



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

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9063



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE USE OF ADAPTIVE CROP CLIMATE CALENDARS IN AGRICULTURE
TO ENHANCE FARMERS' RESILIENCE, PROVIDE ACCESS TO LOCALIZED WEATHER, CLIMATE
INFORMATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Climate change, among other things, is a threat to food security as it directly affects food production and has a large impact on availability, access, prices, utilization, nutrition, and stability of food.

In many remote areas across the country, where government intervention is restricted by inaccessibility, particularly in indigenous communities, cultural food practices and traditional diets are also greatly affected by unpredictable weather brought about by climate change.

To attain and maintain food security under climate change conditions, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable food systems, and community-based monitoring programs are essential.

This bill, therefore, seeks the institutionalization of climate change calendars as a tool for communities to understand and manage the natural cycles of climate. Livelihood activities can be synchronized with the prevailing timing of ecological events and processes, which, until recent times, were no longer consistent year after year.

For subsistence farmers and fisherfolk, and the communities to which they belong, this synchronization is a crucial component to their successful adaptation to variations in climate. By using localized climate change calendars, stakeholders are better prepared to adapt to changes in climate and enhance their relevance to the community


SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA
Representative

Maguindanao del Norte, Lone District with Cotabato City



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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 "Climate-Resilient Agriculture Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the importance of agriculture to the country's economic development; thus, the State shall enhance the sector's resilience and adaptability to the adverse effects of weather disturbances and climate change that threaten productivity and harvest yields. Climate resilience, sustainability, and innovation shall be priorities for government intervention in the agricultural sector.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) Crop climate calendar refers to a visual tool that presents the phenology and cultivation practices of a crop against the timeline of the cropping season, containing information on the weather and climate states that occur in the locality, and the risks faced by the crop per growing stage in relation to these.
- (b) Climate-sensitive decisions refer to decisions that hinge on weather and climate states, with outcomes and even decision alternatives that vary depending on the prevailing weather phenomena;

- (c) Localized weather and climate information refers to information on weather and climate phenomena that are particularized down to the city and municipal level.

SEC. 4. *Adaptive Crop Climate Calendars.* — The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall establish and promote the use of adaptive crop climate calendars throughout the Philippines. The crop climate calendar shall be an adjusted schedule for planting and harvesting, and other critical periods based on adverse weather forecasts. In coordination with municipal, city, and provincial agriculturists, the DA shall implement a continuing program for all farmers and farmers' organizations to formulate, use, and interpret crop climate calendars tailored to each locality or community. It shall consider various factors, such as but not limited to the following:

- (a) Climatic conditions
- (b) Crop growing seasons
- (c) Crop life cycles
- (d) Farming practices (planting, harvesting, and postharvest activities before, during, and after a weather event or disturbance)
- (e) Seeds and water availability and constraints
- (f) Up-to-date local market crop requirements

These crop climate calendars shall be distributed free of charge to all farmers and farmers' organizations and be made available online.

SEC. 5. *Climate-Sensitive Decision-Making.* — The Department of Agriculture, through the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), shall provide regular appropriate training and capacity-building for farmers and farmers' organizations in the practice of climate-sensitive decision-making and the use of relevant tools and applications. The ATI shall formulate and develop clear, concise, and easily understandable charts, tables, diagrams, briefers, and similar documents on climate-sensitive decision-making for distribution to farmers and farmers' organizations.

SEC. 6. *Localized Weather and Climate Information* — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) shall provide regular and up-to-date localized weather and climate information to city, municipal, and provincial agriculturists' offices and directly to the farmers themselves through all available means of communication and information dissemination, including internet, social media, television, and radio. This information shall be written in simple English, Filipino, and other regional languages or dialects as necessary and must be presented in a clear, concise, and easily understandable form.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations for the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA and PAGASA, in coordination with other relevant government agencies, farmers' organizations, and stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,