

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

House Bill No. 9327



Introduced by Representative PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Philippines is among the countries with the highest risk to natural and climate-change-induced disasters and calamities. One of the major consequences of these inevitable natural and climate-change-induced disasters and calamities is the increasing vulnerability among the local Filipino farmers given that their agricultural lands become highly exposed and volatile to the wide range of impacts of these global phenomena. The current increase in the farming inputs, even in basic commodities, due to exorbitant fuel prices and the loss of their agricultural produce and revenue due to this global phenomenon serve as a double whammy to the local Filipino farmers whose majority already fall below the poverty line.

Given the agricultural sector's role in the country's economy, the amount of support and assistance the sector is receiving must be commensurate to its vital contribution to the country's food security. Thus, they remain as one of the poorest sectors in the society with the poverty incidence rate of 30.6% as attested by the data gathered by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in 2021.

In order to enhance the resiliency and adaptability of the agricultural sector to global phenomena, this bill seeks to institute 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. This program shall facilitate the prompt mitigation from the impact of weather events leading to uncompensated losses, financial burden, and unpaid debts.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

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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 of 2023.***"

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: 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; 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. *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. 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. This information shall be written in simple English, Filipino and other regional language or dialect as necessary and must be presented in a clear, concise and easily understandable form.

SEC. 7. *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. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA and PAGASA, in coordination with other relevant government agencies, farmers' organizations and stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *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. 10. *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. 11. *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,