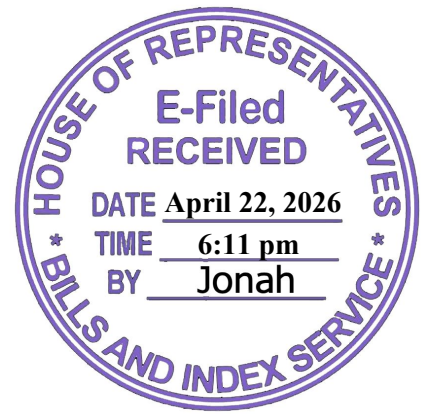


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8949



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate the inclusion of Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness in the curricula of all public and private elementary schools throughout the Philippines in order to instill in the youth a deep appreciation of agriculture and its vital role in national development. It aims to equip learners at an early age with fundamental knowledge and practical skills in farming, thereby strengthening food security, promoting sustainable practices, and nurturing a generation that values and supports the agricultural sector.

The Philippine agriculture sector continues to face persistent challenges such as declining interest among the youth, an aging farmer population, food supply vulnerabilities, and increasing dependence on imported agricultural products. Despite being an agricultural country, many young Filipinos grow up with limited understanding of where food comes from and how it is produced. This disconnect contributes to the declining number of individuals entering the agricultural workforce, threatening the long-term sustainability of the sector.

This measure responds to these concerns by integrating basic farming concepts and agricultural awareness into elementary education. It empowers learners with essential knowledge on crop production, environmental stewardship, and the socio-economic importance of agriculture. Embedding these principles in early education will promote a culture of self-sufficiency, responsibility, and innovation among the youth.

The bill further directs the Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), to develop age-appropriate, science-based, and practical learning modules. It also ensures that teachers receive adequate training and resources to effectively deliver the subject matter.

Moreover, this proposed measure promotes holistic education while addressing long-term national priorities. It strengthens rural development, supports

food security initiatives, and inspires future generations to actively participate in building a resilient and progressive agricultural sector.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8949**

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE MANDATORY INCLUSION OF BASIC FARMING AND
AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS IN THE CURRICULA OF ALL PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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 “*Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness for the Youth Act*”.

SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. The State further affirms its commitment to comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform as foundations of national growth and equity.

Towards this end, the State shall ensure that basic farming and agricultural awareness are integrated into the curricula of all public and private elementary schools. For this purpose, it shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and sustainable system of education that equips the youth with fundamental knowledge and appreciation of agriculture, and fosters their role in advancing food security and rural development.

SEC 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a. Basic Farming refers to the fundamentals of the practice of cultivating land for crops, plants, fruits, fruit trees, vegetation, fungi, and other life forms for food, fiber, and other products used to sustain life, as well as cultivation of animals and raising stock; and

b. Agricultural Awareness refers to basic information or knowledge of the fundamental principles of agriculture, its scientific, social, economic, and industrial implications in the community and the country as a whole.

SEC. 4. *Mandatory inclusion of Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness in School Curricula.* – Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness shall now be mandatorily included as required subjects in the academic curricula of all public and private elementary schools throughout the Philippines.

The Department of Education (DepEd) shall ensure that a scientifically supported program be integrated to existing school curricula in order to cover the areas of Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness. The DepEd shall institutionalize high standards of learning and teaching methods to ensure credibility and academic integrity of said subjects.

Within one (1) year from the issuance of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act, Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness shall be included in the curricula of all public and private elementary schools throughout the Philippines.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Agency.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) through the Bureau of Curriculum Development, shall develop and maintain new programs to be integrated with existing similar programs or subjects, creating and including Basic Farming and Agriculture Awareness in the school curricula of all public and private elementary schools.

SEC. 6. *Skills Training and Development.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Agriculture (DA), Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), and other related agencies shall continuously provide scientific and technical training and provisions for materials and equipment necessary for faculty members for teaching and dissemination of Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness to the students.

SEC 7. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the Department's program the development and maintenance of Basic Farming and Agricultural Awareness, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, DepEd, in consultation with and support of the DA, TESDA, ATI, and other related agencies, shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, implementing rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,