

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3788**



Introduced by Hon. Delphine Gan Lee

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At current prices, gross earnings in agriculture amounted to P697.2 billion, higher by 0.88 percent than last year's record. It is still a huge industry that helps sustain our needs for food, consumer goods, and just about anything a person may need to live. However, based on a study conducted by the Central Mindanao University (CMU), the average age of the Filipino farmer today is 55 years old. Dante Delima, an assistant secretary at the Department of Agriculture who is in charge of the agency's Rice Program, pegged the average age of the Filipino farmer at 59. The high average age of the country's farming population shows that much of the youth have shunned tilling the soil as a profession or business undertaking. Based on the latest poverty incidence report from the National Statistical Coordination Board, poverty incidence is highest among fishermen and farmers at 41.4 percent and 36.7 percent in 2009. In 2009, the poverty incidence was pegged at 26.5 percent.

There is thus a need to increase the assistance provided to our farmers and make farming a more attractive undertaking. By creating an accreditation program for farmers, the resources of the government will be better and more equitably distributed to those who need it the most. The early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE
Representative, AGRI Party-List

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **CREATING A NATIONAL FARMER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM**

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Farmer Accreditation Act
4 of 2013.”

5 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote the
6 general welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, this Act seeks to create a National
7 Farmer Accreditation Program to consolidate the entire sector of farmers in the entire country
8 and ensure the delivery of goods and services to their members.

9 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term “Farming” or
10 “agriculture” shall include farming in all of its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the
11 soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural,
12 aquacultural, floricultural or horticultural commodities, the growing and harvesting of forest
13 products upon forest land, the raising of livestock including horses, the keeping of horses as a
14 commercial enterprise, the keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle and other
15 domesticated animals used for food purposes, bees, fur-bearing animals, and any forestry or

1 lumbering operations, performed by a farmer, who is hereby defined as one engaged in
2 agriculture or farming as herein defined, or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with
3 such farming operations, including preparations for market, delivery to storage or to market
4 or to carriers for transportation to market.

5 SECTION 4. *National Farmer Accreditation Center.* – There shall be created a
6 National Farmer Accreditation Center under the Department of Agriculture that will serve as
7 a development center for farmers. Accreditation of all farmers shall be compulsory and shall
8 be implemented on the barangay, municipal, city, provincial, and national levels.

9 SECTION 5. *Functions of the Center.* –The Center shall have the following
10 responsibilities:

11 (A) To produce a database or directory of accredited farmers from the entire country;

12 (B) To accredit farmers as defined herein;

13 (C) To conduct seminars, trainings, and other related activities.

14 SECTION 6. *Funding.* – The Center shall have an initial funding of FIFTY MILLION
15 PESOS (P50,000,000.00). No accreditation fee shall be collected from the farmer-members.

16 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Agriculture
17 shall issue the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this
18 Act within thirty (30) days from its date of effectivity.

19 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
20 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
21 valid and subsisting.

22 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
23 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent

1 with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

2 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
3 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.