

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6403



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has long been vulnerable to the twin pressures of climate change and global market volatility. In recent years, stronger typhoons, prolonged droughts, and erratic rainfall patterns have disrupted agricultural production, while disruptions in international supply chains have contributed to rising food prices. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that food inflation averaged 6.5 percent in 2023, with vegetables, rice, and fish among the most affected commodities, disproportionately burdening low-income households in urban centers.¹ These challenges highlight the urgent need to decentralize food systems and reduce dependence on distant rural supply chains. While government interventions, such as efforts by the Department of Agriculture (DA) to rein in the price of rice and other food items, have provided temporary relief, inflationary pressures remain a recurring threat. The PSA noted that overall inflation eased to 1.4 percent in April 2025, the slowest since the 1.2 percent rate recorded in November 2019, with food inflation decelerating to 0.7 percent from 2.3 percent in March and 6.3 percent in April 2023.² These gains, however, underscore the need for long-term, community-based strategies like urban agriculture to ensure resilience against future shocks.

Urban agriculture presents itself as a strategic response to these realities. Defined as the cultivation, processing, and distribution of food within towns and cities using intensive methods and resource recycling, urban agriculture directly addresses the daily food needs of urban populations³. The Department of Science and Technology–Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) found in its 2023 National Nutrition Survey that 31.4 percent of Filipino households experience moderate to severe food insecurity, with 2.7 percent facing severe food insecurity⁴. By integrating food production into urban spaces, communities can reduce transport costs, ensure fresher and healthier food options, and strengthen resilience against external shocks.

Globally, the Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that nearly 200 million urban residents are engaged in food production for local markets, underscoring its viability as both a livelihood strategy and a food security measure⁵. Locally, the Department of Agriculture has institutionalized the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP), which promotes community gardens,

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority, *Summary Inflation Report: Consumer Price Index, 2023*

² [DA Press Office | 6 May 2025](#)

³ Food and Agriculture Organization, *Urban Agriculture: Food, Jobs and Sustainable Cities*, 2023

⁴ Nichole M. Bristol, *DOST-FNRI National Nutrition Summit Report*, December 2024

⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization, *Urban Agriculture: Food, Jobs and Sustainable Cities*, 2023

hydroponics, aquaponics, and vertical farming as part of a nationwide food resilience strategy⁶.

This initiative empower barangays and marginalized communities by decentralizing food systems and ensuring that provincial and urban households alike have access to sustainable nutrition. Examples of successful urban agriculture can already be observed in Philippine cities. Quezon City has pioneered urban farming projects that provide fresh produce to communities while creating livelihood opportunities⁷ while Cagayan de Oro has integrated food gardens into its disaster resilience programs⁸. Internationally, countries such as Singapore, Canada, and New Zealand have demonstrated how urban agriculture can supplement imports, reduce logistical costs, and strengthen local food systems. The COVID-19 pandemic, though now receding, further underscored the importance of localized food production when border closures and transport restrictions disrupted supply chains⁹.

The passage of this measure will institutionalize integrated urban agriculture nationwide, ensuring that every city and municipality has the capacity to produce food locally. By doing so, we can safeguard Filipino families against future crises, whether climate-related disasters, fuel shocks, or global supply chain disruptions, while promoting healthier diets, reducing poverty, and strengthening community resilience.

It is for these reasons that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

⁶ Department of Agriculture, Administrative Order No. 03, Series of 2022

⁷ Quezon City Government, QC Urban Farming Program, 2023

⁸ Cagayan de Oro City Government, *Food Security and Urban Gardens Initiative*, 2023

⁹ World Food Programme, *Philippines Country Strategic Plan 2024–2028*

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AN ACT
PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN AGRICULTURE IN URBAN AREAS
NATIONWIDE TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Integrated Urban Agriculture Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State affirms its duty to promote and protect the fundamental right of every person to adequate food and freedom from hunger. In recognition of the growing challenges to food security and ecological balance in urban areas, it shall endeavor to maximize the use and productivity of urban land and spaces to ensure sufficient and sustainable food production. Toward this end, the State shall advance the adoption of modern, cost-effective, space-efficient, and environmentally sound agricultural technologies in cities and municipalities. These innovations shall contribute to sustainable food systems, strengthen agro-ecological practices, safeguard public and mental health, and enhance the overall quality of life of urban populations.

