall assist the YFEs in  
25 preparation of project proposals and feasibility studies. They may  
26 endorse projects to the YFP Executive Committee. They shall likewise  
27 provide technical support to the YFEs and YFVs.  
28

29 **Sec. 8. Funding.** – The sum of Fifty million pesos (P50,  
30 000,000) is hereby appropriated out of any savings or unexpended  
31 balance in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to cover  
32 the amounts needed for the initial year of implementation. Thereafter,  
33 such amount as shall be needed for the Program shall be included in  
34 the budget of the Department of Agriculture.  
35  
36

1           **Sec. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days  
2 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)  
3 national newspapers of general circulation.

4

5

6           **Approved,**