Moreover, the agricultural sector receives the lowest average daily basic wage compared to non-agriculture industries. In general, the average daily wage of a farmer is approximately PHP 240.00. However, most farmers do not receive this.

Another possible reason for the decline of young farmers is the fact that they are among the poorest sector in the country. In 2014, the country's poverty incidence was at 26.7%, most of which come from the farmers and fisherfolk comprising 41.4% and 36.7% respectively.

The recent years saw a massive loss of farm workers. The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) in a 2012 study found that there was an average of 25.5% per year of agricultural workers.

The recent years saw a massive loss of farm workers. The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) in a 2012 study found that there was an average of 25.5% per year of agricultural workers. Conversely, the Philippines has seen an increase in its agricultural population due to the increased population of the country. According to the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (2013), young farmers aged 39 and below account for only 12.3% of farmers in major commodity sectors. Despite being a declining population, their role is still significant in the agricultural industry.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Introduced by Rep. Christopher P. de Venecia

HOUSE BILL No. 1997

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Quezon City, Metro Manila

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Republic of the Philippines
This version was pending by the Committee on Agriculture and Food and no action since then.

In view of the foregoing, I am re-filing this bill that was initially filed in the 77th Congress.

Training and related capacity building measures.

Train young farmers, organizations, and extension workers through government research and extension work, and outline the duties of the state to provide support to public funds and incentives, and extend their political, civil, and social rights (right to food security and productive resources), decent working conditions, and guarantees of the human rights, empowerment of young farmers, and the beneficiaries of improving their skills and capabilities.

This bill aims to promote the social and economic well-being of young farmers, develop new skills and capabilities, and improve their status against discrimination.

Addressing the crisis, there is need for an enabling policy framework that will provide a

amount on a daily basis as many farm jobs are seasonal. It is on this note that most people tend
The State recognizes the indispensable contribution of Young Farmers to the overall food security and national economy.

The State recognizes the role of Young Farmers as eco-warriors and staunch advocates of environmental protection.

The State acknowledges the invaluable role of Young Farmers who are present in the value chain process starting from production to processing, to value-adding up to marketing.

The State acknowledges the indubitable role of Young Farmers who are present in the value chain to sustain the family’s source of income most especially in non-harvesting seasons; playing a major role in augmenting their family’s proceeds, doing so enables working odd jobs to be undertaken.

The State recognizes Young Farmers as supplementary income earners in the family farms and responsibilities.

The State recognizes Young Farmers as a separate basic sector with its own distinct rights tenant or lessee of the land in which they personally cultivate and till.

Income comes from agriculture with no age range of 15-35 years old, is owner, worker, income earner, an individual whose primary source of income.

The State hereby declares “Young Farmers” an individual whose primary source of income.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy – The following are hereby declared to be policies of the State:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES IN CONGRESS

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF YOUNG FARMERS

Introduced by Rep. Christopher P. de Venecia

House Bill No. ___________________

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Quezon City, Metro Manila

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Republic of the Philippines
Committee on World Food Security).

needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (as defined by the United social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary health, food security),

e (Food Security) refers to the condition in which all people, at all times, have physical, (ecosustainable) farming.

(d) "Young farmers" refers to the young advocated for environmental protection and acts.

age, gender, or religion shall be considered discrimination against young farmers under compounded by or intersecting with other grounds’ status or condition, such as ethnicity,

employment of young farmers, provided fairly, that discrimination

and promotion of their rights and access to and development of opportunities, and promotion of their rights and access to and development of opportunities, discrimination.

practice, that is, directly or indirectly excludes or restricts young farmers, in the recognition

practice, that is, directly or indirectly excludes or restricts young farmers, in the recognition

and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other

social; political; economic; and cultural; and social, political, and economic;

purpose of eliminating or nullifying the recognition, employment, or exercise by young

operation, performed by a farmer.

other domesticated animals used for food purposes and any forestry or lumbering

forests and natural habitats, including forests, the raising of livestock, including horses, the keeping of

Agroecological, agroforestry, and agro-industrial; the production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural;

"Agriculture" refers to farming in all its branches and the cultivation and culture and all these products.
**Organic Agriculture** refers to all agricultural systems that promote the ecological balance and sustainable, environmentally friendly practices. It includes the use of biodegradable, non-harmful fertilizers and pest controls, and focuses on the production of food and fiber. Organic agriculture is characterized by reduced external inputs by reaffirming sound, socially acceptable, economically viable and technologically feasible production of food and fiber.

