

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10548**



Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samanta Taliño Santos

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE FILIPINO YOUTH INVOLVEMENT
AGRICULTURE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

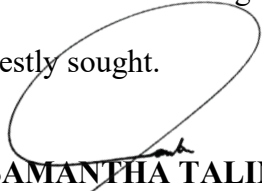
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The average age of Philippine farmers is 57 to 59 years old. In 2022, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data shows that the poverty rate among farmers is starkly high at 30 percent in comparison to the 18 percent national average. As a result, many farmers dissuade their children, effectively the younger generation, to pursue agriculture as a viable livelihood. The youth favor other career opportunities, making agriculture an aging sector. This is also reflected in the PSA Labor Force Survey. Its February 2024 data reveals that agriculture and forestry is the top industry with the largest drop in year-on-year employment. This demographic shift clearly points to an imminent manpower crisis in farming.

While this decreasing interest in agriculture is already the common notion, there is still a youth population who are still involved in their families' agricultural livelihood. These agripreneurs have untapped potential and need to be empowered. Today, there are an estimated 31.4 million Filipinos aged 15 to 30 years, roughly making 30 percent of the total population. This makes the youth at the forefront of sustainable growth and development of the country.

This bill acknowledges that the youth have defining attributes that will revive modern agriculture, such as utilizing technology and connections in the digital age. In order to sustain the youth's direct involvement in the agriculture sector, this bill seeks to encourage the participation of young farmers by institutionalizing the support of the National Government through a whole-of-government government approach. Through the creation of youth agricultural hubs and the Youth Entrepreneurship Trade Fair, it seeks to provide the youth with the technical education and awareness needed for the development of rural farming areas and modern agriculture.

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


MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS
Representative
3rd District, Cotabato Province

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10548**

Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samanta Taliño Santos

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE FILIPINO YOUTH INVOLVEMENT
AGRICULTURE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Young Agripreneurs Act of 2024."

Sec. 2. *Coverage.* - This Act shall apply to all provinces, cities and municipalities.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a) Agripreneur - shall refer to one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise in agriculture;
- b) Youth - as defined in Republic Act No. 8044, shall refer to citizens who are within the ages 15 to 30 years old;
- c) Youth Agricultural Hubs - shall refer to a center established under this Act for the purpose of providing trainings, assistance, and opportunities; monitoring and evaluation programs, projects, and activities; and facilitating partnerships among stakeholders in the promotion of youth involvement in agriculture

=

Sec. 4. *Rationale.* - All provincial and city government are mandated to establish Youth Agricultural Hubs that will help and guide the youth in their entrepreneurship undertakings and provide greater opportunities and engage the youth in agriculture.

Sec 5. *Creation of Youth Agricultural Hubs.* -The following agricultural hubs are hereby established:

- a) Provincial Government shall conduct an assessment to determine placement of the Youth Agricultural Hubs in the provinces and highly urbanized cities. Municipalities with sufficient funds have the discretion to create their own Youth Agricultural Hubs subject to the provision of Sec. 9 hereof for the necessary funding.
- b) Cities and municipalities shall encourage partnerships with different government agencies and other stakeholders.
- c) The Department of Agriculture regional offices shall perform oversight functions and assign personnel to fulfill the functions of the Youth Agricultural Hubs.

Sec. 6. *Functions of the Youth Agricultural Hubs.* - The Youth Agricultural Hubs shall have the following functions:

- a) Shall facilitate trainings for the youth focusing on agriculture, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and other related courses;
- b) Shall be a venue for research farming extensions;
- c) Shall coordinate and establish partnerships with government agencies, LGUs, and non-government organizations, civil society, private sector, among others;
- d) Shall facilitate the request for additional financial assistance and referral to appropriate funding agencies;
- e) Shall monitor implementation and evaluate progress of the approved and funded projects;
- f) Shall prepare and submit progress reports of the approved and funded projects to the LGUs; and
- g) Shall organize programs, projects, and activities to further promote youth engagement in agriculture.

Sec. 7. *Youth Entrepreneurship Trade Fair.* - There shall be a series of youth agripreneurship trade fairs showcasing the youth's agricultural products.

a) Schedule:

- I. Provincial Level every September;
- II. Regional Level every October; and
- III. National Level every November

b) Events:

- i. Project Pitching Competition;
- ii. Awarding of Outstanding Youth-Led Agricultural Programs, Projects, and Activities; and
- III. Other youth-related agricultural activities

Sec. 8. *Coordinating Agencies.* -

- a) Department of Agriculture
- b) Department of Agrarian Reform
- c) Department of Trade and Industry
- d) Department of Science and Technology
- e) Department of Interior and Local Government
- f) Department of Social Welfare and Development (SLP)
- g) Technical Educational Skills Development Authority
- h) Department of Education
- i) Commission on Higher Education
- j) National Youth Commission
- k) National Economic and Development Authority
- l) Philippine Statistics Authority
- m) National Commission on Indigenous People
- n) National Council on Disability Affairs

Sec. 9. *Appropriation.* - The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be taken from the appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such amount as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Annual Appropriations.

Sec. 10. *Repealing Cause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

Sec. 11. *Separability Cause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 12. *Effectivity Cause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of Its publication In the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,