In fulfilling this mandate, the State shall give priority to the conservation of the nation’s genetic biodiversity, including endemic and heirloom species of flora and fauna, as a vital strategy for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience. Accordingly, the State shall integrate the principles, strategies, and technologies of urban agriculture into urban planning and development, while fostering a culture of farming among urban dwellers, with particular emphasis on engaging and inspiring the youth.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

- a) *Agroecology* refers to a scientific discipline and set of practices that studies how different components of the agroecosystem interact and seeks sustainable farming systems that optimize and stabilize yields. It applies ecological concepts and principles to manage the interactions among plants, animals, humans, and the environment for food security and nutrition;
- b) *Community gardens* refer to any piece of land cultivated by a group of people using either individual or shared plots on public or private land, with the consent of the owner, to produce edible plants such as herbs,

vegetables, fruits, or ornamentals, as a form of sustainable land use for economic and societal development;

- c) *Food Forest Gardening* refers to multi-layered crop farming or low maintenance and sustainable method of food production that is based on woodland ecosystems, incorporating fruit and trees, shrubs, herbs, vines, and perennial vegetables, which yields are directly useful to humans. It also refers to a system of agroforestry that creates a diverse, productive, healthy, ecologically sound and sustainable system of land use;
- d) *Food security* refers to a situation wherein all people have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food at all times, to maintain a healthy and active life;
- e) *Food system* refers to a complex web of activities involving the production, processing, transport, and consumption of food. Issues concerning the food system include the governance and economics of food production, its sustainability, the degree of food wastage, how food production affects the natural environment, and the impact of food on individual and population health;
- f) *Good Agriculture Practices* refer to the practices that address environmental, economic, and social sustainability for on-farm processes, and which result in safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products;
- g) *Idle lands* refer to non-agricultural lands in urban and urbanizable areas on which no improvements have been made by the owner, as certified by the city, municipal, or provincial assessor. Idle government land refers to lands owned by any government entity that have been idle and have not been in use for the purpose for which they have been reserved for the past ten (10) years;
- h) *Indoor farming* refers to controlled environment agriculture which aims to optimize plant growth to house vertical farming techniques in greenhouses, warehouses, abandoned buildings, shipping containers, tunnels, skyscrapers, and modern buildings using soilless farming techniques such as hydroponics, aquaponics, and aeroponics;
- i) *Integrated urban agriculture* refers to the development paradigm that encompasses principles, management technologies, and policies relating to the practice and application of agricultural and fisheries production of food and goods in urban areas;
- j) *Peri-urban areas* refer to areas where urban and rural features and processes meet, interact, and intertwine, usually located between the city and the countryside. Peri-urban areas are semi-dense clusters with a density of at least three hundred (300) inhabitants per square kilometer and a population of five thousand (5,000) or more but are neither contiguous with nor within two (2) kilometers of an urban area;
- k) *Protected agriculture* refers to the use of technologies that enclose crops to harvest higher yields, safer, cleaner, and of better quality even out of season by modifying the natural environment and protecting crops

against the elements which include high temperature, excessive rainfall, humidity, wind, birds, insects, etc.;

