

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JUL 26 18:54

SENATE
S.B. 869

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

AN ACT
PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN FARMING TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY
CONCERNS AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE

Explanatory Note

The Philippines is widely considered as an agricultural economy as agriculture is the main driver of economic growth. This important sector employs some 30 percent of the Filipino workforce.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution for this purpose laid down some principles that accord relevance to Philippine agriculture (direct and indirect):

- “The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.” (Article II, Section 9);
- “The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.” (Article XII, Section 1), and
- “The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full of efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are

competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. Xxx” (Article XII, Section 1).

Amid these constitutional provisions that afford the agricultural sector the utmost development that it needed, many still consider this as the “poor man’s sector” because it is deemed to be the most neglected sector in terms of investments and development. Farmers and fisherfolk are among the poorest people in the country.

Urban farming, as enshrined in this measure, is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around a village, town or city which could also involve animal agriculture, aquaculture and agroforestry, among others.

Under this measure, urban agriculture and vertical farming shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions studying courses on Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics or other subjects related to agriculture. All elementary and secondary schools—public or private—and state colleges and universities shall implement urban gardening/agriculture and include in its regular curriculum its practical or on-hand application.

In other countries, benefits of city-based agriculture have been harnessed, hence, it could also be applied in the Philippines. On the aspect of food security, urban agriculture can readily provide citizens easy access to several agricultural products right within their cities or jurisdiction.

In this light, approval of this bill is fervently sought.


GRACE POE

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES

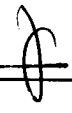
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title** – This Act shall be known as the “*Integrated Urban*
2 *Agriculture Act of 2016.*”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 reaffirm the fundamental right of every person to adequate food and to be free from hunger.
6 The achievement of self-sufficiency in food production and building climate resilient
7 communities is therefore adopted as primary state policy. Towards this end, key reforms for
8 the development of modern, appropriate, cost-effective and environmentally safe agriculture
9 technologies are hereby encouraged in order to ensure the food security of the country.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms** – For the purpose of this Act, the term:
12

13 3.1. **“Integrated Urban Agriculture”** shall refer to the practice of cultivating,
14 processing and distributing of food in, or around a village, town or city. Integrated Urban
15 agriculture also involves animal husbandry, aquaculture, agro-forestry and horticulture.
16

17 3.2. **“Vertical Farming”** shall refer to the method of farming that is brought to the
18 urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in sky crappers and other
19 modern buildings.
20

1 **SEC. 4. *Comprehensive Research on Integrated Urban Farming*** – For purpose of
2 this Act, the respective Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the
3 Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby mandated to promote the use of
4 integrated urban agriculture and vertically farming in the country’s metropolitan areas as an
5 instrument to address food security concerns and regenerate ecosystem function of the
6 Philippines.

7
8 Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either national and
9 local governments or available land resources in state universities and colleges shall be
10 considered for growing crops, raising livestock and producing food using the said methods.

11 Safety standards must be followed such that DOST and other pertinent agencies
12 should include research and development of appropriate technologies necessary in promoting
13 integrated agriculture technologies.

14
15 **SEC. 5. *Inclusion of Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming in Agricultural***
16 ***Training*** – Urban agriculture and vertical farming are used in agricultural production shall be
17 integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students of both public
18 and private academic institutions studying courses on Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home
19 Economics and/or other subjects related to agriculture. A course curriculum on
20 gardening/urban gardening shall also be developed and included into the regular curriculum
21 of both elementary and secondary education.

22
23 All elementary and secondary schools, - public or private – state colleges and
24 universities shall implement urban gardening/agriculture and include in its regular curriculum
25 its practical or on-hand application.

26
27 For universities and colleges, urban gardening or agriculture shall form part of the
28 required period of time spent by students in the National Service Training Program (NSTP)
29 or the Citizen Military Training (CMT). A plan therefore for the utilization or the maximizing
30 space occupied by schools shall be formulated specifically for urban gardening/agriculture.
31 Instructional materials shall also be developed.

1 The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission on
2 Higher Education (CHED). Shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
3 implementation of this section within six (6) months from the date of effectively hereof.
4

5 **SEC. 6. Creation and Composition of the Urban Farming Council (UFC).** – There is
6 hereby established an Urban Farming Council (UFC) which shall be attached to the
7 Department of Agriculture. The UFC shall compose of the following members:
8

9 (a) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) who shall serve as Chair of the
10 UFC;

11 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

12 (c) The Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF);

13 (d) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);

14 (e) The Representative from the People’s Organizations (PO);

15 (f) The Representative from the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO);

16 (g) The Representative from the National Urban Poor Sector Council of the National
17 Anti-Poverty Commission (NUPSC-NAPC);

18 (h) The National President of the League of the Cities of the Philippines;

19 (i) The National President of the League of the Municipalities of the Philippines; and,

20 (j) The Representative from the private sector who have an expertise in urban farming
21 and/or vertical farming.
22

23 **Section 7. Appropriation** –To allocate the amount equivalent to two percent (2%) of
24 the total budget in the annual general appropriations of the Department of Agriculture (DA),
25 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Education (DepEd),
26 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Interior and Local
27 Government (DILG).
28

29 **Section 8. Local Government Units Participation** – The local government units shall
30 formulate policy on the practise of urban farming, utilizing unused spaces and idle lands. This
31 shall require the enactment of local legislation institutionalizing urban gardening or
32 agriculture in all levels of the LGU. This also shall require local governments to enact
33 measures or ordinances that will include urban gardening/agriculture as regular component in
34 budget appropriations of local government unit.

1
2 All cities and urbanized municipalities where urban farming activities are conducted
3 shall extend whatever assistance necessary for the urban practitioners/farmers to exercise
4 Urban Farming and benefit from any incentives under this Act”
5

6 All homeowners associations, neighbourhood associations and community
7 associations and/or people’s organizations are encourage participating in urban farming
8 activities within their area of operations. The concerned LGU shall grant a necessary
9 incentives for the benefits of the members of the concerned associations or people’s
10 organizations who actively participating in urban farming activities.
11

12 **Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** –Within six (6) months from the
13 date of affectivity of this Act, the DA, the DOST, the DepEd, the CHED, the DILG, and the
14 National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) through the National Urban Poor Sector Council
15 (NUPSC), Private Sectors, Business Group, Input Providers, Consumer Groups, Informal
16 Settlers and most vulnerable Sectors, Non-Government Organizations and other stakeholders
17 shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the
18 provisions of this Act.
19

20 **Section 10. *Seperability Clause*** – If any provision or part here of is held invalid or
21 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
22 valid and subsisting.
23

24 **Section 11. *Repealing Clause*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
25 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
26 with the provision of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.
27

28 **Section 12. *Effectivity Clause*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the
29 date of its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
30 general circulation.

Approved,