

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8045



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to strengthen agricultural education, expand training and scholarship opportunities, and create institutional support mechanisms that will encourage the Filipino youth to actively participate in the agricultural sector.

Agriculture remains a vital pillar of the Philippine economy, yet the sector continues to face the twin challenges of an aging farmer population and declining youth interest. The average age of Filipino farmers is estimated to be over Fifty five (55) years old¹, highlighting the urgent need to cultivate a new generation of agriculturists who can sustain food production, adopt modern technologies, and respond to climate-related risks. Without deliberate intervention, these demographic and structural challenges threaten the country's food security, agricultural productivity, and long term rural development.

This measure establishes a National Network of Agricultural Educational Institutions to strengthen coordination among schools offering agriculture programs and improve the delivery of agricultural education and training. It mandates the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to provide priority scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies in agriculture and to revise higher education curricula to integrate agribusiness, leadership, management, research, information and communications technology (ICT), and rural development. These align with the evolving needs of a modern and competitive agricultural sector.

The bill also expands internship opportunities through coordination with relevant national and international institutions and establishes Youth Resource Centers for Agriculture in every province to provide training materials, technology access, and learning support for young Filipinos pursuing careers in

¹ DOST - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development. (2025, September 1). *A Farmer's Legacy and the Future of Philippine Agriculture*. Industry Strategic Science and Technology Plans (ISPs) Platform. Retrieved February 22, 2026, from <https://ispweb.pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph/a-farmers-legacy-and-the-future-of-philippine-agriculture/>

agriculture. Through these initiatives, this vital piece of legislation promotes youth participation, strengthens agricultural skills development, and supports the long term modernization and sustainability of the sector.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
PROMOTING AGRICULTURE AMONG FILIPINO YOUTH TO
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, 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 “*Kabataan Para sa Pagsasaka Act*”.

SEC. 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:

- a. Recognize the crucial role of the agricultural sector as a fundamental aspect of economic growth and societal development;
- b. Rebuild and recreate a new, lively, and positive image of agriculture, especially within the youth sector;
- c. Revitalize the youth’s interest in agriculture through various programs and institutional linkages and partnerships;
- d. Adapt and modernize the education curriculum on agriculture to include leadership, management, and business subjects; and

e. Promote and support research and development within the agriculture sector to find ways to advance sustainable development and adapting to climate change

SEC. 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.

SEC. 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. CHED shall provide subsidies to higher education institutions in order to increase enrollment on agriculture-related programs.

Further, 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.

SEC. 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:

- a. Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship;
- b. Leadership and Management in Agriculture Industry;
- c. Agriculture and Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
- d. Agricultural Research and Technology;
- e. Legal Agricultural Framework; and
- f. Agriculture and Rural Development

Further, 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.

SEC. 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 DA-ATI and 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.

SEC. 7. *Internship.* — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall connect with various institutions such as the DA, 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.

SEC. 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 DA, DAR, CHED, in cooperation with the National Network of Agricultural Educational Institutions, shall establish at least one (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.

SEC. 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.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of CHED, Director-General of TESDA,

National Director of the DA-ATI, 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 (2) representatives from each of their agencies to formulate the implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act. Two (2) representatives from the Agriculture Committee of both Houses of Congress shall join the meetings as observers.

SEC. 11. *Appropriations.* – An initial fund of Five Hundred Million (P500,000,000.00) 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.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,