

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1305



Introduced by Representative **STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In July 2024, there were a 1.02 million unemployed youth in the Philippines. This figure represents a 172,000 increase, compared to the previous year. Specifically, this refers to individuals aged 15-24 years old. The youth labor force participation rate was 34.2% in July, with an employment rate of 85.2%. The total employment comprises 49.15 million people of which 24% comprises the agricultural employment. But the challenges concerning agriculture are that fishermen and farmers had the highest poverty incidence among the country's basic sectors, according to the National Statistical Office. Average age of farmers in the Philippines is between 55 years old to 57 years old. In the Philippine setting, new generations of Filipinos refuse to go farming, and that is a threat to food security. Experts predict that the Philippines will face a critical shortage of farmers in 10 to 12 years. More so, in many countries of Asia, the skills of the Filipino youth in rural areas are not fully harnessed for the agricultural industry. As a result, traditional farming methods are gradually fading as a practice in rural communities. Other national, local governments and international agencies often overlook the youth's potentials. Most rural youth are unemployed, underemployed, or forced to work in urban communities.

Making farming more profitable is the first step to attract younger people to the agricultural sector. Viable ventures should be established into the production of high-value crops that has local following or have export potential in raw or processed forms like coffee, cacao, mango, cassava, palm, and rubber. In preparing the youth to the agricultural sector, the current curriculum must improve and emphasize in agriculture, food technologies production, biotechnology and chemistry, economics, international trade and enterprise.

Entrepreneurship is often perceived as a driver for growth and job creation as well as means to make economies more competitive and innovative. However, supporting entrepreneurship goes beyond simply helping entrepreneurs or would-be entrepreneurs, and providing administrative and financial conditions conducive to business creation. It also allows spurring entrepreneurial spirit throughout society, in particular among the youth, stimulating their creativity, initiative, and sense of responsibility as well as providing the skills and knowledge needed to set up and run a business. Hence, education and training are vital for changing cultures and igniting entrepreneurial mindsets at an early age.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen Tan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and the last name "Tan" clearly visible.

STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

Representative, First District of Samar

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE FILIPINO YOUTH INVOLVEMENT
IN AGRICULTURE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Section 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the “*Young Agripreneurs Act of 2022.*”

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

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

- (a) *Youth* – as defined in Republic Act 8044, refer to citizens who are within the ages 15 to 30 years old;
- (b) *Provinces and Highly Urbanized Cities* – a center providing trainings, assistance, and opportunities; monitoring and evaluation programs, projects, ad activities; and facilitating partnerships among stakeholders in the promotion of youth involvement in agriculture; and
- (c) *Agripreneur* – one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise in agriculture.

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

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 7. *Youth Agripreneurship 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.

Section 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

Section 9. *Appropriation.* The three percent (3%) of the Internal Revenue Allocation (IRA) of the LGU concerned shall be appropriated for the Youth Agricultural Hubs and may be increased as determined to be appropriate by the LGU.

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

Section 11. *Separability Clause.* 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 Clause.* 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,