

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4984



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is an agricultural country, yet the sector faces a looming crisis: an aging workforce and a significant decline in the number of young people entering the field. The average age of a Filipino farmer is reported to be between 55 and 59 years old. This demographic trend poses a grave threat to the nation's food security and long-term economic sustainability. The youth, who are the future of our nation, often perceive agriculture as a laborious, unprofitable, and technologically backward career. This perception, coupled with a lack of access to land, capital, and modern technology, drives many young Filipinos away from rural communities and into urban centers in search of more promising opportunities.

While existing laws and programs—such as Republic Act No. 8044 of the Youth in Nation-Building Act and the Department of Agriculture's various loan and training programs—have made strides, a more comprehensive and institutionalized approach is necessary. There is a need for a legislative framework that will not only provide financial and technical support but also fundamentally change the public's perception of farming by promoting it as a viable, modern, and dignified profession.

This proposed bill seeks to address these critical issues by establishing a holistic and sustainable national program to attract, empower, and support young Filipinos in agriculture. It aims to modernize agricultural education, provide accessible financial and land resources, and foster a culture of agripreneurship and innovation. By doing so, we can ensure a new generation of farmers, agri-innovators, and food security champions who will lead the country toward a more prosperous and self-reliant future.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4984

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE FILIPINO YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN
AGRICULTURE BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE YOUNG FARMERS AND
AGRIPRENEURS PROGRAM, PROVIDING INCENTIVES, EXPANDING
ACCESS TO LAND AND CAPITAL, MODERNIZING AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “Young Farmers and Agripreneurs Act of 2025.”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

1. Recognize the Vital Role of the Youth. Acknowledge the indispensable role of the youth in nation-building, particularly in ensuring food security, rural development, and agricultural modernization.
2. Promote Sustainable and Modern Agriculture. Re-brand and promote agriculture as a profitable, technologically-advanced, and dignified profession that is critical to the national economy.
3. Institutionalize Support. Provide a comprehensive and institutionalized framework of support for young Filipinos who wish to engage in agriculture, from education to production and marketing.
4. Empower Agripreneurs. Foster a culture of agri-entrepreneurship among the youth by providing them with the necessary skills, resources, and market access to establish their own agricultural enterprises.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- Young Farmer/Agripreneur. A Filipino citizen between eighteen (18) and forty (40) years of age who is engaged or intends to engage in agricultural and/or fisheries production, processing, agri-business, or agri-based services.
- Agriculture. Includes the cultivation of the soil, the production of crops, and the raising of livestock and poultry, including aquaculture and fisheries.
- Agri-Business. Refers to the various economic activities that provide inputs to, and process and market the products of, agricultural production.
- Agri-based Enterprise. An enterprise involved in any aspect of agriculture, including production, processing, marketing, or service provision.

Sec. 4. *Creation of the Young Farmers and Agripreneurs Program.* - The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of Education (DepEd), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall establish and institutionalize the "Young Farmers and Agripreneurs Program" (YFAP). The YFAP shall serve as the primary national mechanism for the recruitment, training, and support of young Filipinos in the agriculture sector.

Sec. 5. *Components of the Program.* - The YFAP shall consist of the following components:

a) Agri-Education and Training.

- The DepEd and CHED, in coordination with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), shall develop and integrate modern agricultural concepts, including climate-smart farming, precision agriculture, and agri-business management, into the K-12 and tertiary curricula.
- Scholarships and financial grants shall be provided to deserving students who pursue degrees in agriculture, veterinary medicine, food technology, and other related fields.
- The ATI shall establish and expand its "Farm School" and "Learning Site" network to provide hands-on, skills-based training in modern farming techniques.

b) Access to Land and Capital.

- The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall prioritize the allocation of available agricultural lands under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) to qualified young farmers and agripreneurs.
- The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and other government financial institutions (GFIs) shall create a special “Young Agripreneurs Loan Facility” with a simplified application process, zero to low interest rates, and no collateral requirements for starter capital.

c) Technology and Innovation Support.

- The DOST and DA shall provide grants and technical assistance for research and development on agricultural technologies, with a focus on projects led by young innovators.
- A nationwide network of "Agri-Innovation Hubs" shall be established to serve as incubators for agri-startups, providing mentorship, co-working spaces, and access to modern farming equipment and digital tools.

d) Market Linkage and Promotion.

- The DTI, in partnership with the DA, shall establish and promote a "Young Farmers and Agripreneurs Market" to provide direct market access for products from youth-led enterprises, both in physical and online platforms.
- The DA shall provide a mentoring program that links young farmers with experienced agri-business leaders, enabling them to gain knowledge on branding, marketing, and business management.

Sec. 6. - *Incentives and Awards.*

- Young farmers and agripreneurs shall be exempt from certain fees and taxes on their agricultural enterprises for the first five (5) years of operation, subject to the implementing rules and regulations.
- An annual “National Young Agripreneurs Award” shall be created to recognize and honor outstanding young farmers, agri-innovators, and agri-business ventures, providing them with further grants and public recognition.

Sec. 7. *Funding.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, in coordination with the aforementioned government agencies, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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

Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,