**Organic Farming** refers to the particular farming and processing system described in the National Standards and not in the classical culinary sense. The term “organic” is synonymous in standards and not in the classical culinary sense. The term “organic” is synonymous in standards and not in the classical culinary sense. The term “organic” is synonymous in standards and not in the classical culinary sense. The term “organic” is synonymous in standards and not in the classical culinary sense.

**Smallholding** refers to a person who, by ownership or leasehold, cultivates the land, belonging to the family or family unit, and the livestock or livestock possessed by the immediate farm household, without the aid of available means of production within their family.

**Family Farming** is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family or family unit, including gold miners, and their dependents.

**Tenant** refers to a person who, through lease, or with the aid of available means of production within their family, cultivates the land belonging to the landlord, under the leasehold tenancy system, or without the leasehold tenancy system, or with the aid of available means of production within their family.

**Yong Family** refers to an individual whose primary source of income comes from agricultural work, with an age range of 15-35 years old, is owner, tenant, lease, or a worker of the landlord, with a primary source of income from agricultural work.
Specialization on Agriculture and Fisheries under the K to 12 curriculum shall be
8.2. Scholarships. Any graduate of Technical and Livelihood Education with
organizations.
colleges (such) on information and technology transfer to Young Farmer individuals and
training of Young Farmers and Encourage partnerships and linkage with State universities and
SEC. 8. Education and Training. The State shall ensure equal access to quality education and

RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT

the definition of a Young Farmer as stated in this Act.
problems provided under existing laws shall remain in full force and effect, provided it follows
SEC. 7. Non-Discrimination of the Rights of the Young Farmers. All other Young Farmers rights and

social responsibility duties.
include livelihood strategies sensitive to the plight of Young Farmers, as part of their Corporate
SEC. 6. Duties of Private Sector. It is the duty of the private sector to support Young Farmers
agendas through Social partnerships between People Organizations and industries. Private

administrative guidelines that define specific duties of state agencies and entities concerned.
and controlled corporations, subject to the consultation and participation of relevant sector
SEC. 5. Duties of State Agencies and Institutions. The State shall undertake duties of the State
against Young Farmers and farmers in general, and advance their rights and responsibilities.
measures to effectively recognize Young Farmers as a distinct basic sector, stop discrimination

The State shall take measures and establish mechanisms to promote the coherent and
(1) promote and fulfill the rights of Young Farmers in all aspects including but not limited to
emotional, psychological, spiritual or cultural in nature of Young Farmers;
(2) lead against the discrimination and coercion or violence be in physical, verbal, sexual;
(3) recognize and promote the rights of Young Farmers defined and guaranteed under this

SEC. 4. State as Primary Duty Bearer. The State as the Primary duty bearer shall:
II.2 Land and Farm Planning, Management — A small provide full assistance to

and sustainability of their farms. The Department shall utilize existence of Farmer
planning and management to ensure maximum utilization, production, profitability
Young Farmers’ farms, from the national scale down to community levels as regard to farm
wherever kind. Provided, however, that the presidential guarantees that the land

II.4 Right to Resources for Food Production — The State shall guarantee that Young Farmers’

and assistance, access to seeds and farm inputs, and assistance for product and market linkage

SEC. 10. Access to Information — Young Farmers access to information regarding policies,

SEC. 9. Access to Technology, Credit and Capital — The State shall ensure that Young Farmers are

provided the following:

(2) Meet the minimum requirement for admission to the Agricultural-Specific Courses of SUC's.

(3) Completion of the agricultural-related courses required by the SUC.

SEC. 8. Access to Supportive Services — Young Farmers’ organizations and individuals through the proper
Learning seminars, hands-on training and the establishment of a College of Agriculture in regional and local universities and institutions.

