

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 JUL 25 P1:57

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. No. 845

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
RATIONALIZING AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES BY
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS, PROVIDING FOR MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agricultural institutions play a major role in the efforts of the government to develop countryside agro-industrialization. Data gathered from different developed countries have shown that colleges and universities directly involved in agriculture are instrumental in improving the productivity of rural farming communities and contribute to the overall agricultural health of a nation.

We can ensure the growth and survival of our agricultural sector through the enhancement of agricultural education in the country. By improving agricultural education, we provide the sector with a high-level workforce that can assure better farm yields and proper use of natural resources which ultimately lead to better income for agricultural workers and the betterment of the sector as a whole.

This Act aims to establish the National Agriculture Education System (NAES), which is a step towards the stratification of institutional goals, upgrading standards and the improvement of school effectiveness in instruction, research and extension within the nation, region or province. Through NAES, the State commits the exposure of agriculture in all aspects to educators, students and the community to create an understanding and appreciation of agriculture and related industries to it. The NAES

is a great opportunity for the State to promote agricultural awareness, and to enlighten the nation on the significance of agriculture to all members of society.

Our country is rich in many natural resources, undeniably, one of our most precious resources is soil. The Earth's climate constantly changes, in recent years, things have been taking a turn for the worst. We have to make sure, therefore, that our policies and our ways of utilization keep up with the times. We have to push for the betterment of farm policy and agricultural education to make sure we use our resources properly for a sustainable future. We must get our farmers into classrooms, and we must let our students venture out onto farms. It is the duty of the State to not only protect but also preserve the land, to ensure its welfare for the next generation of our nation. We must work together in order to achieve a truly sustainable agricultural system.

This bill aims to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of agricultural education programs across the nation while preserving the concern for equity or democratized access to higher education in the rural areas. It is a response to call for greater productivity, higher rural incomes and overall a better quality of life for the Filipino people across the nation.

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


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

- 1 Section 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Agriculture Education Act of
2 2022".
- 3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* -
- 4 a) The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens, regardless
5 of sex, and creed to quality education at all levels and shall take
6 appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.
- 7 b) The State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete and
8 integrated system of agriculture education relevant to the needs of the
9 economy, community and society.
- 10 c) The State shall provide non-formal education and training to farmers,
11 farm workers and out-of-school youths in the rural areas.
- 12 d) Agriculture education shall be coordinated with agricultural policies of
13 the State and shall be oriented particularly towards improvement of the
14 productivity and income of small farmers and increased self-sufficiency
15 of rural communities.

1 Sec. 3. *Scope.* - This Act shall apply to and govern both formal and non-formal
2 continuing agriculture education programs being offered in all public and private
3 educational institutions in the country.

4 Sec. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - The following terms shall mean as defined herein:

5 a) Agriculture – means cultivation of the soil, planting of crops, growing
6 of fruit trees, management of forests, raising or catching of livestock or
7 both, poultry or fish; including the harvesting and post harvest handling
8 of such products and other activities and practices performed by a
9 farmer/fisherman/forester in conjunction with such operations done by
10 persons whether natural or juridical.

11 b) Agriculture and Environment Education – pertains to organized and
12 institutionalized instructions relating to professional, technical and
13 vocational skills development, research for technology development, and
14 extension of technologies in the various fields/disciplines in agriculture
15 and allied sciences such as crop science, animal science, agricultural
16 engineering, fisheries, forestry and veterinary medicine. Environmental
17 concerns are integrated in each discipline.

18 Sec. 5. *Purpose.* - Qualified existing public and private institutes, colleges and
19 universities shall be developed into a network of an integrated system of Agriculture
20 Education to respond effectively to agriculture and rural development needs of the
21 country.

22 Sec. 6. *The National Agriculture Education System (NAES).* - The network of
23 qualified public and private education institutions shall be established into a National
24 Agriculture Education System (NAES), in order for agriculture education to have a
25 unified, coordinated and improved system of implementation of academic program
26 thrusts geared toward achieving agriculture and rural development of the community
27 and country. However, in case there is no institution offering agriculture and rural
28 development of the community and country. However, in case there is no institution
29 offering agriculture education in the service area which corresponds to the provision
30 of Section 7 of this Act, the same shall be created or established according to
31 implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

1 *Sec. 7. Components of the System.* - From among the qualified agriculture
2 education institutions, regardless of the institution's system of governance as
3 authorized by law, the network shall be composed of five (5) subsystems, namely:
4 agriculture, agricultural engineering, fisheries, forestry and veterinary medicine.
5 However, administrative organization and structures of the designated institutions
6 shall be governed by their respective charters unless otherwise provided in this Act.

7 a) The Agriculture Education Subsystem shall be composed of one (1)
8 designated National College of Agriculture, one (1) designated Regional
9 College of Agriculture in each region, and at least one (1)
10 designated/converted/created Technical Institute of Agriculture per
11 province as the case may be.

