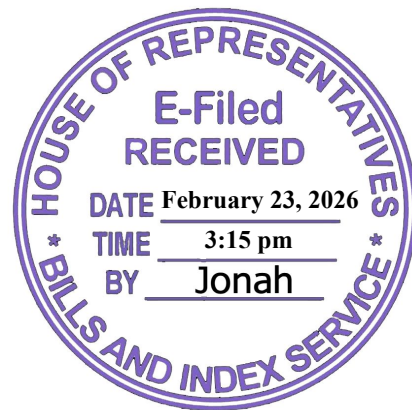


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7957



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to recognize the rights of farmers, farmworkers, landowners, cooperatives, and independent farmers' organizations to participate in agricultural planning and management, and to provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology, research, financial assistance, production, and marketing services. Complementarily, Article II, Section 13 recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and directs the State to promote their full development and participation in national affairs.

Despite agriculture's central role in national development, the sector continues to face structural challenges, including declining youth participation, aging farmer demographics, climate vulnerability, supply chain disruptions, land fragmentation, limited access to capital, and persistent food inflation. The average age of Filipino farmers now approaches senior levels, indicating a generational gap that threatens long-term agricultural productivity and food security.

Recent global commodity shocks, extreme weather events linked to climate change, and recurring disruptions in logistics and input supply chains have underscored the fragility of domestic food systems. These conditions highlight the urgent need to strengthen agricultural resilience, modernize production systems, enhance research and development, and cultivate a new generation of agri-entrepreneurs and agricultural professionals.

Existing laws provide foundational support for agricultural development. Republic Act No. 8435, or the "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA)," establishes modernization and support mechanisms for farmers and fisherfolk. Republic Act No. 7607 (Magna

Carta of Small Farmers) affirms farmer participation and rights. Republic Act No. 11321 (Sagip Saka Act) strengthens market linkages and procurement support for local farmers. Republic Act No. 10931 (Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act) expands access to higher education, including agriculture-related fields. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Act (RA 7796) provides technical-vocational training in agriculture and allied industries.

Notwithstanding these measures, gaps remain in attracting and sustaining youth engagement in agriculture, particularly in integrating innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology adoption within agricultural education and enterprise development. Existing statutes provide modernization and support mechanisms but do not sufficiently institutionalize a targeted framework to incentivize, prepare, and retain young Filipinos in agricultural careers and agri-based enterprises.

This proposed measure seeks to complement, and not supplant, existing agricultural and education laws by establishing a structured program to promote youth participation in agriculture through scholarships, curriculum enhancement, research support, innovation training, incubation programs, and public-private-academe partnerships. It aims to strengthen coordination among the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), TESDA, and state universities and colleges (SUCs), without diminishing their respective statutory mandates.

By investing in youth-centered agricultural education, innovation, and entrepreneurship, the State advances rural development, strengthens food security, enhances climate resilience, and fosters inclusive economic growth. This measure operationalizes constitutional mandates on agricultural development and youth empowerment while reinforcing existing modernization frameworks to ensure long-term sustainability of the Philippine agricultural sector

With the future of our country in mind, the passing of this bill is utmostly requested.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7957

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

AN ACT PROMOTING AGRICULTURE AMONG FILIPINO YOUTH

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 “Kabataan Para sa Pagsasaka Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – In recognition of the huge role of agriculture and the youth in developing our country, it is the policy of the State to promote and support endeavors that will facilitate sustainable agricultural development and provide avenues for active involvement and dignified status within the agricultural sector.

Towards this end, the goals and objectives of this Act are to:

1. Recognize the crucial role of the agricultural sector as a fundamental aspect of economic growth and societal development
2. Rebuild and recreate a new, lively, and positive image of agriculture, especially within the youth sector
3. Revitalize the youth’s interest in agriculture through various programs and institutional linkages and partnerships
4. Adapt and modernize the education curriculum on agriculture to include leadership, management, and business subjects
5. Promote and support research and development within the agriculture sector to find ways to advance sustainable development and adapting to climate change

SECTION 3. *National Network of Agricultural Educational Institutions.* – To facilitate institutional connections for the implementation of the Act, there shall

be an establishment of a national network of higher education institutions that offers agricultural courses.

SECTION 4. *Higher Education Scholarships.* – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall establish and allocate funds for a priority scholarship program for those who will be taking up undergraduate, Masters, and Doctoral programs related to agriculture. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall provide subsidies to higher education institutions in order to increase enrollment on agriculture-related programs.

Further, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in cooperation with the National Network of Agricultural Educational Institutions in Section 3, shall coordinate and link with universities abroad who are offering postgraduate programs on agriculture and create a continuing education program primarily intended for instructors of higher education institutions on agriculture to improve on teaching and research.

SECTION 5. *Revising Higher Education Curricula on Agriculture.* – Education curriculum on agriculture courses in higher education institutions shall undergo revision to include other subjects that respond to the needs of the labor market and capacitate enterprise and development in the agricultural sector.

This will include subjects such as, but not limited to:

1. Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship
2. Leadership and Management in Agriculture Industry
3. Agriculture and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
4. Agricultural Research and Technology
5. Legal Agricultural Framework
6. Agriculture and Rural Development

Further, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall spearhead a consultative committee with members from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), higher education institutions, and other relevant stakeholders in the process of revising higher education curriculum pertaining to agriculture.

SECTION 6. *Vocational Training Programs.* – To promote further enhancement of agricultural skills of rural youth, the Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall create enhanced training programs to include leadership, capacity building, and business management aspects and training of professional instructors to meet the needs of the labor market and improve agribusiness management and opportunities.

Further, the Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall create apprenticeship opportunities for farmers, especially the youth, with rural agricultural micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSMEs) to enhance entrepreneurial skills.

SECTION 7. *Internship.* – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall connect with various institutions such as the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, to provide internship opportunities for individuals, especially students, who are involved with the agriculture sector.

SECTION 8. *Establishment of Youth Resource Centers for Agriculture.* – In order to provide the youth with various resources on the study and practical application of agriculture and other various agri-related programs, the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in cooperation with the National Network of Agricultural Educational Institutions, shall establish at least (1) main Youth Resource Center for Agriculture in each province and if possible, an annex center in each higher education institution providing agricultural courses.

The Youth Resource Center for Agriculture shall contain training materials, educational resources, applicable technological equipment, and other relevant resources related to the study and further appreciation of the agriculture sector.

Further, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) shall be responsible for creating technological services in these Centers to capacitate ICT learning for youth with regards to agriculture.

SECTION 9. *Youth for Agriculture Council.* – There shall be a youth council under the supervision of National Youth Council (NYC) made to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Act and propose further programs that respond to the aim to invite the youth into the agriculture sector. There shall be seven (7) members which shall include students-representatives of various higher educational institutions offering agricultural courses.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.* – Within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, Director-General of the TESDA, National Director of the DA-Agricultural Training Institute, Undersecretary for Department of Agriculture - Administration, Agribusiness, and Marketing, and Regional Engagement, and the Undersecretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform Foreign Assisted and

Special Projects Office (FASPO) shall form an ad hoc committee composed of two representatives from each of their agencies to formulate the implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act. Two representatives from the Agriculture Committee of both Houses of Congress shall join the meetings as observers.

SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* – An initial fund of P500 million shall be appropriated for the immediate implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operations and maintenance of the programs shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 12. *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 13. *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 14. *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,