

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9473



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL URBAN AND PERI-URBAN
AGRICULTURE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Food security remains to be one of the significant challenges faced by our country today.¹ In 2023, 31.4% of households suffered from moderate to severe food insecurity.² Recent global difficulties, including the conflict in the Middle East and the resulting rise in fuel prices, have further highlighted our country's vulnerability to external economic shocks and disruptions in the food supply chain. These circumstances emphasize the need to strengthen our domestic food production systems, and to build more resilience and localized sources of food.

The country's increasing reliance on imported agricultural products further highlights this vulnerability. In 2025, the country's total agricultural imports was valued at \$20.37 billion, representing a 15.2% share of the country's total imports. This is an increase of 4.7% from the agricultural imports in 2024.³ In fact, imports have consistently outpaced exports by more than double, resulting in agricultural trade deficits since 2018.⁴

¹ Seminano, Go, Javier, Ferrer. (2025). Socioeconomic Determinants of Food Insecurity in the Philippines: Evidence from the 2018–2019 and 2021 Expanded National Nutrition Surveys. Philippine Journal of Development Volume 49, No. 2. <https://doi.org/10.62986/pjd2025.49.2b>. Available at <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/document/pidspjd49-2025-2b.pdf>

² *Id.*

³ <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/agricultural-export-import/annual>

⁴ State of Food Security and Nutrition in Southeast Asia. Facts in Figures. Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, House of Representatives. January 2026 (No. 3). Available at <https://cpbrd.congress.gov.ph/ff2026-03-state-of-food-security-and-nutrition-in-south-east-asia-2025/>

In this context, urban and peri-urban agriculture has emerged as a possible approach to increasing reliable food sources in cities, thereby strengthening food security and resilience. Urban farming is the growing, raising, processing, and distribution of food and non-food products within or on the fringe of a town or city.⁵ This provides not only food but also livelihood opportunities for people in the city. It can increase access to fresh produce, empower communities, and reduce transportation costs.⁶

Seeing the importance and potential of urban and peri-urban agriculture, the Department of Agriculture created the *National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program*. A banner program established in 2022, this was initiated partly due to unstable food supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic. This Program focuses on the distribution of agricultural inputs to program beneficiaries, establishment of community urban farms, start-up of corporate urban farms for commercial scale, and establishment of urban agriculture training and technology centers.⁷

While this is a laudable effort from the Department of Agriculture, its implementation remains uneven across regions and dependent on yearly budgeting constraints. As such, this measure aims to institutionalize the National Urban And Peri-Urban Agriculture Program, including activities to establish urban, outdoor, rooftop, or indoor farms and greenhouses, and hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities. Other urban and peri-urban agriculture modules may also be adopted as new technologies develop. This bill also mandates the DOST and other pertinent agencies to prioritize the research, development, and transfer of technologies necessary in promoting integrated agriculture technologies.

Moreover, idle and abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either national and local governments or available land resources in state universities and colleges will be considered for growing crops, raising livestock, and producing food using urban agricultural methods. Finally, this measure creates an Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Fund to be used for the implementation of the proposed program.

Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that every Filipino has greater access to affordable and nutritious food, while promoting innovation and sustainability in local food production systems.

⁵ Alumasa & Magnaye. (2025). Urban Farming and Food Security Nexus for Food Sovereignty and Food System Planning: The Case of a Highly Urbanized City in Metro Manila, Philippines. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Applied Science*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51584/IJRIAS.2025.100500083>.

⁶ Gunapala, Gangahagedara, Wanasinghe, Samaraweera, Gamage, Rathnayaka, Hameed, Baki, Madhujith, Merah. (2025). Urban agriculture: A strategic pathway to building resilience and ensuring sustainable food security in cities. *Farming System*, Volume 3, Issue 3, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.farsys.2025.100150>.

