

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **521**



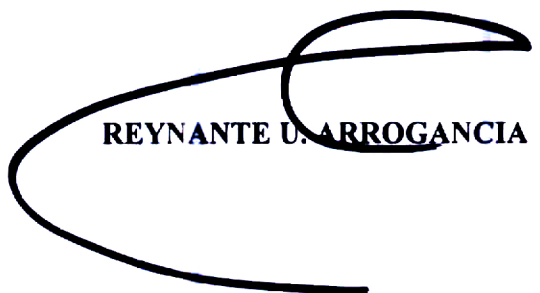
Introduced by Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Governments have set as one of its sustainable goals to end hunger and food insecurity in 2030. One of the barriers identified as the cause of hunger are declining food production and climate shocks. Hence, it is imperative to invest in systems that would build and strengthen resilience from disasters and climate shocks in the agriculture sector.

This bill seeks the institutionalization of a responsive crop climate calendar throughout the country. The crop climate calendar shall be an adjusted schedule for planting and harvesting, and other critical periods based on adverse weather forecasts. In coordination with municipal, city and provincial agriculturists, the Department of Agriculture shall implement a continuing program for all farmers and farmers' organizations to formulate, use, and interpret crop climate calendars that are tailor-made for each specific locality or community.

This bill has been filed in previous Congresses, but it is hoped that in the 20th Congress, this bill will become a law. In view of the foregoing, this representation seeks approval of this bill.


REYNANTE U. ARROGANCIA

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House Bill No. **521**

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AN ACT
ENHANCING THE RESILIENCY, ADAPTABILITY OF FARMERS TO ADVERSE WEATHER AND CLIMATE EVENTS BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE USE OF ADAPTIVE 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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Climate-Resilient Agriculture
2 Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** In recognition of the importance of agriculture in the
5 country’s economic development, the State shall enhance the resiliency and adaptability of
6 the sector against the adverse effects of weather disturbances and climate change that
7 endanger productivity levels and harvest yield. Climate resiliency, sustainability and
8 innovation shall be a priority government intervention for the agriculture sector.
9

10 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as
11 follows:
12

13 (a) *Crop climate calendar* refers a visual tool that presents the phenology and cultivation
14 practices of a crop against the timeline of the cropping season, containing information
15 on the weather and climate states that occur in the locality and the risks faced by the
16 crop per growing stage in relation to these;
17

18 (b) *Climate-sensitive decision* refers to decisions that hinge on weather and climate
19 states, with final outcomes and even decision alternatives which are varying
20 depending on the prevailing weather phenomena;
21

22 (c) *Localized weather and climate information* refers to information on weather and
23 climate phenomena that are particularized down to the city and municipal level.
24

25 **SEC. 4. *Adaptive Crop Climate Calendars.*** – The Department of Agriculture (DA), shall
26 establish and promote the use of adaptive crop climate calendars throughout the Philippines.
27 The crop climate calendar shall be an adjusted schedule for planting and harvesting, and

other critical periods based on adverse weather forecasts. In coordination with municipal, city and provincial agriculturists, the DA shall implement a continuing program for all farmers and farmers' organizations to formulate, use, and interpret crop climate calendars that are tailor-made for each specific locality or community. It shall consider various factors such as but not limited to the following:

- (a) Climatic conditions
- (b) Crop growing seasons
- (c) Crop life cycles
- (d) Farming practices (planting, harvesting and postharvest activities before, during and after a weather event or disturbance)
- (e) Seeds and water availability and constraints
- (f) Up-to-date local market crop requirements

These crop climate calendars shall be distributed free-of-charge to all farmers and farmers' organizations and be made available online.

SEC. 5. *Climate-Sensitive Decision-Making.* – The Department of Agriculture, 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.

78 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
79 *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
80
81 *Approved,*