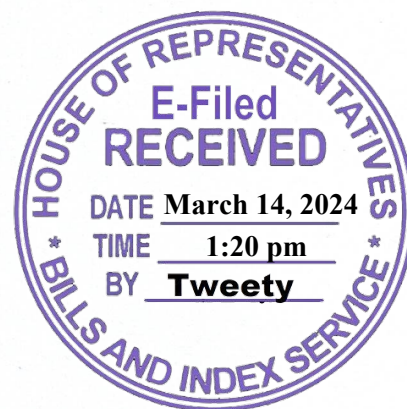


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10149**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO,
JOCELYN P. TULFO, AND ERWIN T. TULFO

AN ACT PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN AGRICULTURE IN URBAN
AREAS NATIONWIDE TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2022, the United Nation's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World reports that there are 50.9 million Filipinos who did not have constant access to adequate food. Likewise, in 2023, around 2.7 million Filipino families have experienced involuntary hunger due to lack of food.¹ Despite these numbers, agriculture experts posit that it would still be possible for the Philippines to achieve food security through urban agriculture, a form of farming that would encourage the households to plant their own staple food.²

Urban agriculture is the practice of growing crops and raising small livestock in vacant spots within an urban environment as a source of food and income for urban dwellers. Its primary goal is to maximize the use of empty spaces in cities and metropolitan areas and to turn them into productive means of agricultural supply out of traditional and modern farming methods.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when restrictions were prevalent, people saw a decline in available food resources and became distressed. Fortunately, urban agriculture became increasingly popular among city folk, showing them the significance of growing their food.³ However, the problem of food security long

¹ Gutierrez, Gelaine Louise, "11th Food and Nutrition Plan focuses on Food Security", *Philippine Information Agency*, <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2023/09/05/11th-food-and-nutrition-plan-focuses-on-food-security>.

² "PH to achieve food security through urban agriculture", *Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture*, <https://www.searca.org/press/ph-achieve-food-security-urban-agriculture>.

³ Taculao, Patricia Bianca, "Promoting urban, peri-urban agriculture for food security", *Manila Standard*, <https://manilastandard.net/agriculture/314395134/promoting-urban-peri-urban-agriculture-for-food-security.html>.

started even before the pandemic struck. Metro Manila's food security had always been at risk since fresh produce sold in the area is sourced from farther areas.

To solve this ongoing problem of food insufficiency, the Department of Agriculture encourages the public to start urban gardening. Other local organizations also encourage residents to engage in urban agriculture for a sustainable and practical source of food.⁴

In Quezon City alone, through the initiative and leadership of Mayor Joy Belmonte, there are 1,026 urban farms established by the city government and found in all its 142 barangays as of December 2023. Through this initiative, several property owners have utilized their idle properties through urban agriculture and food production.⁵

Hence, this proposed legislative measure aims to promote integrated urban agriculture in urban areas nationwide by identifying and developing idle government and private lands and buildings to be used as community gardens, food forest gardens, indoor farms or vertical farms to support food security and community nutrition. Moreover, this bill ensures the integration of concepts and principles of urban agriculture and its relationship to other processes in the food system in urban planning and in the academic curriculum, the conduct of community-based education and awareness campaigns, and the intensification of research on methods and technologies supporting urban agriculture.

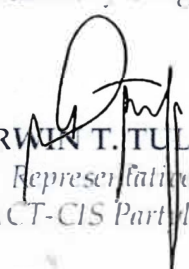
In view of the foregoing, the urgent passing of this bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO
Representative
2nd District of Quezon City



JOCELYN P. TULFO
Representative
ACT-CIS Partylist



ERWIN T. TULFO
Representative
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⁴ Taculao, Patricia Bianca, "Urban agriculture for the community: A solution to feed every Filipino", *Manila Bulletin*, <https://mb.com.ph/2021/5/14/modified-urban-agriculture-for-the-community-a-solution-to-feed-every-filipino>.

