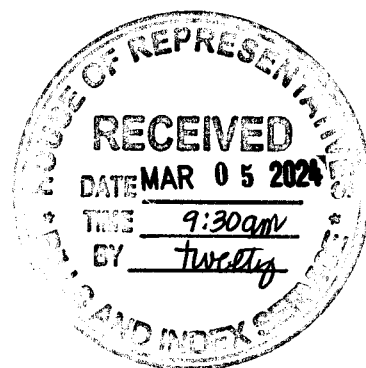




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10027**



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
PROMOTING FOOD FOREST GARDENING, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to a survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey during December 2023, 12.6 percent of the respondents said that their families experienced involuntary hunger. This was the highest result since June 2021, when the rate was 13.6 percent.

In February 2024, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. stated that Filipinos would not experience hunger under a “New Philippines.” To support the President’s advocacy and to ensure that no Filipino goes hungry again, this measure aims to address critical issues related to food security, ecosystem regeneration, and sustainable agriculture by institutionalizing food forest gardening across various landscapes in the Philippines. This measure is designed to harness the potential of underutilized spaces for food production, enhance biodiversity, and promote eco-friendly farming practices.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rdh' or similar, positioned above the printed name.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10027**

Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
PROMOTING FOOD FOREST GARDENING, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the “Food Forest Gardening
2 Act of 2024.”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to build,
4 preserve, and maintain a healthy ecosystem; protect and develop biodiversity and habitats for
5 wildlife; conserve the country’s crop genetic diversity and heirloom plants as a strategy for
6 climate change adaptation, mitigation and resiliency; and promote public awareness on
7 ecological and sustainable use of land resources for food production and other products.
8 Toward this end, the government, in coordination with the stakeholders in the business Sector,
9 such as land developers and social entrepreneurs, and the civil society, shall promote and
10 integrate Food Forest Gardening by establishing and developing community gardens in the
11 country as a form of sustainable land use system for food production and other agricultural
12 products for economic and societal development.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. — For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall

mean:

a. **Agro-Forestry** — a land use management system in which trees or shrubs are grown around or among crops or pasture land and combines shrubs and trees in agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, profitable, healthy, ecologically sound, and sustainable land-use systems;

b. **Companion Planting** — planting of different crops in close proximity for ecological pest control, pollination, providing habitat for beneficial creatures, maximizing the use of space, and otherwise increasing the crop productivity;

c. **Crop Rotation** — the practice of successive planting of different crops on the same land to improve soil fertility and crop yield, reduce soil erosion and help control insects and diseases;

d. **Ecosystem** — a complex set of relationships among the living resources, habitats, and residents of an area which includes plants, trees, animals, fish, birds, microorganisms, water, soil, and people;

e. **Forest Gardening** — “multi-layered crop farming” or low maintenance and sustainable method of food production that is based on woodland ecosystems, incorporating fruit and nut trees, shrubs, herbs, vines, and perennial vegetables that yields directly useful to humans and a system of agroforestry that creates a diverse, productive, healthy, ecologically-sound and sustainable system of land use;

f. **Perennial Vegetables** — plants that live for more than two (2) years; and,

g. **Sustainable Land-Use Management** — use of land resources, including soil, water, animals, and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions.

SEC. 4. Institutionalization of the Philippine Food Forest Gardening Program. —

To ensure food security and regenerate ecosystem functions through a system of layers of vegetation, the Philippine Food Forest Gardening Program, hereinafter referred to as the “Program,” is hereby institutionalized. For this purpose, Food Forest Gardening may be established in the following places:

- a. Any parcel or portion of land;
- b. Public spaces such as urban yards or city and municipal parks;
- c. Unutilized and idle public land;
- d. Community or common spaces of land developments;
- e. Portions of rural farms;
- f. Urban housing projects
- g. Idle parcels of land in schools, colleges, and universities; and,
- h. Actual yards of households.