12 b) The Agricultural Engineering Education Subsystem shall be composed
13 of one (1) designated National College of Agricultural Engineering and a
14 designated Regional College of Agricultural Engineering per region to be
15 located within the network of the agriculture education subsystem.

16 c) The Fisheries Education Subsystem shall be composed of one (1)
17 designated Regional College of Fisheries to be located strategically in
18 three (3) selected regions and a designated/converted/created Regional
19 Institute of Fisheries Technology per region.

20 d) The Forestry Education Subsystem shall be composed of one (1)
21 designated National College of Forestry and designated Regional College
22 of Forestry per region to be located within the agriculture education
23 subsystem, if possible.

24 e) The Veterinary Education Subsystem shall be composed of one (1)
25 designated National College of Veterinary Medicine and four (4)
26 designated regional College of Veterinary Medicine to be located
27 strategically in four (4) selected regions within the agriculture education
28 system.

29 *Sec. 8. The National Colleges (NCs) shall:*

30 a) Concentrate on the post-graduate programs and curricular models in
31 the tertiary level;

- 1 b) Be responsible for the conduct of basic and applied researches and
2 other scientific innovations;
3 c) Assist the RCs and institutes in their development efforts towards
4 excellence, effectiveness and relevance, in instruction, research and
5 extension or technology transfer;
6 d) Link up with national and international agencies to keep abreast of
7 local needs and scientific advances; and
8 e) Share its expertise and facilities with the Government and private
9 sector as far as policy recommendations, program planning and
10 evaluation, and staff training are concerned.

11 *Sec. 9. The Regional Colleges (RCs) shall:*

- 12 a) Concentrate on Bachelor of Science degrees with reasonable
13 involvement in the postgraduate and model technology courses;
14 b) Focus an adaptive research needed in the region with reasonable
15 involvement in basic and applied researches and verification projects;
16 c) Assist technical institutes in strengthening their institutional capabilities
17 towards relevance, effectiveness and excellence in instruction, action
18 research and technology transfer; and
19 d) Link up with and assist government regional offices in planning and
20 evaluating their programs and in training their staff for agriculture
21 activities.

22 *Sec. 10. The Regional Institute of Fisheries Technology shall:*

- 23 a) Concentrate on the Diploma in Fisheries Technology designed for the
24 training of fisheries technicians on technical skills required of the fisheries
25 industry;
26 b) Conduct verification tests of new techniques developed by research
27 institutions and transfer positive results to field technicians, fishermen
28 and fish farmers.
29 c) Assist the Fisherman's Training Center of BFAR in planning,
30 implementing and evaluating their programs and training;
31 d) Assist high schools with fishery practical arts subjects to development
32 of their instructional materials.

1 **Sec. 11. *The Provincial Technical Institutes (PTIs) shall:***

2 a) Concentrate their curricular programs on technical and technology
3 courses designed for farming and extension work with reasonable
4 involvement in selected degree and non-degree post-secondary
5 advanced technology related courses in agriculture;

6 b) Conduct pilot/action research and verification trials to demonstrate
7 advances in agricultural technology and transfer the same to technicians
8 and farmers through field days, short courses and training programs.

9 c) Serve as a learning and technology resource for development agencies
10 in the province in planning and evaluating programs in training
11 technicians, small farmers, agricultural producers and entrepreneurs; and

12 d) Extend improved appropriate agricultural technologies to secondary
13 and vocational high schools.

14 **Sec. 12. *Other Roles and Functions of the Institutions.*** - In addition to their
15 regular roles and functions, all the member institutions mentioned above shall also
16 serve as the agricultural training centers in their respective areas and offer continuing
17 and adult education course for related line agency staff/farmers/fisherfolk and
18 community leaders to hasten technology transfer, improve attitudes towards farming,
19 and inculcate the importance of agriculture in nation building in support to the Magna
20 Carta for Small Farmers. It shall also be the function of the institutions to provide
21 assistance to students in conducting their income-generating projects as well as
22 placement of their graduates.

23 **Sec. 13. *Agricultural Education Development Council (AEDEC).*** - The existing
24 Technical Panel for Agricultural Education (TPAE) is hereby transformed into the
25 Agricultural Education Development Council (AEDEC) as the governing advisory policy
26 body which autonomous and attached to the Department of Education (DepEd) with
27 the following composition and functions:

28 a) **Composition.** - The AEDEC shall be composed of the following
29 members to be appointed by the Secretary of Education, Culture and
30 Sports as its Ex-Officio Chairman:

31 1) One (1) outstanding scientist, educationist or practitioner from each
32 of the fields of Crop Science, Animal Science, Agricultural Engineering,

1 Fisheries, Forestry, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture Teacher Education
2 who shall be nominated by heads of faculties, scientific or professional
3 groups for a term of three (3) years, and from among themselves a Vice-
4 Chairman shall be chosen;

5 2) One (1) representative each from the Department of Agriculture,
6 Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Department of
7 Agrarian Reform, Department of Science and Technology, Department of
8 Budget and Management and the National Economic and Development
9 Authority;

10 3) One (1) representative from the Bureau of Higher Education,
11 Department of Education, Culture and Sports;

12 4) One (1) representative from the Professional Regulation Commission;

13 5) One (1) representative from the Federation or Association of Colleges
14 of Associations; Agriculture in the Philippines; and

15 6) One (1) representative from the Federation or Association of Colleges
16 of Associations; Agriculture in the Philippines; and

17 7) One (1) representative from the Fund for Assistance to Private
18 Education.

