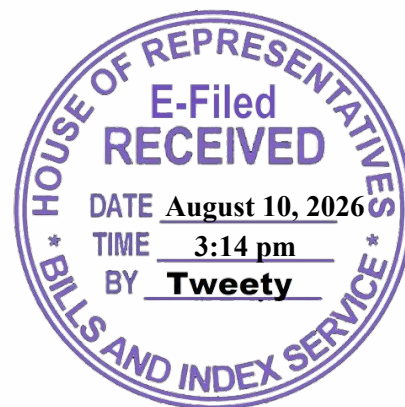


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10682

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR NUTRITION-SENSITIVE
AGRICULTURE, LOCAL FOOD SECURITY, AND STUNTING REDUCTION,
STRENGTHENING LINKAGES BETWEEN LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND
NUTRITION PROGRAMS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Stunting remains among the most pressing human capital development concerns in the Philippines. The 2025 Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) Updating Survey reported that 25.3 percent of Filipino children aged zero to 59 months suffer from stunting, reflecting an increase from the 23.6 percent prevalence recorded in 2023. These figures highlight the persistent challenge of chronic malnutrition and inadequate nutrition among young children. The current prevalence level continues to fall within the range classified by the World Health Organization as a high public health concern, emphasizing the need for stronger and more integrated interventions to address the root causes of stunting¹.

Moreover, stunting rates also remain significantly higher among poor households, rural communities, food-insecure households, and geographically isolated areas. Moreover, children from the poorest income quintile experience nearly three times the prevalence of stunting compared with children from the wealthiest households².

While Republic Act No. 11148 or the “Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act” and Republic Act No. 11037 or the “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act” provide critical nutrition interventions, malnutrition cannot be solved through feeding programs alone. The root causes include food insecurity, limited access to nutrient-dense foods, low agricultural productivity, inadequate dietary diversity, and weak linkages between local food production and nutrition programs.

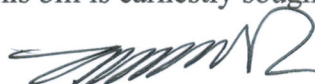
¹ <https://apmargin.org/child-stunting-philippines-2025/>

² <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/reports/raising-bar>

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) advocates nutrition-sensitive agriculture as a key strategy in addressing malnutrition by increasing the availability, affordability, and consumption of nutritious foods while strengthening livelihoods and food systems³.

This proposed measure seeks to establish a comprehensive framework whereby local government units, farmers' organizations, cooperatives, schools, health facilities, and nutrition offices coordinate to produce, procure, and distribute nutrient-rich foods for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and young children. Through community food production systems, nutrition gardens, diversified farming, local procurement, and targeted nutrition interventions, the State can simultaneously improve child nutrition, support farmers' livelihoods, and strengthen food security.

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



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI

Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “Local Food Security and Stunting Reduction Act of 2026.”

Section 2. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- a. Protect and promote the right of every Filipino child to adequate, safe, nutritious, and affordable food;
- b. Prevent and reduce child stunting, chronic undernutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies through nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems;
- c. Strengthen local food production and food security as a strategy for improving maternal and child nutrition;
- d. Prioritize interventions during the first one thousand (1,000) days of life as a critical period for child growth and development;
- e. Support small-scale farmers, fisherfolk, agrarian reform beneficiaries, and community-based food producers as partners in improving nutrition outcomes;
- f. Foster convergence among agriculture, health, nutrition, education, social welfare, and local government units (LGUs).

Section 3. Definition of Terms. For the purposes of this Act:

- a. *Stunting* refers to impaired growth and development resulting from chronic undernutrition, measured as low height-for-age in accordance with World Health Organization standards;
- b. *Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture* refers to agricultural interventions designed to improve nutrition outcomes by increasing the production, availability, accessibility, affordability, and consumption of diverse and nutrient-dense foods;
- c. *First One Thousand (1,000) Days* refers to the period beginning at conception until a child reaches two (2) years of age;
- d. *Nutrient-Dense Foods* refer to foods rich in vitamins, minerals, protein, and other essential nutrients needed for healthy growth and development;
- e. *Barangay Nutrition Farm* refers to a community-based food production site established to support household food security and nutrition programs;
- f. *Beneficiary Household* refers to a household with pregnant women, lactating mothers, children below five (5) years of age, or other nutritionally vulnerable individuals identified under this Act; and
- g. *Local Food and Nutrition Security Plan* refers to the local government plan integrating food production, food security, and nutrition interventions.

Section 4. Creation of the National Stunting Reduction Through Agriculture Program. There is hereby established a National Stunting Reduction through Agriculture Program (NSRAP) which shall be jointly implemented by the Department of Agriculture (DA), National Nutrition Council (NNC), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and other relevant agencies.