⁵ Dioquino, Aaron Homer, "QC LGU establishes 1,026 urban farms established in 2023", <https://mb.com.ph/2024/1/21/qc-lgu-establishes-1-026-urban-farms-in-2023>.

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1 **AN ACT PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN AGRICULTURE IN URBAN**
2 **AREAS NATIONWIDE TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY AND**
3 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
6 *assembled:*
7

8 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Integrated Urban
9 Agriculture Act".
10

11 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - The State shall promote and protect the fundamental
12 right of every person to adequate food and freedom from hunger. Recognizing the
13 challenges to food security and ecological balance in urban areas, the State shall
14 optimize the use and productivity of urban land resources and spaces to support
15 sufficient and sustainable food production.
16

17 Towards this end, the State shall promote the development of modern, cost-effective,
18 space-efficient, and environmentally safe agriculture technologies in urban areas to
19 contribute in achieving sustainable food production and food security, promoting
20 agroecology, ensuring public and mental health and thus improving the quality of life
21 of urban populations. In doing so, the State shall prioritize the conservation of the
22 country's genetic biodiversity, and endemic and heirloom flora and fauna as a strategy
23 for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency.
24

1 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:
2

3 (a) *Agroecology* refers to a scientific discipline and set of practices that studies how
4 different components to the agroecosystem interact and seeks sustainable
5 farming systems that optimize and stabilize yields. It applies ecological concepts
6 and principles to manage interactions among plants, animals, humans, and the
7 environment for food security and nutrition;
8

9 (b) *Community Garden* refers to any piece of land cultivated by a group of people
10 using either individual or shared plots on public or private land with the consent
11 of the owner to produce edibles, such as herbs, vegetables, fruits or ornamentals,
12 as a form of sustainable land use system for economic and societal development.
13 Community gardens may be found in neighborhoods and schools, or connected
14 to institutions such as hospitals or located on the grounds or roofs of shared
15 housing, such as tenements and apartment complexes;
16

17 (c) *Food Forest Gardening* refers to multi-layered crop farming or a low maintenance
18 and sustainable method of food production that is based on woodland
19 ecosystems, incorporating fruit and nut trees, shrubs, herbs, vines, and perennial
20 vegetables which yields are directly useful to humans. It also refers to a system
21 of agroforestry that creates diverse, productive, healthy, ecologically-sound and
22 sustainable system of land use;
23

24 (d) *Food Security* refers to a situation wherein all people have access to sufficient,
25 safe, and nutritious food at all times to maintain a healthy and active life;
26

27 (e) *Food System* refers to a complex web of activities involving the production,
28 processing, transport, and consumption of food. Issues concerning the food
29 system include the governance and economies of food production, its
30 sustainability, the degree to which we waste food, how food production affects
31 the natural environment, and the impact of food on individual and population
32 health;

- 1
2 (f) *Good Agricultural Practices* refer to the practices that address environmental,
3 economic, and social sustainability for on-farm processes, and which result in
4 safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products;
- 5
6 (g) *Idle Lands* refer to non-agricultural lands in urban and urbanizable areas on
7 which no improvements have been made by the owner, as certified by the city,
8 municipal, or provincial assessor.
- 9
10 (h) *Idle Government Lands* refer to lands owned by any government entity that have
11 been idle and have not been used for the purpose for which they have been
12 reserved for the past ten (10) years;
- 13
14 (i) *Indoor Farming* refers to controlled environment agriculture which aims to
15 optimize plant growth to house vertical farming techniques in greenhouses,
16 warehouses, abandoned buildings, shipping containers, tunnels, skyscrapers,
17 and modern buildings using soilless farming techniques such as hydroponics,
18 aquaponics, and aeroponics;
- 19
20 (j) *Peri-urban Areas* refer to areas where urban and rural features and processes
21 meet, interact, and intertwine, usually located between city and countryside.
22 These areas are semi-dense clusters with a density of at least three hundred (300)
23 inhabitants per square kilometer and a population of five thousand (5,000) or
24 more, but are neither contiguous with nor within two kilometers of an urban
25 area;
- 26
27 (k) *Protected Agriculture* refers to the use of technologies that enclose crops to harvest
28 higher yields of safer, cleaner, and better quality even out of season by
29 modifying the natural environment, and protect crop against foreign elements
30 which include high temperature, excessive rainfall, humidity, wind, birds, and
31 insects;
- 32