- l) *Social preparation* refers to the series of activities designed to prepare the underprivileged and homeless families to cope with the changes brought about by government development projects;
- m) *Soilless agriculture* refers to the method of growing plants that do not rely on the soil as a source of nutrients and water, including hydroponics, aquaponics, and aeroponics;
- n) *Urban areas* refer to a classification as may be made by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) which under PSA Resolution No. 1, series of 2017-098, covers any of the following:
 - i. If a barangay has a population size of five thousand (5,000) or more;
 - ii. If a barangay has at least one establishment with a minimum of one hundred (100) employees;
 - iii. If a barangay has five (5) or more establishments with a minimum of zero (0) employees, and five (5) or more facilities within the two-kilometer radius from the barangay hall;
- o) *Urban planning* refers to the multi-disciplinary art and science of analyzing, specifying, clarifying, harmonizing, managing, and regulating the use and development of land and water resources, in relation to their environs, for the development of sustainable communities and ecosystems in urban and urbanizable areas;
- p) *Urbanizable areas* refer to sites and lands which, considering the present characteristics and prevailing conditions, display marked and great potential of becoming urban areas within the period of five (5) years; and
- q) *Vertical farming* refers to the methods or practices of increasing the number of plants grown in an area by growing crops in vertically stacked layers, such as generally done in greenhouses, warehouses, abandoned buildings, shipping containers, tunnels, skyscrapers, and modern buildings using soilless farming techniques such as hydroponics, aquaponics, or aeroponics.

SECTION 4. Coverage. - This Act shall cover idle or abandoned government or private lands, buildings, shipping containers, subdivisions or villages, public housing, open spaces in all urban, peri-urban, and urbanizable areas in the country, and all available land resources and buildings in schools, state or private universities and colleges, military camps suitable for growing crops and raising poultry, livestock, and aquaculture; *Provided* that the utilization of idle lands for urban agriculture purposes shall not be used as grounds for the eviction of informal settler families occupying the lands; *Provided further* that the raising of poultry and livestock shall be limited to urbanizable areas and all livestock raising shall be subject to health and safety standards and regulations issued by the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Human Settlements and Urban Developments (DHSUD) and other relevant government agencies.

SECTION 5. *Urban Farming.* - Local governments units (LGUs) shall identify and develop idle government and private lands and buildings without prejudice to the rights of owners of private lands, buildings, and open spaces, within their jurisdiction, for full or partial conversion solely to community gardens, food forest gardens, indoor farms, and/or vertical farms to support food security and community nutrition: *Provided* that food forest gardens and urban farms adopting agro-ecological principles shall be the priority form of urban agriculture wherever applicable and feasible: *Provided further* that spaces allocated for urban agriculture and aquaculture shall not be prime lots.

All LGUs, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), shall capacitate neighborhood associations and people's organizations, facilitate the organization and registration of community-based cooperatives, undertake community gardening and establish community farmers' markets.

SECTION 6. *Role of the Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development.* - The Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development (DHSUD) shall ensure that the design and development of the subdivision, condominium, and public housing projects have provisions for adequate spaces for community gardens, food forest gardens, greenhouse agriculture, roof gardens, indoor farms, and vertical farms. Toward this end, the DHSUD, in coordination with the DA, shall capacitate homeowners' associations to undertake community gardening and vertical farming.

SECTION 7. *Role of the Department of Agriculture.* - The DA shall provide the necessary technical assistance and support services, including the provision of seeds and seedlings and gardening tools, access to loans from government financial institutions, and training workshops that shall capacitate various stakeholders. It may assist in the design, establishment, promotion, and regulation of indoor and vertical farming machinery and facilities to ensure the full productivity of community gardens, school gardens, food forest gardens, greenhouse farms, roof gardens, and indoor and vertical farms. The DA shall ensure that the technical assistance it provides is consistent with the Philippine Good Agricultural Practices (PHILGAP) or a set of standards and regulations ensuring food quality and safety, facilitation of market access, the establishment of community farmers' markets, and reduction in non-compliance with issuances regarding permitted pesticides and other contamination hazards, as provided under Republic Act No. 10611, otherwise known as the "Food Safety Act of 2013", and relevant laws.

The DA, in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall also undertake the establishment of rainwater harvesting Facilities in compliance with Republic Act No. 6716 entitled "An Act Providing for the Construction of Water Wells, Rainwater Collectors, Development of Springs, and Rehabilitation of Existing Water Wells in All Barangays in the Philippines", renewable energy systems and solid waste management systems, including waste-to-energy facilities, to provide a sustainable supply of water, energy, and compose to community gardens, food forest gardens, and urban farmers.

