

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 413



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR C. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Starting the year 199, the Upland Development Programme (UDP) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), funded by the European Commission (EC), has developed the Sustainable Upland Development Model (SUDM).

The SUDM was built on the experience gained in other EC-funded projects in the Philippines in earlier years. The SUDM had six vectors. The four (4) Local Government Unit (LGU) driven vectors were 1) land use - based Barangay development planning; 2) upland agricultural extension through land management (to help farmers switch from mostly corn mono-cropping to a diversified farming system); 3) Barangay forest protection and management; and 4) labor-based Barangay routine road maintenance for vital Barangay roads. The two private support vectors are the 1) rural financial services and the 2) upland village enterprise development.

The program aimed to develop and test a replicable model for sustainable management of the resource base in the uplands of Mindanao. It was implemented in upland municipalities in South Cotabato, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley and Sarangani. The program ended in 31 July 2007.

The SUDM became quite successful such that then Ambassador Alistair MacDonald, Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, announced that the UDP has developed a model for sustainable upland development ready for replication by other local governments around the country.

In the replication, however, the DA and the local governments will have to use their own resources. A comprehensive information and education campaign would also have to be undertaken. And, there was an imperative need to involve and have wider participation of non government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), church groups, civil society, and agrarian reform communities.

In the meantime, the replication and the continuation of the program is awaiting funding for its implementation.

The UDP-SUDM initiative should not be laid to waste. It should be continued and a replication in other LGUs should be made. In fact, to ensure permanence, a comprehensive legislative policy and program should be crafted and implemented.

This bill seeks to have a lasting policy on upland agricultural development. Under this bill, the DA - Bureau of Soils and Water Management (DA-BSWM), in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Forest Management Bureau, shall be tasked to revise the UDP.

For this purpose, the said agencies shall be tasked to conduct consultation meetings of NGOs, POs, upland households, LGU executives and agricultural officers Barangay officials. It shall also conduct ground surveys and mapping of the areas identified for development.

In implementing the program, it would also provide technical extension services in the development of individual upland farm and provision of the same on nursery and reforestation techniques, agroforestry methods, assisted natural regeneration and forest enrichment planting practices, and forest fire management. And, it would undertake capacity building, planning, assessment, monitoring, documentation, reporting, documentation and mapping of development accomplishments.

With this bill, uplands would be developed to create additional employment and income for poor upland households. It would also result to enhancement of the productivity of upland agricultural lands. It would likewise pump-prime the local economy through the infusion of public investments in upland development.

It is in this view that the early passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


ARTHUR C. YAP
Representative

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AN ACT
PROMOTING UPLAND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT,
INSTITUTING AN UPLAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM,
APPROPRIATING 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. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Upland Agricultural
2 Development Act of 2013”.

3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It hereby declared the policy of the State
4 to develop the uplands in the Philippines in order to: a) create additional and immediate
5 employment and incomes for poor upland households and people's organizations and
6 civil society organizations; b) improve the productivity of soil and water conservation
7 functions of upland agricultural lands through the Guided Farm Approach (GFA) towards
8 sustainability; c) pump-prime the local economy through the infusion of public
9 investments in upland development; d) improve the productivity and soil and water
10 conservation functions of forestlands through agroforestry, reforestation, assisted natural
11 regeneration and enrichment planting in public forestlands and protected areas.

12 **SECTION 3. *Coverage.*** - The coverage area for the implementation of upland
13 development activities shall be directed mainly to the upland areas of the provinces
14 identified as priority which include the watersheds of major irrigation, power and

municipal water systems; the headwaters of major river systems/river basins; highly vulnerable upland areas; areas affected by natural calamities, and degraded areas. These development activities shall comprise the following:

- a) Land capability classification and crop suitability evaluation of upland areas for development;
- b) Establishment and operations of fruit-bearing and forest tree nurseries by people's organizations (POs); civil society organization (CSOs) and farmers with direct access to the area for development;
- c) Development of individual upland farms through the Soil Conservation Guided Farm Approach;
- d) Rehabilitation of grassland areas through Community-Based Sloping Agricultural Land Management (CBSALM) or Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) area, as identified in the existing Comprehensive Development and Management Framework and through ANR or enrichment planting (ANR/EP), or both; work plans of the POs;
- e) Rehabilitation (i.e. reforestation and similar activities) of degraded areas in critical watersheds and protected areas;
- f) Implementation of assisted natural regeneration (ANR) in appropriate areas of the CBFM/CBNRM areas, in priority watersheds, and in protected areas in the river basin;
- g) Conduct of enrichment plantings (EP) in sparsely-wooded grasslands;
- h) Revegetation of streambanks/riverbanks; and,
- i.) Maintenance and protection from fire, pest and diseases of the established tree plantations.

