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Office of the Secretary

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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'22 JUL 11 P3:47

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

S. No. 239

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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**AN ACT**  
**PROMOTING FOOD FOREST GARDENING, PROVIDING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Food forest gardening is seeing a resurgence in urban areas worldwide. A food forest is a system of gardening using perennial vegetables chosen to complement and support each other, minimizing weeds, pests, and maintenance while providing a rich variety of harvests. There is a need to adopt the concept of forest gardening to ensure a sustainable method of food production with minimal cost.

This bill seeks to promote and institutionalize Food Forest Gardening in the country as a sustainable land-use system to address the limited resources for sustainable food production with minimal farming costs but increased harvests even in small plots of land. The Philippine Food Forest Gardening Commission (PFFGC) shall be created, attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA), and shall act as the policy-making body for the effective implementation of this Act. Local Government Units (LGUs), educational institutions, and other stakeholders are mandated to participate in the program. Likewise, the Philippine Center for Food Forest Gardening (PCFFG) shall be established under the Commission to provide information, training, education, expertise, and best practices to implement the Food Forest Gardening Act.

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



**LOREN LEGARDA**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROMOTING FOOD FOREST GARDENING, PROVIDING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Food Forest Gardening Act  
2 of 2022.”

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to build,  
4 preserve, and maintain a healthy ecosystem; protect and develop biodiversity and habitats for  
5 wildlife; conserve the country’s crop genetic diversity and heirloom plants as a strategy for  
6 climate change adaptation, mitigation and resiliency; and promote public awareness on  
7 ecological and sustainable use of land resources for food production and other products.  
8 Toward this end, the government, in coordination with the stakeholders in the business Sector,  
9 such as land developers and social entrepreneurs, and the civil society, shall promote and  
10 integrate Food Forest Gardening by establishing and developing community gardens in the  
11 country as a form of sustainable land use system for food production and other agricultural  
12 products for economic and societal development.

13 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

14 a. *Agro-Forestry* – a land use management system in which trees or shrubs are grown  
15 around or among crops or pasture land and combines shrubs and trees in  
16 agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, profitable,  
17 healthy, ecologically sound, and sustainable land-use systems;

- 1           b. *Companion Planting* – planting of different crops in close proximity for ecological  
2           pest control, pollination, providing habitat for beneficial creatures, maximizing the  
3           use of space, and otherwise increasing the crop productivity;
- 4           c. *Crop Rotation* – the practice of successive planting of different crops on the same  
5           land to improve soil fertility and crop yield, reduce soil erosion and help control  
6           insects and diseases;
- 7           d. *Ecosystem* – a complex set of relationships among the living resources, habitats,  
8           and residents of an area which includes plants, trees, animals, fish, birds,  
9           microorganisms, water, soil, and people;
- 10          e. *Forest Gardening* – “multi-layered crop farming” or low maintenance and  
11          sustainable method of food production that is based on woodland ecosystems,  
12          incorporating fruit and nut trees, shrubs, herbs, vines, and perennial vegetables  
13          that yields directly useful to humans and a system of agroforestry that creates a  
14          diverse, productive, healthy, ecologically-sound and sustainable system of land  
15          use;
- 16          f. *Perennial Vegetables* – plants that live for more than two (2) years; and,
- 17          g. *Sustainable Land-Use Management* – use of land resources, including soil, water,  
18          animals, and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs  
19          while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these  
20          resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions.

21           Sec. 4. *Institutionalization of the Philippine Food Forest Gardening Program.* – To ensure  
22          food Security and regenerate ecosystem functions through a system of layers of vegetation,  
23          the Philippine Food Forest Gardening Program, hereinafter referred to as the “Program”, is  
24          hereby institutionalized. For this purpose, Food Forest Gardening may be established in the  
25          following places:

- 26           a. Any parcel or portion of land;
- 27           b. Public spaces such as urban yards or city and municipal parks;
- 28           c. Unutilized and idle public land;
- 29           d. Community or common spaces of land developments;
- 30           e. Portions of rural farms;
- 31           f. Urban housing projects

1 g. Idle parcels of land in schools, colleges, and universities; and,

2 h. Actual yards of households.

