

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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4326



Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

AN ACT
AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PILI RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INSTITUTE
(PIRII) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, PROVIDING FOR ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is facing a demographic and structural challenge in agriculture. In July 2024, 1.02 million Filipino youth were unemployed, an increase of 172,000 from the previous year. At the same time, the average age of farmers remains between 55 to 57 years old, raising concerns about generational succession in agriculture and food security. Experts warn that the country could face a critical shortage of farmers within the next 10 to 12 years.

Despite agriculture employing nearly one-fourth of the national labor force, fishermen and farmers consistently record the highest poverty incidence among basic sectors. Many young Filipinos in rural areas remain unemployed, underemployed, or migrate to urban centers for limited opportunities. Traditional farming practices are fading, and the skills and creativity of rural youth are underutilized.

To reverse this trend, agriculture must be repositioned as a profitable and innovative venture. Making farming and fisheries attractive to young people requires investments in agripreneurship, value-adding activities, and the promotion of high-value crops and enterprises with both domestic and export potential, such as cacao, coffee, cassava, palm, rubber, and aquaculture.

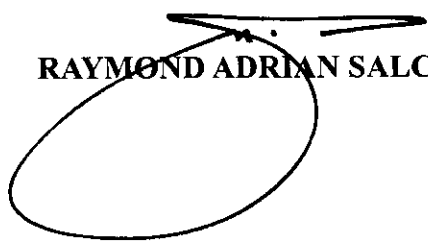
Education and training are crucial. Curricula at all levels must be updated to emphasize modern agriculture, biotechnology, food technology, entrepreneurship, and agribusiness. Youth must also be given access to financing, markets, and mentorship to build successful enterprises.

This proposed measure, to be known as the Young Agripreneurs Act, seeks to:

1. Establish **Youth Agricultural Hubs** in provinces, highly urbanized cities, and municipalities to provide training, incubation, and mentoring in agriculture and agribusiness;
2. Promote **financial literacy and entrepreneurship training** for youth, linked with government financing facilities such as Land Bank, ACPC's Kapital Access for Young Agripreneurs (KAYA) Program, and credit windows under the Sagip Saka Act (RA 11321);
3. Institutionalize **Youth Agripreneurship Trade Fairs** at provincial, regional, and national levels to showcase products, pitch projects, and award outstanding youth-led initiatives;
4. Require **multi-agency convergence**, with DA as lead, in partnership with DAR, DTI, TESDA, DepEd, CHED, NYC, and other agencies to align training, technology support, and market linkages;
5. Mandate LGUs to allocate resources for hubs from their development funds while enabling them to tap GAD budgets, agri-fisheries modernization funds, and partnerships with the private sector; and
6. Ensure integration of youth agripreneurship in national databases such as the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) for planning and targeting.

By linking education, financing, and enterprise development, this measure empowers the Filipino youth as the next generation of farmers, fisherfolk, and agripreneurs. It not only addresses youth unemployment but also ensures food security and rural transformation.

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


RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA

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HOUSE BILL NO. **4326**

Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PILI RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INSTITUTE (PiRII)
UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, PROVIDING FOR ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the “Pili Research and Innovation Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the development of the Pili industry as a pillar of inclusive rural development, export competitiveness, and food security. The State shall foster research, innovation, and technology transfer for the Pili nut and its by-products, strengthen market linkages domestically and abroad, and ensure that Pili farmers and processors benefit equitably from the industry’s growth.

SEC. 3. *Creation of the Pili Research and Innovation Institute.* There is hereby created the Pili Research and Innovation Institute (PiRII), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA), to serve as the national center of excellence for Pili research, innovation, and industry development.

SEC. 4. *Functions.* PiRII shall:

- (a) Conduct agricultural, industrial, and market-oriented research on Pili production and processing;
- (b) Acquire, develop, and propagate improved plant materials and technologies;
- (c) Train farmers, processors, students, and professionals on Pili production, utilization, and entrepreneurship;

- (d) Provide extension services and integrate Pili research with the DA's Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and RSBSA-based farmer profiling;
- (e) Coordinate with CHED and DOST to provide scholarships, fellowships, and exchange programs in Pili-related disciplines;
- (f) Develop value-adding and high-value Pili products such as oil, cosmetics, nutraceuticals, and specialty foods, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Philippine Export Development Council;
- (g) Consolidate research and operate an information and library center on Pili;
- (h) Organize local and international conferences and trade fairs to brand Pili as a Philippine superfood; and
- (i) Publish and disseminate research findings and policy recommendations.

SEC. 5. *Organizational Structure.* PiRII shall be headed by a Director General, appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture. The organizational structure and staffing shall be determined by the Director General with approval of the DA and DBM.

SEC. 6. *Funding.* An initial amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (₱100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the establishment and initial operations of PiRII, charged against the budget of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for its continued operations shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. PiRII may also access funds from the DA's GAD budget, Sagip Saka Act procurement programs, and export promotion funds of the DTI.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act, the DA, in consultation with CHED, DOST, DTI, and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,