

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3180



Introduced by REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Based on 2015 data from the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region, the Philippines has a total land area of 30 million hectares, and significant portion of which is devoted to agriculture and cultivated by over five million Filipino farmers. As a predominantly agricultural country, the sector plays a vital role in the national economy, providing employment to a large portion of the population and contributing significantly to the country's overall development.

To accelerate recovery, reduce poverty, and achieve inclusive growth, agriculture must evolve into a dynamic and high-performing sector. In this context, soil testing emerges as a critical component in enhancing agricultural productivity, ensuring environmental sustainability, and uplifting the livelihood of Filipino farmers.

This bill proposes the establishment of a Soil Testing Laboratory Facility in each agricultural district in the Philippines. These laboratories will serve as hubs for analyzing soil productivity, conducting research, and providing technical assistance in key areas such as soil erosion control, fertility preservation, and nutrient management. By empowering farmers with accurate soil data, they can make informed decisions about crop selection and fertilizer application, leading to better yields and improved incomes.

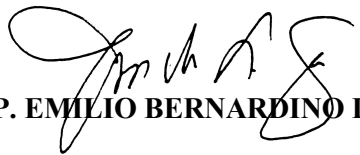
As the nation grapples with the dual challenge of food insecurity and a growing population, enhancing soil health through systematic testing is key to increasing food production and reducing dependency on agricultural imports. Soil degradation and nutrient depletion continue to threaten farmlands across the country. The availability of local soil testing facilities will enable smallholder farmers to address these problems effectively and sustainably.

The Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), under the Department of Agriculture, currently serves as the national agency responsible for soil resource assessment and management. Its mandate includes providing analytical and technical services related to soil and water resource development. In support of the decentralization

principles under the Local Government Code, BSWM also collaborates with local government units (LGUs) to deliver agricultural extension services to farmers and farmer groups.

The creation of soil testing laboratories at the district level will complement the BSWM's efforts by making soil services more accessible to grassroots communities. These facilities will help determine soil nutrient levels, pH balance, and physical properties—key data points that can prevent erosion, mitigate degradation, and boost crop productivity. With access to such vital services, farmers, policymakers, and researchers will be better equipped to make science-based decisions that support the sustainable growth of Philippine agriculture and enhance national food security.

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


REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SOIL TESTING LABORATORY FACILITY IN
EACH AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the “Soil Facility Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to accelerate agricultural development by optimizing the use of resources such as soils with the goal of attaining food security for domestic use and expanding agricultural production for export.

SEC. 3. *Soil Testing Laboratory Facility.* There shall be established a Soil Testing Laboratory Facility in each agricultural district in the Philippines which shall primarily study the impact of soil productivity, conduct soil research projects, collaborate with relevant government agencies to provide technical assistance in soil erosion prevention, fertility preservation, and other related areas, ultimately assisting individual farmers and the country's agricultural system.

Existing facilities that would meet the minimum standards or could be upgraded to effectively serve as Soil Testing Laboratory facilities could be designated as such in compliance with the LGU where the facility in each agricultural district is situated.

SEC. 4. *Functions.* Each Soil Testing Laboratory Facility shall have the

following functions, including but not limited to:

- a. To provide services in chemical analysis and soil testing to farmers and the general public and provide a basis for fertilizer usage recommendations;
- b. To provide an index of soil nutrient availability and determine whether fertilizer will be profitable;
- c. To evaluate the soil fertility condition and a district-level foundation for soil;
- d. To establish guidelines, procedures and techniques for the analysis of soil, fertilizers and other essential agricultural production components; and
- e. To identify problem soil areas for research and development and thereafter formulate strategies, programs, standards, techniques, and procedures for the facility's effective operation in accordance with the policies of the DA.

SEC. 5. *Operation and Management.* The facility shall be under the direct supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in collaboration with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), which shall ensure effective soil resources utilization by undertaking projects and research on soil conservation, soil testing, and other related activities. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations for their proper use and maintenance.

SEC. 6. *Reporting and Recording.* The Soil Testing Laboratory Facility shall record all findings and recommendations, and shall report to the DA in accordance with its current reporting system.

SEC. 7. *Personnel.* The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the local government units (LGUs) concerned, shall create positions and determine the qualification of the laboratory personnel needed to operate the facility.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the establishment and operationalization of a Soil Testing Laboratory Facility in each respective agricultural districts, the funding of which shall be included in the budget of the DA under the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 9. *Implementation.* The DA, in coordination with the respective LGUs of the districts, and other concerned agencies, shall formulate, identify, and promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, decree, ordinance or administrative circular not consistent with any provision of this Act is hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,