SECTION 4. Upland Development Program and Implementing Mechanism. -

The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Soils and Water Management (DA-BSWM), in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Forest Management Bureau (DENR-FMB), shall spearhead the overall revision of the current

Upland Agricultural Development Program (UADP) and its implementation. It shall provide technical and support services shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) conduct of consultation meetings among and between members of people's organizations, upland households, barangay officials, LGU executives and agricultural officers of the municipal and provincial governments, and representatives of other agencies and organizations, colleges and universities, business and religious groups and other civil society organizations, who may be able to support upland farmers and other implementors of this program;
- b) conduct of ground surveys and mapping of the areas identified by the participating POs, farmers and organizations for development; these surveys and maps shall be part of the inputs to the preparation of area development agreements and work and financial plans with the POs, farmers and implementing organizations;
- c) provision of technical extension services in the development of individual upland farm and provision of the same on nursery and reforestation techniques, agroforestry methods, assisted natural regeneration and forest enrichment planting practices, and forest fire management;
- d) capacity building, planning, assessment, monitoring, documentation, reporting, documentation and mapping of development accomplishments.

The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Soils and Water Management (DA-BSWM) shall formulate and recommend policies on the implementation of soil and water conservation and management practices through the Soil Conservation Guided Farm Approach to ensure environmental protection while harnessing sustainable agricultural productivity in the uplands.

People's organizations (POs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and farmers engaged in the Community-Based Upland Agricultural Development (CBUAD) strategy and in similar community-based natural resources management (CBNRM) work, shall be provided with financial and technical assistance to establish nurseries and to produce the fruit trees and forest tree seedlings for rehabilitation, agroforestry, or ANR/EP in their

1 respective CBFMICBNRM areas. These nurseries shall be maintained in the future to
2 continue to produce the seedling requirements. The POs/CSOs may tap the services of
3 senior citizens and in and out-of-school youth, who may or may not be members, in this
4 undertaking.

5 The POs, CSOs and individual households shall also be contracted to reforest,
6 through planting or in combination with ANRIEP, grasslands, sparsely wooded lands or
7 degraded stream banks within their CBFMI/CBNRM area including first cycle
8 maintenance and protection. In order to attain more effective impact of the development
9 undertaken, as well as to ensure better protection from wildfires, their areas to be
10 developed should be clustered together. Forest tree seedlings for reforestation shall come
11 from their nursery.

12 Individual farmers who are active members of the POs shall be provided financial
13 assistance for the procurement of appropriate quality fruit tree seedlings, seeds of cash
14 crops and high-value crops, and such other farm inputs as are necessary to develop their
15 farmlots into Soil Conservation Guided Farms. Forest tree seedlings for interplanting in
16 their farmlots shall come from their nursery.

17 Other upland farmer households, senior citizens, in- and out-of school youth may
18 also be contracted individually to undertake rehabilitation including first cycle
19 maintenance and protection, in other untenured forestlands within the same barangay
20 where UDP development activities are directed, provided that they are bona fide residents
21 of that barangay. In order to attain more effective impact of the development undertaken,
22 as well as to ensure better protection from wildfires, their areas to be developed should be
23 clustered together.

24 Barangay LGUs and civil society organizations may be provided with technical
25 and material inputs for the upland agricultural development.

26 **Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days after
27 the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Soils and Water
28 Management, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
29 - Forest Management Bureau (DENR-FMB), other national and local government

1 agencies and duly recognized organization of farmers, civil society organizations, agri-
2 business and forestry industry sectors shall promulgate the implementing rules and
3 regulations of this Act.

4 **SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** - The sum of Five Hundred Million Pesos
5 (P500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act which
6 shall be incorporated in the Annual Budget of DA-BSWM. Thereafter the amount
7 necessary to carry out the program implementation shall be incorporated in the General
8 Appropriations Act.

9 The appropriations shall be distributed as follows:

- 10 a) Forty percent (40 %) for agricultural development of upland farms
11 b) Forty percent (40 %) for rehabilitation of grasslands; and
12 c) Twenty percent (20%) for assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting
13 and stream/riverbank revegetation.

14 **SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act, or any parts
15 thereof, is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity
16 of the other portions.

17 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, presidential
18 decrees, proclamations, rules, regulations, issuances and enactments of parts thereof
19 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

20 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its
21 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in
22 the Philippines, whichever comes earlier.

APPROVED.