



**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**Twentieth Congress
1st Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 6823**



Introduced by Rep. Elisa “Olga” T. Kho

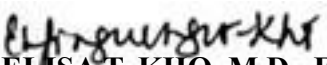
EXPLANATORY NOTE

To ensure the widespread adoption and sustainability of the Integrated Urban Agriculture Program, this bill places strong emphasis on Incentivizing Growth by establishing a comprehensive system of rewards and benefits for private landowners and businesses.

This crucial strategy recognizes that the movement toward urban food self-sufficiency cannot be achieved by government mandate alone, but requires the active participation of the private sector, which controls significant urban space and capital. Incentives are designed to make urban agriculture economically attractive, ensuring that the decision to dedicate rooftops, idle private lots, or even interior spaces to food production becomes a financially sound choice.

These benefits typically include tax deductions or exemptions for urban farming ventures, favorable treatment for loans related to agricultural projects (such as counting them towards the Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act compliance), and technical assistance or provision of starter kits. By lowering the financial barriers to entry and providing tangible economic rewards, the Act successfully harnesses private initiative and resources, driving the rapid, decentralized, and market-driven growth of urban farming projects across the nation.

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


REP. ELISA T. KHO, M.D., FPCCP



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AN ACT PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN AGRICULTURE AND VERTICAL FARMING IN URBAN AREAS NATIONWIDE TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY 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 "Integrated Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming Act"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.

It is the declared policy of the State to protect the fundamental right of every person to adequate food and freedom from hunger. Recognizing the increasing challenges to food security, ecological balance, and climate resilience in urban centers, the State shall optimize the use and productivity of urban land resources and available spaces to support sufficient, safe, and sustainable food production. Towards this end, the State shall promote the development and adoption of modern, cost-effective, space-efficient, and environmentally-safe agricultural technologies, including vertical farming, in urban and peri-urban areas, thereby ensuring public health, improving nutrition, and enhancing the quality of urban life.

SECTION 3. Coverage and Scope.

This Act shall apply to all urban, peri-urban, and urbanizable areas nationwide. The program shall cover, but not be limited to:

1. Idle or abandoned government and private lands (with owner consent).
2. Rooftops of public and private buildings, and other elevated structures.
3. Open spaces in subdivisions, condominiums, public housing projects, and villages.

4. Available land resources and buildings within schools, State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and military camps.
5. Repurposed structures like shipping containers, tunnels, and abandoned warehouses suitable for indoor or vertical farming.

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.

SECTION 4. Institutionalization and Lead Agency.

1. National Urban Agriculture Program (NUAP): The existing Department of Agriculture's Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program is hereby institutionalized into the National Urban Agriculture Program (NUAP), to be the primary government initiative for implementing this Act.
2. Lead Agency: The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall be the lead implementing agency, in coordination with Local Government Units (LGUs), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), and other relevant agencies.

SECTION 5. Urban Agriculture Zones (UAZs) and Urban Planning.

1. Designation of UAZs: Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, every city and municipality shall be mandated to identify, map, and designate Urban Agriculture Zones (UAZs) within its Comprehensive Land-Use Plan (CLUP) and Zoning Ordinance.
2. Integration into Housing: The DHSUD shall ensure that the design and development of all future subdivision, condominium, and public housing projects have adequate provisions for dedicated spaces for community gardens, food forest gardens, or vertical farms.
3. Water Access: LGUs shall ensure that UAZs are provided with cost-effective and sustainable water sources, including the promotion of rainwater harvesting and the reuse of greywater, subject to environmental standards set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

SECTION 6. Promotion of Modern Agricultural Technology.

The DA, in partnership with the DOST and SUCs, shall:

1. Develop and disseminate locally appropriate, cost-effective, and safe urban agriculture technologies, with a strong focus on Vertical Farming, Hydroponics, Aquaponics, and Aeroponics .
2. Support the adoption of Controlled-Environment Agriculture (CEA), including the use of artificial intelligence (AI), Internet-of-Things (IoT) sensors, and remote sensing, to enhance productivity, resource efficiency, and market access.

SECTION 7. Capacity Building, Education, and Extension.

1. K-12 Integration: The Department of Education (DepEd) shall integrate urban agriculture and agripreneurship concepts into the K-12 curriculum and encourage every school to maintain a functional learning garden (*Gulayan sa Paaralan*).
2. Technical Training: The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall develop and offer free, competency-based training programs and accreditation for urban agriculture technicians and managers, especially for vulnerable sectors like out-of-school youth, senior citizens, and women.

SECTION 8. Incentives.

The following incentives shall be granted to encourage participation in the NUAP:

1. Tax Incentives: Urban agricultural enterprises and developers who integrate urban agriculture into their projects may avail of tax deductions and incentives provided under existing laws, such as the Philippine Green Jobs Act.
2. Agri-Agra Compliance: Loans extended by government and private financial institutions for urban agriculture activities shall be considered as compliance with the mandatory lending requirements of the Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act.
3. Support Services: Registered urban farmers and associations shall be given preferential access to seeds, seedlings, planting materials, tools, and post-harvest facilities provided by the DA.

SECTION 9. Appropriations.

The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current appropriations of the DA and other relevant agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of the NUAP shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). Furthermore, LGUs are mandated to earmark at least three percent (3%) of their Local Development Fund for the establishment and operation of urban agriculture projects within their jurisdiction.

SECTION 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The DA, in coordination with the DILG, DOST, DHSUD, DENR, and the relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within one hundred eighty (180) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause.

If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts thereof not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause.

All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity.

This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,