SECTION 8. *Role of Local Government Units.*- All LGUs are hereby mandated to incorporate urban agricultural development in their respective Annual Development Plans, Annual Investment Plans, Physical Framework Plans, and Development Master Plans, including the hiring of agriculturists and agricultural and biosystem engineers to carry out urban agriculture programs.

Likewise, LGUs, with the assistance of the DA, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall establish and maintain a digital information system to facilitate the efficient collection, management, and analysis of urban food systems, agriculture and nutrition data, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of LGU performance vis-a-vis the food system, agriculture and nutrition targets, to inform local planning, policy-making and programming bodies, and to ensure open public access to data.

SECTION 9. *Urban Agriculture and Aquaculture in Urban Planning.* - The DHSUD, in coordination with the DA, shall ensure the integration of concepts and principles of urban agriculture and its relationship to other processes in the food system in urban planning. Accordingly, the DHSUD and DA shall promote sustainable, smart, and organic food production systems that harness new technologies and methods in soil, nutrient, water, and energy management, such as composting, rainwater harvesting, and utilization of renewable energy. The DHSUD shall also ensure the rational use of land resources in urban planning to promote a sustainable peri-urban interface, as well as for the spatial requirements of supply chain management and logistics to strengthen urban-rural foodshed linkages.

Towards these ends, the DHSUD shall promulgate guidelines for the harmonization of the comprehensive land use plans and zoning ordinances of LGUs with urban agriculture policies, frameworks, strategies, and standards.

SECTION 10. *Urban Agriculture/Aquaculture in Basic Education.* - The Department of Education (DepEd), with the technical assistance of the DA, shall integrate urban agriculture into the academic curriculum for elementary, secondary, and tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions offering courses in Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics, and other subjects related to agriculture. A course curriculum on gardening shall be developed and then integrate into the regular elementary and secondary education. Instructional materials shall likewise be developed utilizing advanced techniques of crop and food animal production, urban agriculture and farming, and cultivating awareness and appreciation of genetic biodiversity, heirloom, endemic flora and fauna, and agroecological principles.

The DepEd, with the assistance of the DA, shall strengthen the implementation of its *Gulayan sa Paaralan* Program in elementary and secondary schools. The establishment of school gardens shall be encouraged to ensure a continuous supply of vegetables for school feeding, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as the “Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act.”

SECTION 11. *Urban Agriculture/Aquaculture in Higher Education.* The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), with the technical assistance of the DA, shall integrate urban agriculture into the academic curriculum for tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions by making it part of the required period of time spent by students in the National Service Training Program.

Furthermore, a plan for utilization or maximization of space occupied by schools shall be formulated specifically for urban agriculture purposes.

SECTION 12. *Urban Agriculture Awareness Campaign.* - The DILG, National Nutrition Council, and LGUs are mandated to formulate policies on urban farming

in consonance with the provisions of this Act and be at the forefront of community-based education and awareness campaigns. For this purpose, LGUs shall mobilize existing structure and local bodies such as the provincial, city, and municipal agriculture offices, the provincial city, municipal and barangay agriculture and fishery councils, the provincial, city, municipal, and barangay federation of *Sangguniang Kabataan* (SK) and the youth sector represented in any local special body under the LGU.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall integrate urban agriculture and community nutrition in the seminar workshops and training programs to educate qualified household beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

SECTION 13. *Research and Development.* - The DA and DOST, as well as relevant state universities, government research and development institutions, and the private sector, shall intensify research on methods and technologies to support urban agriculture, including the development and operation of sustainable demonstration urban community gardens, food forest gardens, greenhouses, and indoor, roof, and vertical farms.

SECTION 14. *Incentives.* - Compliance by subdivision and condominium developers and owners with Section 5 of this Act may qualify them for incentives provided for under Republic Act No. 10771, otherwise known as the Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016, subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and the DHSUD.