- 1 (l) *Social Preparation* refers to the series of activities designed to prepare the
2 underprivileged and homeless families to cope with the changes brought about
3 by government development projects;
- 4
5 (m) *Soilless Agriculture* refers to the method of growing plants that do not rely on the
6 soil as a source of nutrients and water. Common methods are hydroponics,
7 aquaponics, and aeroponics;
- 8
9 (n) *Urban Areas* refer to classification as may be made by the Philippine Statistics
10 Authority (PSA) which under PSA Resolution No. 01, Series of 2017-098, covers
11 any of the following:
- 12
13 (1) If a barangay has a population size of five thousand (5,000) or more;
14 (2) If a barangay has at least one establishment with a minimum of one hundred
15 (100) employees; or
16 (3) If a barangay has five (5) or more establishments with a minimum of zero (0)
17 employee, and five (5) or more facilities within the two (2)-kilometer radius
18 from the barangay hall;
- 19
20 (o) *Urban Planning* refers to multi-disciplinary art and science of analyzing,
21 specifying, clarifying, harmonizing, managing, and regulating the use and
22 development of land and water resources, in relation to their environs, for the
23 development of sustainable communities and ecosystems in urban and
24 urbanizable areas;
- 25
26 (p) *Urbanizable Areas* refer to sites and lands which, considering the present
27 characteristics and prevailing conditions, display marked and great potential of
28 becoming urban areas within the period of five (5) years; and
- 29
30 (q) *Vertical Farming* refers to the methods or practices of increasing the number of
31 plants grown in an area by growing crops in vertically stacked layers, such as
32 generally done in greenhouses, warehouses, abandoned buildings, shipping

1 containers, tunnels, skyscrapers, and modern buildings using soilless farming
2 techniques.

3
4 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** – This Act shall cover idle or abandoned government or private
5 lands, buildings, shipping containers, subdivisions or villages, public housing, open
6 spaces in all urban, peri-urban, and urbanizable areas in the country, and all available
7 land resources and buildings in schools, state or private universities and colleges,
8 military camps suitable for growing crops and raising poultry, livestock, and
9 aquaculture: *Provided*, That the utilization of idle lands for urban agriculture purposes
10 shall not be used as grounds for the eviction of informal settler families occupying the
11 lands: *Provided, further*, That the raising of poultry and livestock shall be limited to
12 urbanizable areas, and all livestock-raising shall be subject to health and safety
13 standards and regulations issued by the Department of Health (DOH), Department of
14 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Human Settlements and
15 Urban Development (DHSUD), and other relevant agencies.

16
17 **SEC. 5. Urban Farming.** – Local government units (LGUs) shall identify and develop
18 idle government and private lands and buildings, without prejudice to the rights of
19 owners of private lands, buildings, and open spaces, within their jurisdiction, for full or
20 partial conversion solely to community gardens, food forest gardens, indoor farms
21 and/or vertical farms to support food security and community nutrition: *Provided*, That
22 food forest gardens and urban farms adopting agroecological principles shall be the
23 priority form of urban agriculture wherever applicable and feasible: *Provided, further*,
24 That spaces allocated for urban agriculture and aquaculture shall not be prime lots. All
25 LGUs, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Cooperative
26 Development Authority (CDA), shall capacitate neighborhood associations and
27 people's organizations, and facilitate the organization and registration of community-
28 based cooperatives, to undertake community gardening and establish community
29 farmers' markets.

