

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2937**



Introduced by Hon. Delphine Gan Lee

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) defined Urban Agriculture as an industry that produces, processes and markets food and fuel, largely in response to the daily demand of consumers within a town, city, or metropolis, on land and water dispersed throughout the urban and peri-urban area, applying intensive production methods, using and reusing natural resources and urban wastes to yield a diversity of crops and livestock.

Urban agriculture is an area of study covering a wide variety of interests, from a traditional core of activities associated with the production, processing, marketing, distribution, and consumption, to a multiplicity of other benefits and services that are less widely acknowledged and documented. Access to nutritious food, both economically and geographically, is the main thrust and perspective in the effort to locate food and livestock production in cities. The need for fresh and safe food grown in the city areas increases with the movement of more people in the urban areas.

This bill seeks to create an Institute of Urban Agriculture in the University of the Philippines Los Baños Campus to provide the necessary thrust for this new area of study that will in the future address the problems of food security, distribution, and sustainable development. The early passage of this bill is thus earnestly sought.


HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE
Representative, AGRI Party-List

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1 **ESTABLISHING THE INSTITUTE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE**
2 **IN THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,**
3 **UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AT LOS BAÑOS**

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Institute of Urban
5 Agriculture Act of 2013.”

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Whereas, the increasing tempo of agricultural
7 development and the quest for product diversification are exacting rigorous demands on the
8 ability of Filipino agricultural scientists to develop the crop varieties required to sustain our
9 rapidly modernizing agriculture sector.

10 WHEREAS, we have many tropical fruits and vegetables and other crops which have
11 potential for expanded production in urban areas;

12 WHEREAS, the foregoing considerations require the services of highly competent,
13 full-time teams of agricultural scientists, amply supported with resources and funds and staff
14 and provided working conditions conducive to the development of improved varieties of
15 crops for urban areas;

16 It is hereby declared the policy of the State to make urban areas directly responsible
17 for food production oriented toward the attainment of food security and sufficiency.

18 SECTION 3. *Creation of an Urban Agriculture Research and Development*
19 *Program.* – There is hereby established the URBAN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND

1 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM in the College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines at
2 Los Baños and there shall be organized therein an INSTITUTE (hereinafter referred to as
3 IUA) with the following specific functions:

(a) To develop new and improved varieties of important agricultural crops for use
in urban areas;

(b) To undertake investigations in plant breeding and other allied disciplines
related to the improvement of crops for use in urban areas;

(c) To systematically collect, introduce, preserve and maintain a germplasm bank
of important and potentially useful agricultural crops for urban areas;

(d) To assist other agencies in the multiplication and distribution of quality seeds
and vegetative materials of recommended crop varieties for urban areas and to
disseminate this information to the public;

(e) To enter into agreements or relationships with similar institutions or
organizations, both national and foreign, in furtherance of the above purposes.

4 SECTION 4. *Funding.* – The amount of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION
5 PESOS (P250,000,000) shall be included in the budget of the Department of Agriculture
6 during the period FY 2014, said amount to be disbursed by the Department to the UPLB for
7 the capital requirements of the IUA which will include acquisition and development of
8 experimental fields, construction of buildings, laboratories and housing for the Institute's staff
9 and acquisition of equipment; provided however that of the above amount, a sum not exceed
10 FIFTY MILLION PESOS (P50,000,000.00) may be made available to finance the Institute's
11 initial operating expenses and/or to supplement the Institute's regular appropriation during the
12 period. There is hereby appropriated to the University of the Philippines at Los Baños the
13 amount of FIFTEEN MILLION PESOS (P15,000,000.00) from the General Fund for fiscal
14 year 2014 exclusively to support the programs of the Institute.

15 SECTION 5. *Head of the Institute.* – The Institute of Urban Agriculture shall be
16 headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Board of Regents of the University of the
17 Philippines Systems upon the recommendation by the Chancellor of UPLB. He shall be
18 responsible directly to the Dean of the College of Agriculture, UP at Los Baños. The Director

1 shall have the responsibility of planning, implementing and supervising the IUA's programs
2 and activities.

3 SECTION 6. *Research Priorities of the IUA.* – The research priorities of the IUA
4 shall be consistent, with the framework of Section 3 above, with the priorities in the approved
5 national agricultural development plan.

6 SECTION 7. *Research and Development Activities.* – The IUA may, for the purpose
7 of its research and development activities, obtain the service of scholars, scientists and
8 technical personnel of other units in the University of the Philippines System and of any other
9 agency of the Philippine government. Such personnel may be paid honoraria by the IUA.

10 SECTION 8. *Authority to Construct Facilities and Purchase Equipment.* – The
11 Institute of Urban Agriculture is hereby authorized to construct buildings and other facilities
12 and purchase equipment locally and abroad as may be necessary to carry out its functions.
13 Further, the IUA shall enjoy exemption from taxes, except from import and other duties for
14 supplies, materials and equipment purchased abroad when not available locally on favorable
15 terms.

16 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
17 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
18 valid and subsisting.

19 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
20 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
21 inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
22 accordingly.

23 SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
24 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,