19 b) Functions. - The AEDEC shall have the following duties and functions:

20 1) To study and review the overall philosophy and goals of agriculture
21 and environment education in relation to the regional, national and
22 international developments in agriculture and industry and formulate
23 alternative directions and plans;

24 2) To assess and identify the agriculture and environmental education,
25 training and employment needs of the country in consultation with NEDA
26 and other concerned agencies;

27 3) To undertake policy, educational and evaluation research and
28 recommend measures to improve agriculture and environmental
29 education;

30 4) To formulate and recommend guidelines and minimum educational
31 standards with respect to curricula, faculty, equipment and facilities,

1 library resources, student services, quality of output and other related
2 criteria which shall be applicable to all NAES member-institutions;

3 5) To develop and implement coordinative and collaborative mechanism
4 of monitoring and evaluation of activities of NAES;

5 6) To establish and operate a Management Information System (MIS) for
6 the NAES;

7 7) To provide technical assistance to educational institutions in the
8 planning, development and implementation of agriculture and
9 environmental education programs in cooperation with appropriate
10 agencies;

11 8) To receive or recommend grants or both for the funding of educational
12 research and development following the existing accounting and auditing
13 manual for research operations;

14 9) To appoint AEPEC staff and employees upon the recommendation and
15 endorsement of the Executive Director; and

16 10) To formulate implementing rules and regulations of this Act and
17 recommend the same to the Secretary of Education within six (6) months
18 after the effectivity of this Act; and

19 11) To perform such other functions as may be deemed necessary.

20 **Sec. 14. *Secretariat.*** - The AEDEC shall be assisted by technical and
21 administrative staff with appointment on permanent status to be headed by an
22 Executive Director. The Secretariat's office shall be at the University where the
23 National College of Agriculture is located. The services of a pool of
24 experts/consultants/resource persons on full-time or part-time status shall be provided
25 on special detail or secondment subject to the guidelines approved by AEDEC.

26 **Sec. 15. *Budgetary Scheme shall be as follows:***

27 a) The current appropriations or budgets of the public educational
28 institutions in the NAES designated as the national colleges and regional
29 colleges shall continue and shall be modified or adjusted in succeeding
30 years in order to meet the standards of the rationalized programs of the
31 institutions as approved by the Department of Budget and Management
32 and shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

1 b) The PTIs/RIFTs in the NAES which are designated or newly created
2 under this Act shall likewise be provided budgetary support based on
3 their programs and new staffing pattern as approved by the Department
4 of Budget and Management and shall be included in the Annual General
5 Appropriations Act. Additional institutions that may be established in the
6 province shall solely be supported by provincial government funds.

7 c) This Act shall hereby allocate an endowment lump sum amount of
8 Five Million Pesos (Php 5,000,000.00) per annum for the next ten (10)
9 years and shall be included in the General Appropriations Act starting
10 calendar year 1994. This fund shall be called as the Agriculture Education
11 Program Development Fund to support the development, improvement
12 and implementation of priority agriculture education and farmers'
13 entrepreneurial training programs of NAES member institutions:
14 Provided, further, that such fund shall be invested in government bonds
15 and securities and managed by AEDEC using only the interest earnings
16 of the said fund.

17 d) The operations of the AEDEC shall be funded initially from the DECS
18 budget allocation for the Technical Panel for Agricultural Education
19 (TPAE). Upon the effectivity of this Act, TPAE shall be replaced by the
20 AEDEC and all equipment, qualified personnel and projects of the TPAE
21 shall be transferred to AEDEC. Subsequently, the initial amount of at
22 least Three Million Pesos (Php 3,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the
23 AEDEC in the General Appropriations Act.

24 *Sec. 16. Fiduciary, Endowment and Revolving Funds.* - The Fiduciary and
25 Revolving Funds centralized under Presidential Decree No. 711 are hereby authorized
26 and reallocated to the institutions in NAES to encourage them to demonstrate
27 technologies that they develop in their laboratories, experimental farms and income-
28 generating projects, furthermore endowment funds shall be authorized to be
29 accumulated in the institutions, out of any funds generated from unallocated savings,
30 earnings or from any other external sources to be used as incentives for professorial
31 chairs, teachers/employees incentives award systems, faculty fellowship programs and

- 1 the like. Such funds shall be disbursed in accordance with law and guidelines set by
- 2 AEDEC and the Commission on Audit.

Approved,