1 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or extinguish the rights of owners to
2 their private lands and spaces without their consent or without their receipt of just
3 compensation, in case of expropriation.
4

5 The DHSUD shall ensure that the design and development of subdivision,
6 condominium, and public housing projects have provisions for adequate spaces for
7 community gardens, food forest gardens, greenhouse agriculture, roof gardens, indoor
8 farms, and vertical farms. Toward this end, the DHSUD, in coordination with the DA,
9 shall capacitate homeowners' associations to undertake community gardening and
10 vertical farming.
11

12 The DA shall provide the necessary technical assistance and support services,
13 including the provision of seeds, seedlings, and gardening tools, access to loans from
14 government financial institutions, and training workshops that shall capacitate various
15 stakeholders. It may assist in the design, establishment, promotion, and regulation of
16 indoor and vertical farming machineries and facilities to ensure the full productivity of
17 community gardens, school gardens, food forest gardens, greenhouse farms, roof
18 gardens, and indoor and vertical farms.
19

20 The DA shall ensure that the technical assistance it provides is consistent with
21 Philippine Good Agricultural Practices (PHILGAP) or a set of standards and
22 regulations ensuring food quality and safety, facilitation of market access,
23 establishment of community farmers' markets, and reduction in non-compliance with
24 issuances regarding permitted pesticides and other contamination hazards, as provided
25 under Republic Act No. 10611, otherwise known as the "Food Safety Act of 2013", and
26 relevant laws.
27

28 The DA, in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST),
29 DENR, the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of Public Works and
30 Highways (PDWH) shall also undertake the establishment of rainwater harvesting
31 facilities in compliance with Republic Act No. 6716, entitled "An Act Providing for the

1 Construction of Water Wells, Rainwater Collectors, Development of Spring and
2 Rehabilitation of Existing Water Wells in All Barangays in the Philippines”, renewable
3 energy systems, and solid waste management systems, including waste-to-energy
4 facilities, to provide sustainable supply of water, energy, and compost to community
5 gardens, food forest gardens, and urban farms.

6
7 **SEC. 6. Urban Agriculture and Aquaculture in Urban Planning.** – The DHSUD, in
8 coordination with the DA, shall ensure the integration of concepts and principles of
9 urban agriculture and its relationship to other processes in the food system in urban
10 planning. Accordingly, the DHSUD and DA shall promote sustainable, smart, and
11 organic food production systems that harness the benefits of new technologies and
12 methods in soil, nutrient, water, and energy management, such as composting,
13 rainwater harvesting, and utilization of renewable energy. The DHSUD shall also
14 ensure the rational use of land resources in urban planning to promote sustainable peri-
15 urban interface, as well as for the spatial requirements of supply chain management
16 and logistics to strengthen urban-rural foodshed linkages.

17
18 Towards these ends, the DHSUD shall promulgate guidelines for the harmonization
19 of the comprehensive land use plans and zoning ordinances of LGUs with urban
20 agriculture policies, frameworks, strategies, and standards.

21
22 All LGUs are hereby mandated to incorporate urban agricultural development in
23 their respective Annual Development Plans, Annual Investment Plans, Physical
24 Framework Plans, and Development Master Plans, including the hiring of agriculturists
25 and agricultural and biosystems engineers to carry out urban agriculture program.

26
27 Likewise, LGUs, with the assistance of DA, Department of Interior and Local
28 Government (DILG), and the Department of Information and Communications
29 Technology (DICT), shall establish and maintain a digital information system to
30 facilitate the efficient collection, management, and analysis of urban food systems,
31 agriculture, nutrition data, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of LGU

1 performance vis-à-vis the food system agriculture and nutrition targets, to inform local
2 planning, policy-making, and programming bodies, and to ensure open public access
3 to data.
4

5 **SEC. 7. *Urban Agriculture/Aquaculture Education.*** – The Department of Education
6 (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), with the technical
7 assistance of the DA, shall integrate urban agriculture in the academic curriculum for
8 elementary, secondary, and tertiary level students of both public and private academic
9 institutions offering courses in Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics, and other
10 subjects related to agriculture. A course curriculum on gardening shall be developed
11 and included in the regular curriculum of elementary and secondary education.
12 Instructional materials shall likewise be developed utilizing advanced techniques of
13 crop and food animal production, urban agriculture and farming, and cultivating
14 awareness and appreciation of genetic biodiversity, heirloom and endemic flora and
15 fauna, and agroecological principles.
16

