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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3592

Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Food security and sustainability is the ultimate goal of the agricultural sector of the country. As such, the State must exhaust all possible means to achieve this goal. And while traditional farming techniques have fed the populace until now, it is undeniable that it comes with its own set of challenges, which include climate change, lack of irrigation, water scarcity, low crop yields, and problems with pests, among others.

It is high time that the State must look at other farming methods to supplement our present agricultural output and offer solutions which take advantage of newly invented modern technologies which are high-yield, cost-effective and ecologically sound.

One such solution is aeroponics, which is an indoor farming practice in which plants are grown and nourished by suspending their root structures in air and regularly spraying them with a nutrient and water solution. Instead of relying on a mixture of soil and water to feed the plants, aeroponic farmers spray the root systems with a nutrient mix. Soil is not used for aeroponics, because the plants can thrive when their roots are constantly or periodically exposed to a nutrient-rich mist. Plants are suspended in the air in and closed frames that leave the leafy tips and the roots able to grow up-and-down respectively. Because the roots are in close, the nutrient-water mix is used more efficiently by the plants and less water is needed for them to grow and thrive.

Aeroponics offers an efficient means to grow plans, without potting and repotting them to replenish their access to nutrient-rich soil. With their opponents, farmers may use vertical and horizontal space to grow more plants using less floor space and conserve water by using sealed aeroponics systems.

This bill seeks to mandate the Department of Agriculture (DA) to conduct a comprehensive research and information drive on aeroponics technology applied in agricultural production. The DA is further enjoined to support research Activities aimed at expanding the knowledge and understanding of aeroponics technology and to invest in advance technology research in order to adopt State-of-the-art technologies to promote agricultural production in our high value-added crops and vegetables.

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

SHARON S. GARIN
AAMBIS-OWA Party-list

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AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF AEROPONICS TECHNOLOGY TO BE APPLIED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF HIGH VALUE-ADDED CROPS AND VEGETABLE FARMING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTRY'S FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS AND JUDICIOUSLY UTILIZE SCARCE FERTILE LAND RESOURCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SEC. 1. ***Short title.*** - this Act shall be known as the **"Aeroponics Technology in Agricultural Production Act."**

SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** - It is here by declared to be the policy of the State to reaffirm the fundamental right of every person to food security. The attainment of self-sufficiency in the field of food production is therefore adopted as a primary State policy. For this purpose, key reforms for the advancement of, and support to agricultural advancement in technology adaptation are hereby promoted in order to ensure the food security of the country.

Furthermore, the State commits itself to the adoption of state-of-the-art technologies and the active development of modern, appropriate and cost-effective and environmentally safe agricultural technology in order to ensure and provide food security.

SEC. 3. ***Definition of Terms.*** - For purposes of this Act, the term aeroponics shall refer to the process of growing vegetation in an air or mist environment without the use of soil or an aggregate medium. Aeroponic growing is considered to be safe and ecologically friendly for producing natural, healthy plants and crops.

SEC. 4. ***Use of Aeroponics Technology.*** - The Department of Agriculture (DA) is hereby mandated to promote the use of aeroponics agriculture as an instrument to further improve the production of high - value added crops and vegetables in the country and address food security concerns.

Idle government lands owned by either national or local goverments or available land resources in State universities and colleges shall be considered for growing crops and vegetables using aeroponics agriculture.

SEC. 5. Comprehensive Research and Aeroponics Technology Applied in Agricultural Production – For purposes of this Act the Department of Agriculture (DA) is hereby mandated to conduct a comprehensive research and information drive on aeroponics technology applied in agricultural production.

The DA is further enjoined to support research activities aimed at expanding the knowledge and understanding of aeroponics technology and to invest in advanced technology research in order to adopt State-off-the-art technologies to promote agricultural production in our high value-added crops and vegetables.

SEC. 6. Inclusion of Aeroponics Technology in Agricultural Training. — Aeroponics technology as used in agricultural production shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary levels students of both public and private academic institutions studying courses in Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to Agriculture.

The Department of Education (DepEd) in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this section within six (6) months from the date of effectivity hereof.

SEC. 7. ***Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SEC. 8. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, in consultation with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. ***Separability Clause.*** – As any provision of or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. ***Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. ***Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its complete publication in the official gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation

Approved.