SEC. 5. Objectives of the Program. — The following are the objectives of the Program:

- a. To introduce low-maintenance food production through agroforestry;
- b. To establish sustainable food forest gardening using mostly perennial vegetables through crop rotation and companion planting in the country;
- c. To maximize land use and provide a significant source of income for urban and rural communities;
- d. To transform farmers from mere mono-crop cultivators to multi-crop agripreneurs;
- e. To utilize idle lands and consequently create beautiful living spaces;
- f. To serve as a model for the youth, inspiring them towards sustainable agriculture; and,
- g. To help farmers build productive farming communities and produce high-quality crops for the country’s economy.

1 **SEC. 6. Creation and Composition of the Philippine Food Forest Gardening**

2 **Commission.** — There is hereby created the Philippine Food Forest Gardening Commission,
3 hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”, which shall be attached to the Department of
4 Agriculture (DA) and shall act as a policy-making body for effective and continuing
5 implementation of the provisions of this Act. It shall be headed by the Secretary of the DA, as
6 Chairperson, and the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
7 as Co-Chairperson. The following shall be its members:

- 8 a. Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI);
9 b. a representative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
10 c. a representative of the Department of Finance (DOF);
11 d. a representative of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
12 e. a representative of the Department of Education (DepEd);
13 f. a representative of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
14 g. 2 representatives of the land developers associations; and,
15 h. 2 representatives of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).

16 **SEC. 7. Powers and Functions of the Commission.** — The Commission shall have
17 the following powers and functions:

- 18 1. Formulate framework, plan, and policy for the Philippine Food Forest Gardening at
19 both national and local levels;
20 2. Prepare a comprehensive manual for the Philippine Food Forest Gardening Program;
21 3. Formulate guidelines for the food forest gardening training program for Local
22 Government Units (LGUs), concerned agencies, and offices; teachers or instructors of both
23 public and private schools teaching subjects related to agriculture, particularly those under the
24 K to 12 program, and other interested members of society, such as non-government
25 organizations (NGOs);

4. Devise and implement resource development scheme to ensure continued allocation of funds;

5. Assess the overall progress of the food forest training program and review the monitoring and evaluation of results;

6. Submit an annual report to Congress; and

7. Perform such other tasks necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. Participation of LGUs. — All LGUs are hereby mandated to establish the Program which shall focus on implementing comprehensive food forest gardening in their respective levels and jurisdictions. The concerned LGUs shall encourage all home developers, homeowners, neighborhoods, communities, and/or people's organizations to participate in the Program.

SEC. 9. Incentives. — Those participating in the Program shall be granted incentives including, but not limited to, exemption from payment of real estate tax, exemption from existing rules and regulations prohibiting farming or growing food in backyards, patios, or houses, and other incentives as may be provided by the Commission and the law.

SEC. 10. Establishment of the Philippine Center for Food Forest Gardening. — The Philippine Center for Food Forest Gardening is hereby established, which shall be under the Commission and shall provide information, training, education, expertise, best practices, and networking to implement the food forest gardening program. It shall likewise provide the necessary Secretariat, administrative, and technical support to the Commission.

SEC. 11. Management Fund. — For the implementation of this Act, a management fund shall be established for the following purposes:

a. Research

b. Information and educational campaign;

c. Training; and

1 d. Pilot programs

2 **SEC. 12. Integration of the Program in School Curriculum.** — The Program shall
3 be integrated into the academic curriculum for senior high school and college students taking
4 up Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics, and/or other subjects related to agriculture.

5 **SEC. 13. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
6 is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the budget of the DA, DILG, DOST, DepEd,
7 CHED, and DENR not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, the funds shall be included in the
8 annual budget of the aforementioned agencies.

9 **SEC. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — The DA, in coordination with the
10 DILG, DOST, DepEd, CHED, DENR, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and
11 regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

12 **SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act, or any part thereof, shall
13 be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall
14 continue in full force and effect.

15 **SEC. 16. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, presidential decrees, proclamations,
16 executive orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this
17 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 **SEC. 17. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
19 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,