17 The DepEd, with the assistance of the DA, shall strengthen the implementation of its
18 Gulayan sa Paaralan Program in elementary and secondary schools. The establishment
19 of school gardens shall be encouraged to ensure continuous supply of vegetables for
20 school feeding, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as the
21 “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Filipino Act”.
22

23 For universities and colleges, urban agriculture shall form part of the required period
24 of time spent by students in the National Service Training Program. A plan for the
25 utilization or maximization of space occupied by schools shall be formulated
26 specifically for urban agriculture purposes.
27

28 **SEC. 8. *Urban Agriculture Awareness Campaign.*** – The DILG, National Nutrition
29 Council (NNC), and LGUs are mandated to formulate policies on urban farming in
30 consonance with the provisions of this Act and be at the forefront of community-based
31 education and awareness campaigns. For this purpose, LGUs shall mobilize existing

1 structures and local bodies such as the provincial, city, and municipal agricultural
2 offices, the provincial, city, municipal, and barangay agriculture and fishery councils,
3 the provincial, city, municipal, and barangay federation of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK)
4 and the youth sector represented in any local special body under LGUs.

5
6 The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall integrate urban
7 agriculture and community nutrition in the seminar-workshops and training programs
8 to educate qualified household-beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Filipino
9 Program (4Ps).

10
11 **SEC. 9. *Research and Development.*** – The DA and the DOST, as well as relevant state
12 universities, government research and development institutions, and the private sector,
13 shall intensify research on methods and technologies to support urban agriculture,
14 including the development and operation of sustainable demonstration of urban
15 community gardens, food forest gardens, greenhouse, indoor, roof, and vertical farms.

16
17 **SEC. 10. *Incentives.*** – Compliance by subdivision and condominium developers and
18 owners with Section 5 of this Act may qualify them for incentives provided for under
19 Republic Act No. 10771, otherwise known as the “Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016”,
20 subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and the
21 DHSUD.

22
23 The commitment and performance of LGUs in the implementation of this Act shall
24 be included in the criteria for the awarding of the Seal of Good Local Governance and
25 the provision of incentives, provided for under Republic Act No. 11292, otherwise
26 known as “The Seal of Good Local Governance Act of 2019”.

27
28 Loans extended by government and private banks to participating individuals,
29 corporations, and partnerships shall be treated as compliance with Republic Act No.
30 10000, otherwise known as “The Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 11. *Inter-Agency Coordination.*** - There is hereby established a National
2 Convergence Program on Urban Agriculture and Aquaculture. The DA is hereby
3 designated as the Lead Implementing Agency and the Secretariat of the Convergence
4 Program. The following agencies shall perform duties and responsibilities in order to
5 develop and sustain concerted action to promote urban agriculture:

6
7 (a) The DA shall provide technical assistance and support services to LGUs,
8 community-based cooperatives, homeowners' associations, neighborhood
9 associations, and people's organizations to ensure the viability and cost-
10 effectiveness of urban agriculture projects, and through its Bureau of
11 Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering, shall provide the design, specifications,
12 establishment strategies, promotion, regulation and technical assistance in the
13 fabrication of production models of indoor farming, vertical farming, and other
14 urban agriculture machineries, equipment, and facilities;

15
16 (b) The DHSUD shall encourage the integration of urban agriculture principles,
17 policies, strategies, frameworks, and standards in the design and development
18 of subdivisions and condominium projects. The DHSUD shall ensure such
19 integration in public housing projects and in the preparation or updating of
20 development and investment plans, Comprehensive Land Use Plans, and
21 zoning ordinances of LGUs. The DHSUD shall also promulgate the necessary
22 rules and monitor compliance therewith. The DHSUD shall provide assistance
23 to homeowners' associations to strengthen their capacity to undertake urban
24 agriculture or aquaculture projects in their neighborhoods and communities;