SECTION 15. *Inter-Agency Coordination.* - There is hereby established a National Convergence Program on Urban Agriculture and Aquaculture. The DA is hereby designated as the Lead Implementing Agency and the Secretariat of the Convergence Program. The following agencies shall perform duties and responsibilities in order to develop and sustain concerted action to promote urban agriculture:

- a) The DA shall provide technical assistance and support services to LGUs, community-based cooperatives, homeowners' associations, neighborhood associations, and people's organizations to ensure the viability and cost-effectiveness of urban agriculture projects and through its Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering, shall provide the design, specifications, establishment strategies, promotion, regulation and technical assistance in the fabrication of production models of indoor farming, vertical farming, and other urban agriculture machinery, equipment, and facilities;
- b) The DHSUD shall encourage the integration of urban agriculture principles, policies, strategies, frameworks, and standards in the design and development of subdivisions and condominium projects. The DHSUD shall ensure such integration in public housing projects and in the preparation or updating of development and investment plans, CLUPs, and zoning ordinances of LGUs. The DHSUD shall also promulgate the necessary rules and monitor compliance therewith. The DHSUD shall provide assistance to homeowners' associations to strengthen their capacity to undertake urban agriculture or aquaculture projects in their neighborhoods and communities;

- c) The DILG shall monitor the compliance of LGUs with the provisions of this Act in order to determine their qualification for the incentives provided under Republic Act No. 11292;
- d) The DepEd shall integrate the principles and practice of urban agriculture using advanced crop production techniques like soilless agriculture, indoor farming, or vertical farming to include modern methods of irrigation and automated systems into the primary and secondary education curricula, including the establishment of school gardens under the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program. The DepEd shall ensure adequate capacity-building programs such as training-workshop, hands-on training, or immersion program for teachers and the development of appropriate instructional materials such as educational videos and manuals for this purpose;
- e) The DOST shall conduct research on modern, cost-effective methods and technologies to support urban agricultural production, as well as post-harvest handling of surplus produce from urban agriculture projects;
- f) The DTI shall provide technical assistance in processing and packaging of surplus produce from urban agriculture and aquaculture projects and ensure access of local government units, cooperatives, homeowners' associations, and people's organizations to markets;
- g) The DOF shall administer the grant of incentives under Section 14 of this Act to qualified persons based on their compliance with Section 5 of this Act;
- h) The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall ensure adequate funding for the functions and programs provided for by under this Act;
- i) The CHED shall develop and implement a curriculum on capacity-building programs such as training-workshop, hands-on training or immersion program, and related standards and instructional materials in support of urban agriculture;
- j) The DPWH in compliance with RA 6716 is mandated to undertake the construction of water wells, rainwater collectors, development of springs, and rehabilitation of existing water wells in all barangays in the Philippines, taking into consideration the population, hydrologic conditions, costs of project development, and operations, financial and economic factors and institutional arrangements;
- k) The National Nutrition Council and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute shall assist the DepEd in identifying the crops to be cultivated on schools farms and in preparing nutritious food, pursuant to standardized menus to ensure child nutrition provided for under Republic Act No. 11037, and in developing the modules on nutrition;
- l) The CDA shall provide guidance and assistance to LGUs in the development of cooperatives within their jurisdiction;
- m) The Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor shall undertake social preparation activities to encourage participation and empower poor and

_ underprivileged communities from the preparation and planning to implementation and evaluation of urban development projects; and,

- n) The Philippine Information Agency shall undertake a nationwide information campaign, utilizing all forms of media, to raise awareness and encourage the participation of the public in the implementation of this Act, in close coordination with other cultural agencies such as the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCAA) and the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

The Council for the Welfare of Children shall integrate urban agriculture in the formulation of programs and measures providing dynamic leadership in ensuring a child-friendly and child-sensitive society.

The National Youth Commission, as the Philippine government's sole policy-making body on youth affairs and consistent with its role in coordinating and implementing programs designed to help the youth become more aware of the issues surrounding them, shall include an appreciation of urban agriculture.

SECTION 16. *Performance Report to Congress.* - The DA and partner agencies in the National Convergence Program on Urban Agriculture and Aquaculture shall submit annual performance reports to Congress.

SECTION 17. *Appropriations.* - The budget necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation for the concerned agencies. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the concerned LGUs, and other relevant stakeholders from government agencies shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to Implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 19. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 20. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 21. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,