⁷ Department of Agriculture, Administrative Order No. 03, series of 2022.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'B' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN

Representative

2nd District, Parañaque City

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*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 “Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote the people’s right to health, adequate nutrition, and a balanced and healthful ecology. It is likewise State policy to promote agricultural development and growth. Recognizing that rapid urbanization poses challenges to traditional agricultural methods and means of food production, the State shall prioritize the use of diverse agricultural methods in order to ensure the food security of the country.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. *Peri-urban areas* refer to zones of transition from rural to urban land uses located between the outer limits of urban and regional centers and the rural environment. A barangay can be classified as peri-urban if this barangay is adjacent to urban area(s) and if any of the following criteria are met:
 - i. Population density in the barangay is at least 300 inhabitants per square kilometer or per 100 hectares; or
 - ii. Poverty incidence in the barangay is 50% or lower.

- b. *Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture* refers to food production that occurs in urban areas and peri-urban areas which includes, but not limited to community gardening, vertical farming, conventional farming, hydroponics, containerized gardening, greenhouse, backyard gardening, rooftop gardens, and edible landscaping.
- c. *Urban Areas* refer to areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) and all the other areas falling under any of the following categories pursuant to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA):
 - i. Category 1- Barangays with a population size of 5,000 or more; or
 - ii. Category 2 - Barangays with at least one establishment with a minimum of 100 employees; or
 - iii. Category 3 - Barangays with five or more establishments with 10 to 99 employees, and five or more facilities within the two-kilometer radius from the barangay hall. These facilities are as follows: municipal/city hall or provincial capitol; church, chapel or mosque where religious services are held at least once a month; public/town plaza or park for recreation; cemetery; market place or building where trading activities are carried out at least once a week; public school buildings (elementary, high school, and college/university); hospital, puericulture center, barangay health center/station or clinic; fire station or community waterworks system; post office or postal service; landline telephone system or calling station; cellular phone signal; and public street sweeper.

SEC. 4. National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program. – There is hereby established a National Urban And Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (Program) under the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA shall integrate and align all its existing programs, initiatives, and projects related to urban and peri-urban agriculture into this single, comprehensive Program.

Activities under the Program shall include urban, outdoor, rooftop, or indoor farms and greenhouses, hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities; and other innovations in urban and peri-urban agriculture production. Other urban and peri-urban agriculture modules may also be adopted as appropriate and as new technologies develop.

For the purpose of this Act, the respective Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby mandated to promote the use of urban and peri-urban agriculture within the country's metropolitan areas as an instrument to address food security concerns and regenerate the ecosystem function of the Philippines.

The DOST and other pertinent agencies shall also prioritize the research, development, and transfer of technologies necessary in promoting integrated agriculture technologies.

Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either national and local governments or available land resources in state universities and colleges shall be considered for growing crops, raising livestock, and producing food using the said methods.

SEC. 5. Creation and Composition of the Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Council. – There is hereby established an Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Council (Council) which shall be attached to the Department of Agriculture. The Council shall be composed of the following members:

- a. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) who shall serve as Chair of the Council;
- b. The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- c. The Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF);
- d. The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- e. Representative from the People's Organizations (PO);
- f. Representative from the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO);
- g. Representative from the National Urban Poor Sector Council of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NUPSC-NAPC);
- h. The National President of the League of the Cities of the Philippines;
- i. The National President of the League of the Municipalities of the Philippines; and,
- j. Representative from the private sector who have expertise in urban and peri-urban agriculture.

The Council shall adopt a ten-year Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Roadmap, which shall undergo review every three (3) years.

SEC. 6. Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Fund. – There is hereby created an Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Fund, which shall be used for the implementation of the Program. The Fund shall be sourced from the General Appropriations Act, donations and grants, and other sources as may be determined by the Council.

SEC. 7. Local Government Units Participation. - Local government units shall formulate the policy and adopt enabling ordinances on the practice of urban farming and the utilization of unused spaces and idle lands in their respective areas.

All homeowners associations, neighborhood associations and community associations and/or people's organizations are encouraged to participate in urban farming activities within their area of operations. The concerned LGU may grant

necessary incentives for the benefit of the members of the concerned associations or people's organizations who actively participate in urban farming activities.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DA, in consultation with the relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended 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,