

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9129



Introduced by Representative Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a country where agriculture plays a vital role in the livelihood of many communities, addressing the challenges presented by climate change is of paramount importance. Rising temperatures, droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and stronger typhoons have become common in the country. In particular, the Bicol Region, represented by the Bicol Saro Partylist in the present Congress, is annually besieged by a multitude of typhoons, making it a hotspot for natural calamities. These extreme and unpredictable weather conditions disrupt planting and harvesting schedules, making it increasingly difficult for farmers to rely on their traditional knowledge alone. Ultimately, these events pose a significant threat to the agriculture sector and the country's food security.

No less than the 1987 Constitution enshrines the State's commitment to support agriculture through appropriate technology, research, financial support, production assistance, marketing, and other essential services.¹ The government should be able to catch up with fast-changing technological applications to enable our farmers to harness the power of space and science in developing innovative farming and adapting to the disruptions triggered by climate change.

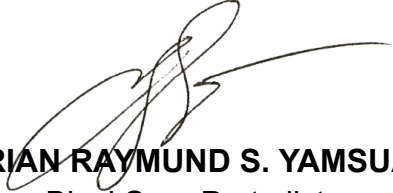
Thus, the proposed measure seeks to establish the use of crop climate calendars throughout the Philippines, customized for each specific locality or farming community through a collaborative effort among the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA), the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), and the local government units.

Crop calendars would provide accessible and digestible information that would equip farmers with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions

¹ Section 5, Art. XIII, 1987 Constitution of the Philippines

regarding planting and harvesting times. This can reduce the risk of crop losses and promote efficient resource management by optimizing water and fertilizer use, in line with the country's commitment to sustainable farming.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Bicol Saro Party-list

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**AN ACT ENHANCING THE RESILIENCY AND ADAPTABILITY OF FARMERS TO
ADVERSE WEATHER AND CLIMATE EVENTS BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE
USE OF CROP CLIMATE CALENDARS, EQUIPPING FARMERS FOR
CLIMATE-SENSITIVE DECISION-MAKING, AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO
LOCALIZED WEATHER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Climate-Resilient
Agriculture Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — In recognition of the importance of agriculture in
the country’s economic development, the State shall enhance the resiliency and
adaptability of the sector against the adverse effects of weather disturbances
and climate change that endanger productivity levels and harvest yield. Climate
resiliency shall be a priority government intervention for the agriculture sector.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act, the following terms shall be
defined as follows:

- a. Crop climate calendar refers to a visual tool that presents the phenology
and cultivation practices of a crop against the timeline of the cropping
season, containing information on the weather and climate states that
occur in the locality and the risks faced by the crop per growing stage in
relation to these;

- b. Climate-sensitive decision refers to decisions that hinge on weather and climate states, with final outcomes and even decision alternatives which are varying, depending on the prevailing weather phenomena; and
- c. Localized weather and climate information refers to information on weather and climate phenomena that are particularized down to the city or municipal level.

SEC. 4. Crop Climate Calendars. - The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall establish and promote the use of crop climate calendars throughout the Philippines. In coordination with municipal, city and provincial agriculturists, the DA shall implement a continuing program for all farmers and farmer's organizations to formulate, use, and interpret crop climate calendars that are tailor-made for each specific locality or community. These crop climate calendars shall be distributed free-of-charge to all farmers and farmer's organizations and be made available online.

SEC. 5. Use of Satellite Data. — The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) shall provide the DA relevant space data, including but not limited to, satellite imagery, that would support the establishment and implementation of crop climate calendars throughout the Philippines.

SEC. 6. Localized Weather and Climate Information. — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) shall provide regular and up-to-date localized weather and climate information to city, municipal and provincial agriculturist's offices and directly to the farmers themselves through all available means of communication and information dissemination including internet, social media, television and radio. Such information shall be written in simple English, Filipino, and other regional languages and dialects as necessary and must be presented in a clear, concise and easily understandable form.

Sec. 7 Climate-Sensitive Decision-Making. — The DA, through the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), shall provide regular appropriate training and capacity-building for farmers and farmer's organizations in the practice of climate-sensitive decision-making and the use of relevant tools and applications. The ATI shall formulate and develop clear, concise and easily understandable charts, tables, diagrams, briefers, and similar documents on climate-sensitive decision-making for distribution to farmers and farmers' organizations.

Sec. 8 Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations for the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, in coordination with PAGASA, PhilSA, and other relevant government agencies, farmers' organizations and stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. — If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 12. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,