25
26 (c) The DILG shall monitor the compliance of LGUs with the provisions of this Act
27 in order to determine their qualification for the incentives provided under R.A.
28 11292;

29
30 (d) The DepEd shall integrate the principles and practice of urban agriculture using
31 advanced crop production techniques like soilless agriculture, indoor farming,
32 or vertical farming to include modern methods of irrigation and automated

1 systems into the primary and secondary education curricula, including the
2 establishment of school gardens under the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program. The
3 DepEd shall ensure adequate capacity-building programs, such as training
4 workshop, hands-on training, or immersion program of teachers, and the
5 development of appropriate instructional materials such as educational video
6 and manual for this purpose;

7
8 (e) The DOST shall conduct research on modern, cost-effective methods and
9 technologies to support urban agricultural production, as well as post-harvest
10 handling of surplus produce from urban agriculture projects;

11
12 (f) The DTI shall provide technical assistance in processing and packaging of
13 surplus produce from urban agriculture and aquaculture projects and ensure
14 access of LGUs, cooperatives, homeowners' associations, and people's
15 organizations to markets;

16
17 (g) The DOF shall administer the grant of incentives under Section 10 of this Act to
18 qualified persons based on their compliance with Section 5 of this Act;

19
20 (h) The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall ensure adequate
21 funding for the functions and programs provided for by and under this Act;

22
23 (i) The CHED shall develop and implement curriculum on capacity-building
24 programs such as training workshop, hands-on training, or immersion program
25 and related standards and instructional materials in support of urban
26 agriculture;

27
28 (j) The DPWH in compliance with R.A. 6716 is mandated to undertake construction
29 of water wells, rainwater collectors, development of springs, and rehabilitation
30 of existing water wells in all barangays in the Philippines, taking into
31 consideration the population, hydrologic conditions, costs of project
32 development and operations, financial and economic factors, and institutional
33 arrangements;

- 1
2 (k) The NNC and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute shall assist the DepEd
3 in identifying the crops to be cultivated in school farms and in preparing
4 nutritious food, pursuant to standardized menus to ensure child nutrition
5 provided for under R.A. 11037, and in developing the modules on nutrition;
6
7 (l) The CDA shall provide guidance and assistance to LGUs in the development of
8 cooperatives within their jurisdiction;
9
10 (m) The Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor shall undertake social
11 preparation activities to encourage participation of the poor and
12 underprivileged communities in the preparation and planning of the
13 implementation and evaluation of urban development projects;
14
15 (n) The Philippine Information Agency shall undertake a nationwide information
16 campaign, utilizing all forms of media, to raise awareness and encourage
17 participation of the public in the implementation of this Act, in close
18 coordination with other cultural agencies such as the National Commission for
19 Culture and Arts and the Film Development Council of the Philippines;
20
21 (o) The Council for the Welfare of Children shall integrate urban agriculture in the
22 formulation of programs and measures providing dynamic leadership in
23 ensuring a child-friendly and child-sensitive society; and
24
25 (p) The National Youth Commission, as the Philippines' sole policy-making body
26 on youth affairs and consistent with its role in coordinating and implementing
27 programs designed to help the youth become more aware of the issues
28 surrounding them, shall include an appreciation of urban agriculture.
29

30 **SEC. 12. *Performance Report to Congress.*** – The DA and partner agencies in the
31 National Convergence Program on Urban Agriculture and Aquaculture shall submit
32 annual performance reports to Congress.
33

1 **SEC. 13. *Appropriations.*** - The funds necessary to carry out the initial
2 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the respective budget of concerned
3 agencies for the current year. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
4 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
5 Appropriations Act.

6
7 **SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days from the
8 effectivity of this Act, the agencies under the National Convergence Program on Urban
9 Agriculture and Aquaculture shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and
10 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

11
12 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act is held
13 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall
14 continue to remain in full force and effect.

15
16 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and
17 regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified
18 accordingly.

19
20 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
21 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22
23 *Approved,*