



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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Quezon City, 1100 Philippines

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DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 02

Series of 2020

SUBJECT: Revised General Guidelines for Certification of Mother Trees and Planting Materials of Fruit and Plantation Crops

Pursuant to Section 12 of Republic Act 7308, otherwise known as the Seed Industry Development Act of 1992 and Chapter VI of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), these general guidelines are hereby issued to ensure reasonable standards of quality of fruit and plantation crops for propagation and distribution.

Section 1. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

This circular covers the certification of mother trees and propagated planting materials of registered varieties of National Seed Industry Council (NSIC) including those of the defunct Philippine Seed Board (PSB).

Section 2. OBJECTIVE

This circular aims to ensure the varietal identity and purity of mother trees and quality and traceability of the propagated planting materials.

Section 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purposes of this Circular, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

1. **Accredited Plant Nursery** – refers to a plant nursery that has passed the accreditation process of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI);
2. **Certified Mother Tree** – refers to a mother tree that has passed the certification process of the National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) with a tag;
3. **Certified Planting Material** – refers to a seedling that has passed the certification process of the National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) with tag;
4. **Foundation Tree** – refers to a certified mother tree obtained through asexual propagation from the parent tree as a source of propagules planted;
5. **Mother Tree** – refers to a general term for tree or plant that serves as source of plant propagules;

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6. **Parent Tree** – refers to a general term for tree or plant that has been surveyed, evaluated, and registered in accordance with the parameters approved by NSIC;
7. **Planting Material** – refers to sexually or asexually propagated seedlings;
8. **Propagule** – refers to any part or material of the plant that can be used as propagative material such as seeds, stems, leaves, roots, bulbs, suckers, and the like;
9. **Scion Tree** – refers to a certified mother tree obtained through asexual propagation from foundation tree or other scion tree as source of propagules planted.
10. **Tags** – are identifiable, visual representation or proof that the trees or seedlings has undergone the certification process.

Section 4. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR CERTIFICATION OF MOTHER TREES AND PLANTING MATERIALS

The following are eligible to apply for certification of mother trees and planting materials:

1. Department of Agriculture (DA) – Regional Field Offices and its Centers/Stations;
2. State Colleges and Universities (SCUs), Local Government Units (LGUs) and other Government Agencies;
3. Private Individuals; and
4. Private Groups (Cooperative, Association, Corporation, etc.)

Provided that except for DA, the applicant must be an accredited plant nursery for planting material certification.

Section 5. PLANT CERTIFICATION PROCESS

A. Mother Trees.

For the certification of mother trees, the following process shall be observed:

1. Applicant must submit the following documents at the nearest BPI-NSQCS office:
 - a. Filled out Application Form for mother trees;
 - b. Proof of varietal identity of mother tree being applied for certification any of the following:
 - i. copy of purchase receipt;
 - ii. certification from the source of planting material;
 - iii. certification from knowledgeable person such as experts or those who have experience regarding the crop being applied for in varietal identity;
 - iv. DNA analysis; and
 - v. result of re-evaluation of varietal characteristics based on NSIC parameters for one fruiting season.



- c. Location map and layout of trees being applied for certification; and,
 - d. Copy of receipt of payment of application fee.
- 2. The concerned Regional/ Satellite NSQCS office shall initially evaluate the submitted documents and endorse to NSQCS Central Office for further evaluation.
- 3. The Plant Material Inspector (PMI) shall inspect the mother tree to determine its general condition, varietal identity, correctness of the location map and layout, and geotagging.
- 4. The BPI-NSQCS Central Office shall undertake final evaluation of the application and endorse it to the Director of BPI for the approval or disapproval of the certification.
- 5. Corresponding tags will be prepared by NSQCS upon submission of order form with applicant's consent and signature.
- 6. BPI-NSQCS shall issue the certificate and corresponding tag to the individual tree that satisfies the requirements for certification. A tree will be tagged as either Foundation Tree or Scion Tree.
- 7. The PMI shall monitor the certified mother trees at least once a year or as the need arises.

