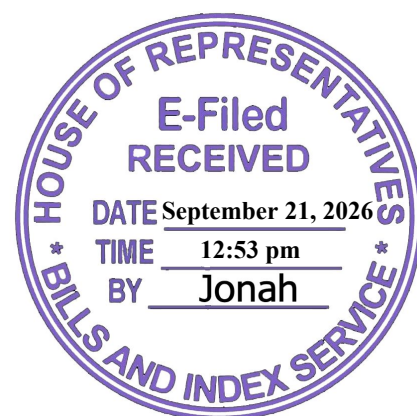


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11393



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
ENHANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN AGRICULTURE TO ADVERSE
CLIMATE EVENTS BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE USE OF CROP
CLIMATE CALENDARS, EQUIPPING FARMERS FOR CLIMATE-
SENSITIVE DECISION-MAKING, AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO
LOCALIZED WEATHER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is highly vulnerable to climate-related hazards that threaten agricultural production, rural livelihoods, and food security. From 2012 to 2022, adverse weather and climate events caused average annual damages of approximately ₱44 billion to the country's agriculture sector. Agriculture accounted for about 60 percent of total disaster-related property damage, making it the sector most affected by extreme climate events.¹

The continuing vulnerability of the sector is further demonstrated by data from the Department of Agriculture showing that agricultural production losses reached approximately ₱57.78 billion in 2024. These losses were attributed to El Niño, tropical cyclones, pests and diseases, volcanic activity, and other weather-related events. They affected approximately 1.4 million farmers and fisherfolk, damaged an estimated 993,823 hectares of agricultural land, and resulted in the loss of approximately 2.18 million metric tons of agricultural production.²

The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events—including droughts, typhoons, floods, excessive rainfall, and prolonged periods of extreme heat—have caused substantial damage to crops, livestock, fisheries, agricultural infrastructure, and farm livelihoods. These events

¹ Galang, Ivory Myka R., and Roehlano M. Briones. *Culprit and Victim: Scenarios for Philippine Agriculture amidst Climate Change*. PIDS Discussion Paper Series No. 2024-36, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, December 20, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.62986/dp2024.36>

² Rappler. “Agri Losses Due to Calamities Hit P57.8 Billion in 2024.” *Rappler*, January 29, 2025. <https://www.rappler.com/philippines/agriculture-losses-record-2024-due-calamities/>

disrupt planting and harvesting schedules, reduce productivity, increase production costs, and threaten the stability of the country's food supply.

Climate change further intensifies these risks. Farmers, particularly smallholder farmers and those dependent on rain-fed agriculture, often make critical production decisions without timely, accessible, and location-specific information on weather and climate conditions. Without appropriate guidance on the timing of land preparation, planting, crop management, harvesting, and other farm activities, farmers may be exposed to avoidable losses.

There is, therefore, an urgent need to strengthen the country's institutional capacity for climate-resilient agriculture. The use of crop climate calendars can help align agricultural activities with local climate conditions, seasonal weather patterns, and projected climate risks. When combined with localized weather forecasts, climate advisories, early-warning systems, and appropriate technical assistance, these tools can enable farmers to make better-informed and climate-sensitive decisions.

This measure recognizes that farmers must be at the center of the country's climate adaptation and disaster-risk-reduction efforts. It seeks to institutionalize the development, updating, dissemination, and use of crop climate calendars for major crops and production areas; provide farmers with accessible and understandable weather and climate information; strengthen coordination among relevant government agencies, local government units, academic institutions, research organizations, and civil society organizations; and equip farmers with the knowledge and tools necessary to adjust their production practices in response to changing climate conditions.

By promoting timely and localized decision-making, the proposed measure will help reduce production losses, improve agricultural planning, strengthen food security, and protect the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk. It will also support the adoption of climate-smart and science-based agricultural practices while ensuring that national climate-resilience initiatives respond to the actual conditions and needs of local farming communities.

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


REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon 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 "*Resilient Agriculture Act*."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - In recognition of the importance of agriculture in economic development, the State shall enhance the resiliency and adaptability of the sector against the adverse effects of climate change that threaten productivity. Climate resiliency shall be a priority government intervention for the agriculture sector.

SECTION 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 decision" refers to decisions that hinge on weather and climate states, with final outcomes and even decision alternatives which vary depending on the prevailing weather phenomena; and

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

SECTION 4. *Crop Climate Calendars.* - The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall establish and promote the use of crop climate calendars in the country. 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 that are tailor-fit for each specific locality. These crop climate calendars shall be distributed free of charge to all farmers and farmers' organizations and be made available online.

SECTION 5. *Climate-Sensitive Decision-Making.* - The DA, through the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), shall provide appropriate and relevant training and capacity- building for farmers and farmers' organizations in the practice of climate-sensitive decision-making and its applications. The ATI shall develop clear, concise, and easily comprehensible materials, briefers, and similar documents on climate-sensitive decision-making for distribution to individual farmers and farmers' organizations.

SECTION 6. *Localized Weather and Climate Information.* - The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) shall provide regular and updated localized weather and climate information to city, municipal and provincial agriculturists' offices and directly to the farmers themselves through all available channels including but not limited to social media. This information shall be written in simple English, Filipino, and other regional languages as necessary and must be presented in a clear, concise, and easily understandable form.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - 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 IRR to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, and other parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,