The Program shall integrate food production, nutrition promotion, food security, maternal and child health, and local economic development interventions to reduce stunting and malnutrition nationwide.

Section 5. Priority Beneficiaries. Priority beneficiaries shall include:

- a. Pregnant women;
- b. Lactating mothers;

- c. Children from birth to two (2) years old;
- d. Children below five (5) years old;
- e. Indigenous Peoples;
- f. Households identified through the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps);
- g. Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAS); and
- h. Areas identified as having high prevalence of stunting and food insecurity.

Section 6. Barangay Nutrition Farms. Every municipality and city shall establish or support Barangay Nutrition Farms, whether individually or through clustered arrangements among barangays. Barangay Nutrition Farms shall serve as community-based food production sites that produce vegetables, fruits, legumes, root crops, and other nutrient-rich foods; promote poultry, egg, livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture production; establish community nurseries and seed banks; serve as demonstration and training farms; and supply food to local nutrition, health, and feeding programs.

The Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS), in coordination with the Barangay Council and Municipal or City Agriculture Office, shall assist in the planning, promotion, monitoring, and utilization of Barangay Nutrition Farms. The BNS shall help identify beneficiary households, provide nutrition education and behavior change communication, promote household food production initiatives, monitor the nutrition-related outcomes of participating households, and facilitate the linkage of farm outputs to local nutrition, feeding, and maternal and child health programs. The participation of the BNS shall ensure that the production and distribution of food from Barangay Nutrition Farms directly contribute to improving dietary diversity, food security, and nutrition outcomes among vulnerable populations, particularly pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children during the first one thousand (1,000) days of life.

Section 7. Household Food Production Assistance. The DA, in coordination with LGUs, shall provide eligible beneficiary households with appropriate support to strengthen household food production and improve food security and nutrition. Such assistance may include the provision of vegetable seed kits, fruit tree seedlings, livestock and poultry starter packages, aquaculture inputs, organic fertilizers and soil amendments, climate-resilient production technologies, and technical and extension services necessary to enable households to sustainably produce diverse and nutrient-dense food for their own consumption and livelihood.

Section 8. Biofortified and Nutrient-rich Crops Program. The DA shall promote the research, development, production, distribution, and adoption of biofortified and nutrient-rich crops as part of the national strategy to improve food security and reduce micronutrient deficiencies and child stunting. Such crops shall include, but not be limited to, iron-rich rice, zinc-rich rice, orange-fleshed sweet potato, Vitamin A-rich vegetables, protein-rich legumes, and other nutrient-enhanced crop varieties identified and recommended by the DA, in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The Department shall also provide the necessary technical assistance, capacity-building programs, planting materials, and extension support to farmers and local government units to encourage the cultivation and utilization of these crops in nutrition-sensitive agriculture initiatives and community food production systems.

Section 9. Farm-to-Nutrition Procurement System. Consistent with Republic Act No. 11321, otherwise known as the “Sagip Saka Act,” all government agencies and LGUs implementing nutrition, feeding, maternal health, and child nutrition programs shall, whenever practicable and in accordance with existing procurement laws, directly procure agricultural and fishery products from farmer cooperatives, agrarian reform beneficiary organizations, fisherfolk organizations, community-based producers, and registered small agricultural enterprises.

To strengthen local food systems, support the livelihoods of Filipino farmers and fisherfolk, and ensure the availability of fresh and nutritious food in government-supported nutrition interventions, at least thirty percent (30%) of the fresh agricultural products required for such programs shall be sourced locally whenever available and feasible. The implementing agencies shall adopt procurement mechanisms that prioritize small-scale local producers and promote efficient, transparent, and sustainable farm-to-nutrition supply chains.

Section 10. Priority Markets for Nutrition Produce. Agricultural products generated through programs established under this Act may be utilized for the following:

- a. Child Development Centers;
- b. Supplementary Feeding Programs;
- c. School-Based Feeding Programs;
- d. Nutrition programs under Republic Act No. 11148;
- e. Rural Health Units;

- f. Community nutrition programs; and
- g. Other government-supported feeding and nutrition initiatives.

Section 11. Local Food and Nutrition Security Plans. Every province, city, and municipality shall prepare, adopt, and periodically update a Local Food and Nutrition Security Plan as an integral component of its local development and nutrition planning processes. The Plan shall serve as the primary framework for addressing food insecurity, malnutrition, and child stunting within the LGU and shall include, among others, an assessment and mapping of stunting prevalence and food insecurity, identification of priority beneficiaries and vulnerable populations, local food production and nutrition targets, budgetary requirements, climate-resilient agricultural strategies, and appropriate monitoring and evaluation indicators.