B. Planting Materials.

For the certification of planting materials, the following process shall observe the:

1. Asexually Propagated

- a. Applicants must submit the following documents at the nearest BPI- NSQCS office:
 - i. Filled out Application Form for asexually-propagated seedlings;
 - ii. Plant nursery accreditation certificate;
 - iii. Plant Material Certificate of Mother Trees; and,
 - iv. Copy of receipt of payment of application fee.
- b. The concerned Regional/ Satellite NSQCS office shall evaluate the submitted documents for approval or disapproval.
- c. The concerned BPI-NSQCS Regional/Satellite Office shall assign the Plant Material Inspector (PMI).
- d. One month prior to the collection of propagules, the applicant shall notify the assigned PMI through the NSQCS Regional/ Satellite Office of their intent to conduct the collection of propagules.
- e. The assigned PMI shall be present during the collection of propagules to ensure that they were sourced from certified mother trees. In case the scion will be outsourced from other nurseries, the presence of the PMI covering the area during the collection of scions is necessary and the corresponding certification must be issued.



- f. The assigned PMI shall be present during asexual propagation to ensure that the propagules collected for certification are used for propagation.
- g. Asexually propagated seedlings shall be monitored by the assigned PMI at least once prior to final inspection or as the need arises.
- h. Corresponding tags will be prepared by NSQCS upon submission of order form with applicant's consent and signature. Tags shall be issued by NSQCS to asexually propagated seedlings that have passed the final inspection. Certificate will be issued by the Regional/Satellite NSQCS Office upon request.
- i. The PMI shall be present during the tagging of individual asexually propagated seedlings. The fee for the tags shall be paid prior to tagging operation.

2. Sexually Propagated

- a. Applicants must submit the following documents at the nearest BPI- NSQCS office:
 - i. Filled out Application Form for sexually-propagated seedlings;
 - ii. Plant nursery accreditation certificate;
 - iii. Plant Material Certificate of mother tree; and,
 - iv. Copy of receipt of payment of application fee.
- b. The concerned Regional/ Satellite NSQCS office shall evaluate the submitted documents for approval or disapproval.
- c. The concerned BPI-NSQCS Regional/Satellite Office shall assign the PMI.
- d. One month prior to the collection of fruits, the applicant shall notify the assigned PMI through the NSQCS Regional/ Satellite Office of their intent to collect fruits from certified mother trees.
- e. Applicant shall notify the assigned PMI of the schedule of seed extraction from the harvested fruits of certified mother trees.
- f. The assigned PMI shall be present during the collection of fruits, seed extraction, and seed sowing. In case the seeds will be outsourced from other nurseries, the presence of the assigned PMI covering the area is also necessary during the collection of fruits and seed extraction, and corresponding certification must be issued.
- g. The applicant shall ensure that sown seeds are properly labeled and shall provide a layout to the PMI.
- h. In case that the seeds were sown in a seedbed, the assigned PMI must be present during transplanting of seedlings from seed bed to individual plastic bags.
- i. Sexually propagated seedlings shall be monitored by the PMI at least once prior to final inspection by the assigned PMI.
- j. Corresponding tags will be prepared by NSQCS upon submission of order form with applicant's consent and signature. Tags shall be issued by BPI-NSQCS to seedlings that have passed the final



inspection. Certificate will be issued by the Regional/Satellite NSQCS Office upon request.

- k. The PMI shall be present during the tagging of individual seedlings.
- l. The fee for the tags shall be paid prior to tagging operation.

Section 6. MONITORING

Monitoring of certified mother trees shall be done at least once a year, or as the need arises, to determine the condition of trees. Trees shall become ineligible for certification if found to be no longer fit as source of propagules.

Section 7. FEES

Payment of fees under this Circular shall be made and based on the applicable guidelines on Schedule of Fees.

Section 8. SANCTIONS

Any person who commits any of the following acts are hereby penalized, to wit:

OFFENSES	PENALTIES
1. Transfer of tags	Cancellation of Plant Material Certification for mother trees or plant material and Blacklisting
2. Failure to declare or inform NSQCS of the dead mother trees	1 st offense – Reprimand 2 nd offense – Cancellation of Certificate 3 rd offense – Blacklisting from the Plant Material Certification Program
3. Any violation of the terms and conditions stipulated at the back of the Plant Material Certificate	1 st offense – Reprimand 2 nd offense – Cancellation of Certificate 3 rd offense – Blacklisting from the Plant Material Certification Program

Sanctions shall be without prejudice to the filing of appropriate case pursuant to Section 19 of RA 7308.

Section 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this Circular is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.



Section 10. REPEALING CLAUSE

This Department Circular shall supersede Administrative Order No. 44, Series of 2000 and other issuances inconsistent herewith.

Section 11. EFFECTIVITY

This Department Circular shall take effect 15 days after publication to two newspapers of general circulation.

Recommending Approval:


GEORGE Y. CULASTE, Ph. D.
Director

Approved:


WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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