

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5020



Introduced by Representative Jan Rurik D. Padiernos, GP (Galing sa Puso) Party-List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture and fisheries remain the backbone of the Philippine economy, employing over 22% of the labor force and providing food and livelihood for millions of Filipinos. Yet productivity remains low compared to regional neighbors, due to fragmented extension services, lack of updated technologies, and limited farmer access to technical support.

Currently, extension services are largely devolved to local government units (LGUs) under the Local Government Code of 1991. While devolution intended to bring services closer to farmers, it has resulted in uneven capacities among LGUs, inadequate resources, and weak coordination with state universities and colleges (SUCs) and national government agencies.

This bill proposes the creation of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA), a unified, province-led system that professionalizes agricultural extension, strengthens farmer capacity, and fosters partnerships among LGUs, SUCs, research institutions, and the private sector.

Key features of the bill include:

1. **Unified Province-Led System.** - Establishing provincial extension hubs as the focal point of extension planning and delivery, ensuring consistency with national priorities while responsive to local needs.
2. **Professionalization of Extension Workers.** - Providing standardized qualifications, training, and career development for agricultural and fisheries extension personnel.
3. **LGU Support and Capacity Building.** - Strengthening municipal and barangay-level extension workers through resources, training, and technical assistance.
4. **Farmer-to-Farmer Learning.** - Institutionalizing farmer field schools, community demonstration farms, and fisherfolk peer-to-peer exchanges.
5. **SUC and Research Involvement.** - Mandating state universities and colleges to serve as knowledge partners, providing science-based innovations and training to LGUs and farmers.
6. **Modernization and Digitization.** - Promoting digital platforms, ICT tools, and climate-smart practices for wider and faster technology dissemination.

This measure directly supports the implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), the Fisheries Code, and the Food Security Agenda of the country, ensuring that extension services are modern, professional, farmer-centered, and inclusive.

In view of the urgency to uplift farmers, fisherfolk, and the rural economy, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ATTY. JAN RURIK D. PADIERNOS
GP (Galing sa Puso) Party-List

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**AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
EXTENSION AGENCY (PAFEA) TO MODERNIZE AGRICULTURE AND
FISHERIES SERVICES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 “Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA) Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to:

- a) Strengthen and modernize agriculture and fisheries extension services to ensure food security, sustainable livelihoods, and rural development;
- b) Professionalize extension workers and institutionalize capacity-building programs;
- c) Establish a unified, province-led extension system that harmonizes LGU efforts with national priorities;
- d) Institutionalize farmer-to-farmer and fisherfolk-to-fisherfolk learning systems;
- e) Promote partnerships with SUCs, ATI, private sector, and research institutions in extension delivery.

SEC. 3. Creation of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA). - There is hereby created the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA) under the Department of Agriculture (DA), with the following powers and functions:

1. Formulate national extension policies, standards, and guidelines;
2. Establish and coordinate Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Hubs as focal points of extension planning and implementation;
3. Develop and implement training programs for extension workers in collaboration with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), SUCs, and TESDA;
4. Institutionalize farmer field schools, demonstration farms, and peer-learning programs;
5. Promote ICT-enabled extension services and climate-resilient practices;
6. Ensure shared responsibility with LGUs, wherein the DA through PAFEA provides policy direction and technical backstopping, while LGUs remain the primary frontline service providers;
7. Strengthen support for farmer cooperatives and organizations to improve access to markets, credit, and technologies;
8. Establish a joint DA–LGU monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure accountability and measurable results;

9. Monitor and evaluate extension outcomes nationwide.

SEC. 4. *Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Hubs.* - Each province shall establish a - Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Hub (PAFE Hub) that will:

- a) Coordinate extension planning among provincial, municipal, and barangay LGUs;
- b) Partner with SUCs for research-extension linkages;
- c) Serve as a training and knowledge-sharing center for farmers and fisherfolk.

SEC. 5. *Professionalization of Extension Workers.* - All agriculture and fisheries extension workers shall be required to undergo competency-based training and certification. A career system shall be established for extension workers, ensuring adequate compensation, security of tenure, and opportunities for professional growth.

The Civil Service Commission (CSC), in consultation with DA and CHED, shall develop standardized qualifications and training curricula. The ATI, in collaboration with SUCs, TESDA, and other relevant institutions, shall implement the training and certification programs prescribed by PAFEA and the CSC.

SEC. 6. *Farmer-to-Farmer and Fisherfolk Learning Systems.* - The local government units (LGUs), in coordination with PAFEA, shall establish farmer field schools, peer-learning exchanges, and community demonstration farms. Successful farmers and fisherfolk shall be recognized as farmer-trainers and provided incentives for their role in extension delivery.

SEC. 7. *Role of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs).* - SUCs with agriculture and fisheries programs shall:

- a) Serve as regional extension partners of PAFEA;
- b) Provide technical expertise, innovations, and training to LGUs and farmer organizations in collaboration with the ATI;
- c) Conduct applied research aligned with provincial and national agricultural priorities.

SEC. 8. *Role of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI).* - The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) shall serve as the training and capacity-building arm of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA). It shall continue to provide education, training, and technical assistance to agricultural and fisheries extension workers, farmers, fisherfolk, and their organizations, subject to the policy and operational supervision of PAFEA.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount of Ten Billion Pesos (₱10,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act, sourced from the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included annually in the national budget.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, in consultation with SUCs, ATI, LGUs, CSC, and relevant stakeholders, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall not be affected.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,