The Plan shall likewise provide mechanisms for coordination among local agriculture, health, nutrition, social welfare, education, and planning offices to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring, and sustainability of nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food security interventions under this Act.

Section 12. Local Food and Nutrition Councils. Every province, city, and municipality shall establish a Local Food and Nutrition Council. The Council shall be composed of representatives from:

- a. Local Government Unit;
- b. Agriculture Office;
- c. Health Office;
- d. Nutrition Action Office;
- e. Social Welfare Office;
- f. Planning and Development Office;
- g. Farmers' organizations;
- h. Fisherfolk organizations;
- i. Academe; and
- j. Civil society organizations.

The Council shall coordinate implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programs under this Act.

Section 13. Civil Society Participation. The State shall encourage the participation of non-government organizations, people's organizations, cooperatives, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, and community organizations in the implementation of this Act. Such participation may include:

- a. Nutrition education;
- b. Community organizing;
- c. Agricultural extension services;
- d. Resource mobilization;
- e. Monitoring and evaluation;
- f. Research and development; and
- g. Technical assistance.

Section 14. Development Partner Cooperation. The Government may enter into partnerships and cooperative arrangements with international development organizations, multilateral institutions, bilateral development agencies, philanthropic foundations, and other development partners to support the implementation of this Act.

Such partnerships may include the provision of technical assistance, capacity-building and training programs, grants and concessional financing, research and innovation initiatives, development of monitoring and information systems, and knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices. The implementing agencies shall ensure that all partnerships are aligned with national development priorities, local food security and nutrition objectives, and existing laws, policies, and regulations governing official development assistance and public sector partnerships.

Section 15. Creation of the Food Security and Stunting Reduction Fund. There is hereby created a Food Security and Stunting Reduction Fund to support programs and projects authorized under this Act. The Fund shall be used for:

- a. Barangay Nutrition Farms;
- b. Household food production assistance;
- c. Nutrition-sensitive agriculture projects;
- d. Technical assistance and capacity building;
- e. Monitoring and evaluation systems;
- f. Nutrition education campaigns; and
- g. Innovation and research initiatives.

Section 16. Sources of Funding. The implementation of this Act shall be financed through appropriations provided under the annual General Appropriations Act, existing appropriations of the implementing agencies, and appropriations from participating local government units.

The Program may likewise receive funding and technical support from Official Development Assistance, grants and donations from international development organizations, multilateral institutions, bilateral development agencies, philanthropic foundations, private sector entities, and corporate social responsibility initiatives, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations. The Program may also tap other lawful funding sources authorized under existing laws and regulations to ensure the sustainable and effective implementation of nutrition-sensitive agriculture, food security, and stunting reduction interventions under this Act.

Section 17. Local Counterpart Funding. LGUs shall allocate an amount sufficient to implement the programs under this Act, taking into consideration local stunting prevalence, food insecurity levels, and fiscal capacity.

Section 18. Performance-Based Grants. The DILG, DA, and NNC shall establish a Performance-Based Grant System to incentivize and recognize local government units that demonstrate measurable improvements in nutrition and food security outcomes. Eligibility for grants shall be based on objective and verifiable indicators, which may include reductions in stunting prevalence, improvements in dietary diversity among target populations, enhanced household food security, increased production of nutrient-dense agricultural products, greater procurement of agricultural and fishery products from local farmers and fisherfolk, and the effective implementation of nutrition-sensitive agriculture programs and interventions under this Act.

The implementing agencies shall develop the criteria, monitoring mechanisms, and evaluation framework for the grant system and may provide financial incentives, technical assistance, capacity-building support, or other forms of assistance to qualifying local government units to encourage innovation, sustainability, and continuous improvement in stunting reduction and local food security efforts.

Section 19. Annual Report to Congress. The NNC shall submit to the Congress an annual report on the implementation of this Act. The report shall include, among others, the status of program implementation at the national and local levels, trends and developments in stunting and other forms of malnutrition, budget utilization and expenditures, program accomplishments and outcomes, the performance of participating local government units, and recommendations for legislative, policy, administrative, and budgetary measures necessary to strengthen the implementation of this Act. The annual report shall serve as the basis for monitoring progress, evaluating the effectiveness of interventions, guiding future appropriations, and informing policy decisions aimed at reducing stunting, improving food security, and enhancing nutrition outcomes nationwide.

Section 20. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, NNC, DOH, DSWD, DILG, DepEd, and DAR shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 21. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 22. All laws, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 23. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved