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Introduced by Senator Villar

Explanatory Note

Did you ever imagine that plants can be cultivated in a soil-less environment? Or that crops can be grown with their roots hanging in the air?

The answer is yes. And it is through a technology called hydroponics agriculture. In recent years, growing plants through hydroponics---that is, with the roots in a medium other than soil---has stirred the imagination of many persons engaged in planting and agriculture.

Derived from the Greek words "hydro" meaning water and "ponos" meaning labour, hydroponics agriculture promote the scarce use of land resources. It reduces pest problems and yields more productivity. In areas where soil is lacking or unsuitable for growth, hydroponics offers an alternative production system. For plant hobbyist and for those who want to pursue urban agriculture, it can be utilized considering limited space and energy required.

In the United States, it has been proven that it enhances lush vegetation resulting in fresh produce with more nutritional value. In the Philippines, whilst it has not been adapted fully, pioneering efforts in Tagaytay City and in Subic have been commenced with positive indications. In fact, in an agricultural update, it has been noted that a one hundred square meter hydroponics farm may yield a half a million yield of vegetables and food farm products.

Considering that food security is a perennial concern affecting citizens and believing that hydroponics is a suitable technology in the context of Philippine agriculture, the early recognition of this legislation is earnestly sought.



MANNY VILLAR

