

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9733



Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

AN ACT
PROMOTING THE USE OF AEROPONICS, HYDROPONICS AND
AQUAPONICS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF HIGH VALUE FISH, CROPS
AND VEGETABLES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For generations, the story of Filipino agriculture has been written entirely in the soil. It is a narrative of the hardworking farmer tilling the earth under a relentless sun, deeply tied to the unpredictable whims of weather and the shrinking availability of arable land. However, as climate change intensifies and urban centers expand, our relationship with the land is facing an existential crisis.

At its heart, this Act addresses a fundamental human right: the right to food security. As traditional farming faces mounting challenges from devastating typhoons, unpredictable droughts, and severe soil degradation, this bill offers a technological lifeline. By legalizing and actively promoting alternative farming methods, it provides a way to decouple food production from the increasingly volatile natural elements.

The necessity of passing this bill cannot be overstated. The Philippines is one of the most climate-vulnerable nations on earth. We can no longer rely solely on legacy farming methods to feed a rapidly growing population. This legislation moves soilless farming from a niche hobby for tech-enthusiasts into a mainstream, institutionalized national strategy. It allows us to grow high-value crops and fish in controlled environments, using a fraction of the water and land required by traditional agriculture.

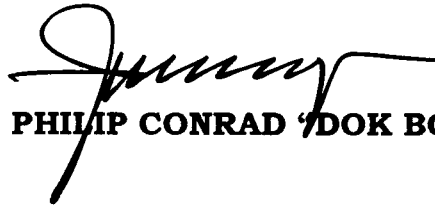
This domestic policy serves as a practical vehicle for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1. SDG 2: Zero Hunger – Prioritizes national food self-sufficiency, ensuring consistent access to fresh produce and fish even in highly urbanized or non-arable areas.

2. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production – Minimizes resource strain through closed-loop systems like aquaponics, which recycles water and converts fish waste into plant nutrients.
3. SDG 13: Climate Action – Builds a climate-resilient food infrastructure protected from extreme weather, while reducing transport emissions through localized urban farming.

The proposed bill represents a narrative shift for the Filipino nation. It offers a future where an empty city lot or a university rooftop can mirror the yield of a rural acre, and where food security is safely guarded against the worsening climate crisis.

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



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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 “*Soilless Agricultural Production Act.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to reaffirm the fundamental right of every person to food security. The attainment of self-sufficiency in the field of food production is therefore adopted as a primary State policy. For this purpose, key reforms for the advancement of, and support to agricultural advancement in technology adaptation are hereby promoted in order to ensure the food security of the country. Furthermore, the State commits itself to the adoption of state-of-the-art technologies and the active development of modern, appropriate and cost-effective, and environmentally safe agricultural technology in order to ensure and provide food security and safety.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean or be understood as follows:

- (a) **“Aeroponics”** shall refer to the process of growing vegetation in an air or mist environment without the use of soil or an aggregate medium. Aeroponic growing is considered to be safe and ecologically friendly for producing natural and healthy plants and crop.

- (b) **“Hydroponics”** shall refer to the method of growing plants in a water based, nutrient rich solution. The basic premise behind hydroponics is to allow the plant roots to come in direct contact with the nutrient solution, while also having access to oxygen, which is essential for proper growth.
- (c) **“Aquaponics”** shall refer to the integration of aquaculture and hydroponic plant production in a closed-loop water system that simultaneously grows both plants and fish. In a symbiotic relationship, the waste that is produced by fish in water tanks, which could become toxic for the fish if not cleaned, is used directly or converted by bacteria into useful nutrients for plants.

SEC. 4. Use of Aeroponics, Hydroponics, and Aquaponics Technologies.

- The Department of Agriculture (DA) is hereby mandated to promote the use of aeroponics, hydroponics, and aquaponics technologies as instruments to further improve the production of high value fish, crops and vegetables in the country and address food security concerns.

Idle government lands owned by either national or local governments or available land resources in state universities and colleges shall be considered for fish farming and growing crops and vegetables using aeroponics, hydroponics, or aquaponics technology, whichever is applicable.

SEC. 5. Comprehensive Research on Aeroponics, Hydroponics, and Aquaponics Technologies Applied in Agricultural Production. - For purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the DA is hereby mandated to conduct a comprehensive research and information drive on aeroponics, hydroponics, and aquaponics technologies applied in agricultural production.

The DA is further enjoined to support research activities aimed at expanding the knowledge and understanding of aeroponics, hydroponics, and aquaponics technologies and to invest in advance technology research to promote agricultural production of high value fish, crops and vegetables.

SEC. 6. Inclusion of Aeroponics, Hydroponics and Aquaponics Technologies in Agricultural Training. - Aeroponics, Hydroponics, and Aquaponics technologies, as used in agricultural production, shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions, who are studying courses on Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to agriculture.

The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this section within ninety (90) days from the date of effectivity hereof.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, in consultation with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Appropriation.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations of the DA, DepEd, and Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect. 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 in the Philippines.

Approved,