

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 3798

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture remains the backbone of the Philippine economy, providing livelihoods for millions of Filipino families and ensuring the country's food security. However, despite its vital role, the sector continues to face longstanding challenges, including low productivity, climate vulnerability, lack of access to updated technologies, and fragmented support services.

One of the most pressing issues is the weakness of our agricultural extension system, which serves as the bridge between government programs and the farmers who need them most. While the Local Government Code of 1991 devolved extension services to local government units (LGUs), this has led to uneven service delivery, with many municipalities and provinces lacking the manpower, resources, or technical capability to consistently support their local farmers.

To address this gap, this proposed measure seeks to establish a nationwide network of Barangay Agriculture Technicians (BATs)—trained personnel embedded in every barangay to serve as frontliners of agricultural development.

These BATs will:

- Deliver real-time information on weather, pest outbreaks, market prices, and government programs;
- Conduct on-the-ground monitoring of crop conditions, planting cycles, and farmers' needs;
- Provide technical support and training to farmers on best practices, innovations, and sustainable farming techniques;
- Facilitate timely coordination between farmers and municipal or provincial agriculture offices;
- Serve as vital data-gathering agents for policy planning and program evaluation at the national level.

By positioning BATs in every barangay, this bill seeks to deepen the reach of extension services, ensure inclusive agricultural support, and empower our farmers to make informed, productive, and resilient decisions.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 3798

AN ACT

**MANDATING THE HIRING OF ONE (1) BARANGAY AGRICULTURE TECHNICIAN (BAT)
FOR EVERY BARANGAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Purpose and Objectives. – This Act aims to strengthen the agricultural extension services in the Philippines by establishing a network of Barangay Agriculture Technicians (BATs) who will serve as frontliners in providing real-time information, monitoring, and support to farmers at the grassroots level.

Section 2. Creation of Barangay Agriculture Technicians Program. – The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall allocate resources to hire one (1) Barangay Agriculture Technician (BAT) for every barangay nationwide. The BATs shall be responsible for:

- a) Gathering and reporting real-time agricultural data for planning, decision-making, and policy development;
- b) Assisting DA regional offices in monitoring and delivering project support to farmers;
- c) Conducting pest and disease surveillance and reporting;
- d) Providing field extension services and technical assistance to farmers;
- e) Coordinating with Municipal Agriculturists and other stakeholders.

Section 3. Functions and Responsibilities. – The BATs shall perform the following functions:

- a) Collect and report agricultural data, including crop yields, pest and disease incidence, and weather conditions;
- b) Provide technical assistance and training to farmers on best practices, climate-smart agriculture, and other relevant topics;
- c) Facilitate the delivery of DA project support, including seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs;
- d) Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of agricultural projects and programs;
- e) Collaborate with other government agencies, private sector, and civil society organizations to promote agricultural development.

Section 4. Training and Capacity Building – The DA shall provide training and capacity-building programs for BATs to enhance their skills and knowledge in agricultural extension services, data collection and analysis, and other relevant areas.

Section 5. Support and Benefits – The DA shall provide support to BATs, including:

- a) Honorarium and allowance;
- b) Health care benefits;
- c) Other forms of support as may be determined by the DA.

Section 6. Coordination with Local Government Units. – The BATs shall work closely with Municipal Agriculturists and other local government officials to ensure effective delivery of agricultural services and support to farmers.

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DA shall issue implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within 90 days from the effectivity of this Act.

Section 8. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,