

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11296



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Partylist Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture used to be one of the Philippines' strongest sectors in the economy. However, agriculture's share in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been declining. From around 23 percent in 1988, agriculture's share in the GDP rolled down to 8.8 percent in 2019.¹ Although it increased to 9.39 percent in 2023,² trend shows that agriculture, as a sector, contributes less and less to the country's economy, in relation to manufacturing and services.

The agricultural sector should not be left to decline, as a boosted agricultural sector would help us with food security and poverty issues. Thus, there is a need to infuse advancements made in agricultural technology with our farmers. This proposed measure addresses the need for technological advancement and expert support in the agricultural sector. By establishing Agri-Tech Centers and assigning skilled agricultural technicians, the Act aims to boost local agricultural productivity, enhance sustainability, and provide vital support to Filipino farmers.

It is for these foregoing premises that approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?end=2023&locations=PH&start=1960&view=chart>

² *Id.*

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL
TECHNICIAN IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT AND
ENHANCING THE OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES OF THE
TECHNICIANS THEREOF**

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

SECTION 1. Title. – Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Agricultural Technician and Agri-Tech Center Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote sustainable agricultural development, enhance productivity, and provide support to farmers through access to modern agricultural technologies and technical expertise.

SECTION 3. Definition. As used in this Act:

- a) **Agricultural Technician or Agri-Technician** – individuals trained in the hard sciences or engineering, who apply such knowledge and skills in agricultural production, processing, and research.
- b) **Agri-Tech Centers** – Facilities designed to provide farmers and local communities access to modern agricultural technologies, training, equipment, and research resources to enhance productivity and sustainability.

SECTION 4. Coverage. - All Local Government Units and the Department of Agriculture are mandated to comply with the provisions of this Act. The creation of Agri-Tech Centers in localities with high agricultural activity is hereby encouraged as a priority initiative.

SECTION 5. Assignment of Agri-Technicians. - The Department of Agriculture, through its regional and local offices, shall provide at least one (1) agri-technician for each level of local government.

Agri-technicians shall:

- a) Conduct research to improve agricultural practices;
- b) Maintain and operate agricultural equipment and tools used by farmers;
- c) Provide technical assistance and recommendations to their local office to improve agricultural conditions;
- d) Collaborate with Agri-Tech Centers to ensure farmers have access to training, equipment, and modern technologies.

Agri-technicians may not hold another public office concurrently with this role.

SECTION 6. Establishment of Agri-Tech Centers. - LGUs, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and other relevant government agencies, are encouraged to establish Agri-Tech Centers in appropriate areas. These centers shall:

- a) Serve as hubs for training farmers on modern agricultural techniques and technologies;
- b) Provide access to agricultural tools, equipment, and resources;
- c) Promote sustainable farming practices and climate-resilient technologies;
- d) Act as research facilities for studying and addressing local agricultural challenges.

The DA shall develop guidelines and provide technical support for the establishment and operation of Agri-Tech Centers.

SECTION 7. - Supervision and Control. - The Department of Agriculture, through their regional and local offices, shall exercise control and supervision over the activities and outputs of the assigned agri-technicians per locale.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. - The funds necessary for the initial and continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provision of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,