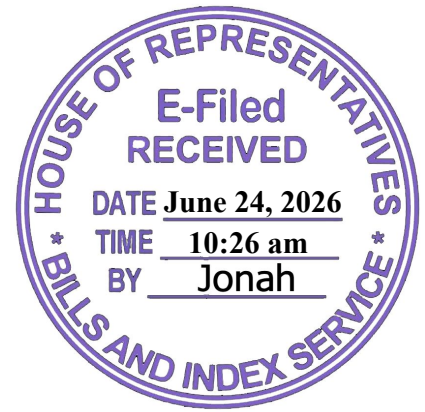


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9933



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

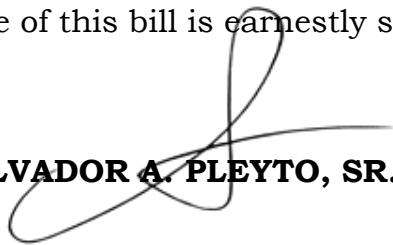
Agriculture is facing unprecedented challenges. Rapid urbanization, land degradation, climate change, and unpredictable weather patterns are continuously shrinking arable land and threatening food security. Traditional farming methods, while foundational, are becoming increasingly vulnerable to these environmental pressures.

To safeguard food sovereignty and boost economic productivity, we must transition toward climate-resilient, space-efficient, and technology-driven agricultural practices. Aeroponics (growing plants in an air/mist environment), hydroponics (growing plants in a nutrient-rich water solution), and aquaponics (a symbiotic system combining aquaculture and hydroponics) represent the frontier of modern sustainable farming.

These methods provide key advantages over traditional farming, using up to 90% less water with closed-loop systems. They reduce the need for arable land, making vertical and urban farming feasible. Closed environments lower risks of soil-borne pests and diseases, minimizing chemical pesticide use. Additionally, they enable continuous cultivation of high-value crops, vegetables, and fish, regardless of weather conditions.

This Bill aims to establish a national program promoting aeroponics, hydroponics, and aquaponics in rural and urban areas. By investing in these technologies, offering incentives to agri-tech entrepreneurs, and creating community farming hubs, it seeks to boost the income of fishers and farmers, ensure a steady supply of high-value vegetables and fish, and promote climate-smart agriculture.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9933

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

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

*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 "Modern Agri-Technology and Soilless Farming Promotion Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote sustainable, resilient, and high-yielding agricultural practices to ensure food security, optimize natural resources, and improve the livelihoods of farmers and fishers. In pursuit of this, the State shall actively support the research, development, commercialization, and widespread adoption of innovative, land-independent agricultural systems, specifically aeroponics, hydroponics, and aquaponics.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

- *Aeroponics* refers to a plant cultivation technique where roots are suspended in a closed or semi-closed environment and periodically sprayed with a nutrient-rich water mist.
- *Hydroponics* refers to the method of growing plants without soil, using mineral nutrient solutions in a water solvent or an inert medium like perlite, gravel, or coconut coir.
- *Aquaponics* refers to a sustainable food production system that combines aquaculture (raising aquatic animals) with hydroponics in a symbiotic, recirculating ecosystem.

- *High-Value Fish and Crops* refer to agricultural commodities that fetch higher market prices, have high nutritional value, or possess significant export potential, including but not limited to leafy greens, berries, vine crops, herbs, tilapia, catfish, and ornamental fish.

SEC. 4. *The National Modern Agri-Technology Program.* – There is hereby established a National Modern Agri-Technology Program (the "Program") under the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The Program shall focus on:

- (a) Establishing modern research and development hubs for high-value soilless production.
- (b) Providing technical training and extension services to smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, and urban communities.
- (c) Creating standard blueprints for low-cost, locally fabricated aeroponic, hydroponic, and aquaponic setups.

SEC. 5. *Urban and Community Farming Integration.* – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in cooperation with Local Government Units (LGUs), shall integrate these modern farming practices into urban planning and community livelihood programs. Idle public lands, rooftops of government buildings, and community centers shall be evaluated for conversion into localized aquaponic and hydroponic food hubs.

SEC. 6. *Incentives for Agri-Tech Entrepreneurs and Cooperatives.* – To accelerate private sector participation, registered individuals, cooperatives, and enterprises utilizing certified aeroponic, hydroponic, or aquaponic systems for commercial production shall be entitled to the following incentives:

- (a) Tax- and duty-free importation of specialized farming equipment, solar arrays, water filtration systems, and sensors not locally available.
- (b) Accelerated depreciation of plant equipment and infrastructure dedicated to soilless farming.
- (c) Preferential low-interest loan windows from government financial institutions.

SEC. 7. *Research, Development, and Education.* – The DOST, through its research institutes and in partnership with State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), shall prioritize research into nutrient solution optimization, renewable energy integration for indoor farms, and native fish species compatibility in aquaponic systems. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall incorporate basic principles of soilless farming into secondary school agricultural curricula.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the DOST, DTI, and private sector stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances, and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 12. *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,