

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 11496**



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Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**  
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Agriculture used to be one of the Philippines' strongest sectors in the economy. We prided ourselves with the ability of our farmers to compete in the global market. However, present times show a completely different picture. What used to be a robust agricultural sector now has given way to other sectors such as the services and manufacturing sector. From exporters of products such as rice, we now import rice to be able to feed our growing population.

But the agricultural sector should not be left to decline, in fact it may present the solution to many of our economic woes. A boosted agricultural sector would help us with food security issues. If agriculture becomes economically viable, rural economies would undergo a drastic transformation. Farmers would no longer have to venture into cities to find work, thereby reducing rural-urban migration. This in turn would lead to decongested cities and reduce the pressure to create more and more jobs in urban environments.

This is why we need to inculcate advancements made in agricultural technology with our farmers. While there exist programs that already seek to impart such knowledge directly to our farmers, its effects may be attained faster and in greater magnitude if there is an assigned an expert in agricultural technology that routinely aids and assesses each farmer's yield and capabilities.

It is for these foregoing premises that approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS**  
*Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist*

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN IN**  
**EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT AND ENHANCING THE OPERATIONAL**  
**CAPABILITIES OF THE TECHNICIANS THEREOF**

*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 “Agricultural Technician Act”.

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to uplift the socio-economic conditions of farmers and farming communities nationwide in order to promote their welfare and empower their sector in the overall development and progress of the country. Pursuant to this, an empowered agricultural sector must be predicated on enhancing the operational and technical capabilities of its workers with an end of view of capacitating its entire agricultural sector, uplifting the people within it, increasing food security and production, and maximizing the sustainable use of its agricultural resources.

**SECTION 3. Definitions of Terms.** – As used in this Act, Agricultural Technician or Agri-Technician – refers to individuals who are trained in the hard sciences or engineering, using such knowledge and skills in agricultural applications such as production, processing, and research.

**SECTION 4. Assignment of Agri-Technicians.** – The Department of Agriculture, through their regional and local offices, is hereby directed to provide at least one (1) agri-technician for each level of local government. Agri-technicians are mandated to conduct research, maintain the various equipment and tools used by farmers, and to craft recommendations to their local office to provide better conditions for agriculture in their assigned area. Such office of

agri-technician cannot be concurrently held in conjunction with another public office.

**SECTION 5.** *Supervision and Control.* – The Department of Agriculture, through their regional and local offices, shall exercise control and supervision over the activities and outputs of the assigned agri-technicians per locale.

**SECTION 6.** *Technical Support.* – Each Agri-technician shall be furnished with an appropriate vehicle such as but not limited to: motorcycles, tricycles, or jeeps, to allow them to better carry out their functions. The issuance of such would be subject to normal auditing rules.

**SECTION 7.** *Appropriations.* – The funds necessary for the initial and continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 8.** *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 9.** *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 10.** *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,