3 Sec. 5. *Objectives of the Program.* — The following are the objectives of the Program:

4 a. To introduce low-maintenance food production through agroforestry;

5 b. To establish sustainable food forest gardening using mostly perennial vegetables  
6 through crop rotation and companion planting in the country;

7 c. To maximize land use and provide a significant source of income for urban and  
8 rural communities;

9 d. To transform farmers from mere mono-crop cultivators to multi-crop agripreneurs;

10 e. To utilize idle lands and consequently create beautiful living spaces;

11 f. To serve as a model for the youth inspiring them towards sustainable agriculture;  
12 and,

13 g. To help farmers build productive farming communities and produce high-quality  
14 crops for the country's economy.

15 Sec. 6. *Creation and Composition of the Philippine Food Forest Gardening Commission.* —

16 There is hereby created the Philippine Food Forest Gardening Commission, hereinafter  
17 referred to as the "Commission", which shall be attached to the Department of Agriculture  
18 (DA) and shall act as a policy-making body for effective and continuing implementation of the  
19 provisions of this Act. It shall be headed by the Secretary of the DA, as Chairperson, and the  
20 Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) as Co-Chairperson. The  
21 following shall be its members:

22 a. Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI);

23 b. a representative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
24 (DENR);

25 c. a representative of the Department of Finance (DOF);

26 d. a representative of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);

27 e. a representative of the Department of Education (DepEd);

28 f. a representative of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

29 g. 2 representatives of the land developers associations; and,

30 h. 2 representatives of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).



1           Sec. 7. *Powers and Functions of the Commission.* – The Commission shall have the  
2 following powers and functions:

- 3           1. Formulate framework, plan, and policy for the Philippine Food Forest Gardening  
4           at both national and local levels;
- 5           2. Prepare a comprehensive manual for the Philippine Food Forest Gardening  
6           Program;
- 7           3. Formulate guidelines for the food forest gardening training program for Local  
8           Government Units (LGUs), concerned agencies, and offices; teachers or instructors  
9           of both public and private schools teaching subjects related to agriculture,  
10          particularly those under the K to 12 program, and other interested members of  
11          society, such as non-government organizations (NGOs);
- 12          4. Devise and implement resource development scheme to ensure continued  
13          allocation of funds;
- 14          5. Assess the overall progress of the food forest training program and review the  
15          monitoring and evaluation of results;
- 16          6. Submit an annual report to Congress; and
- 17          7. Perform such other tasks necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

18          Sec. 8. *Participation of LGUs.* – All LGUs are hereby mandated to establish the  
19 Program which shall focus on implementing comprehensive food forest gardening in their  
20 respective levels and jurisdictions. The concerned LGUs shall encourage all home developers,  
21 homeowners, neighborhoods, communities, and/or people’s organizations to participate in  
22 the Program.

23          Sec. 9. *Incentives.* – Those participating in the Program shall be granted incentives  
24 including, but not limited to, exemption from payment of real estate tax, exemption from  
25 existing rules and regulations prohibiting farming or growing food in backyards, patios, or  
26 houses, and other incentives as may be provided by the Commission and the law.

27          Sec. 10. *Establishment of the Philippine Center for Food Forest Gardening.* – The Philippine  
28 Center for Food Forest Gardening is hereby established, which shall be under the Commission  
29 and shall provide information, training, education, expertise, best practices, and networking  
30 to implement the food forest gardening program. It shall likewise provide the necessary  
31 Secretariat, administrative, and technical support to the Commission.

1           Sec. 11. *Management Fund.* – For the implementation of this Act, a management fund  
2 shall be established for the following purposes:

- 3           a. Research
- 4           b. Information and educational campaign;
- 5           c. Training; and
- 6           d. Pilot programs

7           Sec. 12. *Integration of the Program in School Curriculum.* – The Program shall be  
8 integrated into the academic curriculum for senior high school and college students taking up  
9 Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics, and/or other subjects related to agriculture.

10          Sec. 13. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act is  
11 hereby authorized to be appropriated from the budget of the DA, DILG, DOST, DepEd,  
12 CHED, and DENR not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, the funds shall be included in the  
13 annual budget of the aforementioned agencies.

14          Sec. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DA, in coordination with the DILG,  
15 DOST, DepEd, CHED, DENR, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and  
16 regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

17          Sec. 15. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act, or any part thereof, shall be  
18 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall  
19 continue in full force and effect.

20          Sec. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, proclamations, executive  
21 orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
22 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23          Sec. 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its  
24 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,