SEC. 7. Access to Training, Credit and Capital — The State shall ensure that Young Farmers are

SEC. 6. Right to Resources for Food Production — The State shall guarantee that Young Farmers’

SEC. 5. Access to Information — Young Farmers access to information regarding policies,

SEC. 4. Access to Technology, Credit and Capital — The State shall ensure that Young Farmers are

SEC. 3. Access to Information — Young Farmers access to information regarding policies,

SEC. 2. Access to Training, Credit and Capital — The State shall ensure that Young Farmers are
11.3 National Young Farmers Roadmap. - DA, including its attached agencies and corporations, in coordination with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), National Commission on Higher Education (CHED), National Commission on the Philippines, Authority (PCA), Commission on Youth Commission (NCY), Philippine commissions, and all agricultural-related agencies, shall formulate and implement a National Young Farmers Plan within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the effectiveness of this Act. The roadmap shall serve as the framework for the effective implementation of the National Young Farmers Plan.

11.4 Young Farmer Community Seed Banks. - DA shall establish model farms that feature sustainable farming practices such as integrated and diverse organic farming systems, to serve as knowledge transfer and training institutions for young farmers and agricultural workers and provide an avenue for the active participation of young farmers in environmental protection and practice of sustainable farming.

SEC. 12. Environmental Protection. - DA, in partnership with DENR and DOST, shall establish a Commonwealth Fund for the Environment and Development (CFED) through the National Youth Commission (NCY) and the Philippine Commission on Youth (PCY), to provide financial assistance to young farmers who wish to engage in sustainable farming practices. The fund shall be used to support the implementation of the National Young Farmers Roadmap and the Young Farmer Community Seed Banks.
SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall, in coordination with the National Agriculture Resilience Council (NARC), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Science and Technology, CHED, NCPC, and the Department of Health (DOH), shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act.

SEC. 13. Recognition of the National Young Farmers Council. There is hereby created the National Young Farmers Council, which shall be attached to the National Agriculture Resilience Council. The mission of the Council is to promote the welfare and interest of young farmers and to organize them into effective and healthy cooperatives. The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) Advise the Department of Agriculture on matters relating to the welfare of young farmers;
(b) Represent the interests of young farmers in governmental and non-governmental bodies and agencies;
(c) Perform other functions as may be assigned to it by the National Agriculture Resilience Council.

The Council shall consist of fifteen (15) members, nine (9) of whom shall be farmers or non-farmers, and six (6) of whom shall be experts or specialists in agriculture, rural development, and related fields. The Council shall elect from among its members a chairman and a vice-chairman. The chairman and vice-chairman shall hold office for two (2) years, unless sooner removed for cause by the National Agriculture Resilience Council.

SEC. 14. Creation of the National Young Farmers Council. The National Young Farmers Council shall be composed of representatives from various sectors, including farmers, non-farmers, youth organizations, and other stakeholders interested in the welfare of young farmers. The Council shall promote the interests of young farmers and ensure their participation in decision-making processes at all levels. The Council shall advise the National Agriculture Resilience Council on matters relating to the welfare of young farmers and shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Council.

SEC. 15. Representation and Participation. The State shall ensure that young farmers participate in the decision-making and policy-making processes, including representation in the National Agriculture Resilience Council and other related bodies. The State shall facilitate the participation of young farmers in the formulation and implementation of programs and projects that affect their welfare.

SEC. 16. Strengthening Young Farmer Organizations. The Department of Agriculture shall cooperate with the National Youth Commission and the Regional Youth Coordinating Councils to promote the formation and strengthening of young farmer organizations, which shall be part of the National Young Farmers Council. The State shall provide assistance and technical support to these organizations to enhance their capacities and effectiveness in representing the interests of young farmers.
Approved

Gazetted or in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 23. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official

SEC. 22. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent

the remainder of the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 21. Separation Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional,

Appropriations Act.

necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General

on Higher Education (CHED) and National Agency for Poverty Commission (NAPC). Such amounts

Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Education (DepED), Commission

Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); attached agencies and corporations, Department of Agrarian Reform (DARP), Department of

be charged from the budget allocation of the Department of Agriculture (DA) including its

SEC. 20. Appropriation of Funds. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall