



राष्ट्रीय बागवानी बोर्ड
National Horticulture Board

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कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

85, इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, सैक्टर-18, गुडगाँव-122015

National Horticulture Board

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India
85, Institutional Area, Sector - 18, Gurgaon - 122015

NHB/HO/Cut Flower Nursery Guidelines/2017-18

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CIRCULAR

The availability of true to type, quality planting material is crucial for success of commercial horticulture. This necessitates a network of Horticulture Nurseries which conform to Model Nursery Standards in terms of Infrastructure, Quality of seed and planting material and adoption of Nursery Management Practices.

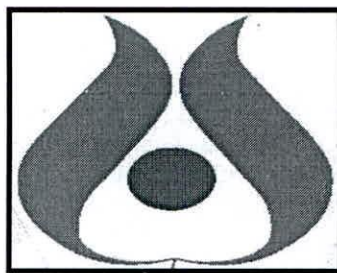
With a view to ensure availability of genuine and quality planting material, Board started a voluntary system of recognition of horticulture nurseries in 2008 and implemented it successfully across the country by rating 1604 fruit plants nurseries and 29 vegetable nurseries.

National Horticulture Board has now firmed up Guidelines for Accreditation and Rating of Nurseries of Cut Flower Plants grown under protected cover in consultation with DAC&FW, ICAR and other stake holders. A copy of the same is enclosed for your ready reference with the request to circulate this guideline further to all concerned organizations of your State including Nurserymen. The guideline is also available on the NHB website: www.nhb.gov.in


(Dinesh Kumar)
Managing Director

Distribution:

1. Dy. Director General (Hort.), ICAR, Pusa, New Delhi.
2. PS to Joint Secretary (MIDH), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Horticulture Commissioner, DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Area Officers, NHB, HQ
5. Centre In-charge, NHB, Centres (All)
6. Circular Portal of NHB website



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National Horticulture Board

Guidelines for Accreditation and Rating of Nurseries of Cut Flower Plants Grown under Protected Cover

National Horticulture Board

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Guidelines for Accreditation and Rating of Nurseries of Cut Flower Plants Grown under Protected Cover

Background

Flower production in the country is increasing due to adoption of improved flower production technologies by the farmers and support from NHB and other Government and private agencies. Poly house/Green house or protected flower cultivation is of recent origin in India and is a fast emerging and expanding area in flower production though the problem of imported technology was faced in the past but it has been modified to suit Indian conditions. True to type and Insect and disease free quality seedlings/saplings are crucial for the success of the flower farming venture. Importance of such planting material has been realized by flower growers. For this there is necessity of having a network of High-Tech Cut Flower Plants Nurseries which conform to model nursery standards in terms of infrastructure, quality of seedlings and adoption of Hi-Tech healthy nursery management practices.

There is no enactment of any act with respect to green house and open field flower crops nurseries by any State Government in the country. Since green house flower cultivation has picked up in recent past which led for the development of small nurseries for providing seedlings to the growers. Further, there are no rules framed for technical specification for quality of planting material and process of production, infrastructure required for production of quality flower plants and good nursery management practices. In order to check unscrupulous expansion of such nurserymen who compromise with the quality, it has become necessary to find a solution to the problem by putting in place a system of Recognition of Cut Flower Plants Nurseries.

National Horticulture Board has taken initiative to specify the Nursery Standards by specifying infrastructure required for setting up of Model Cut Flower Plants Nursery etc. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recently come out with technical specification of horticulture planting material and its production procedure in a recently published document entitled as "Handbook of Seed and Planting Material Testing Manual for Horticultural Crops". As such, there are no rules framed for Cut Flower Plants Nurseries nor it is defined what Model Cut Flower Plants Nursery means. Therefore, it is imperative to define a Model Nursery in Flower crops of commercially important and the three aspects of Nursery i.e. Infrastructure, Production System and Quality Parameters of Planting Material and Good Nursery Management Practices in a comprehensive manner put a Nursery Recognition Regime in place. A recognized Model Cut Flower Plants Nursery should function as a reliable source of supply of quality planting material for Flower crops.

Scope

The scope of the scheme is to establish a network of quality nurseries across the country for the purpose of raising flower saplings and distribution of quality planting material of specified flower crops.

The recognition shall be accorded to the nurseries for:

- a) Production of quality planting material/seedlings of one or more specified crops by adopting Good Nursery Management Practices.
- b) Nursery Premise only where sale of specified quality planting material of recognized source are being carried out by creating necessary infrastructure facilities and proper record keeping.

(If different premises are being used for nursery, recognition of all these are required to be obtained separately and individually).

- The recognition shall be accorded to the nurseries for the crops specified in the document of recognition.
- Recognition shall be granted as such or after up gradation/modification as per requirement.
- Recognition of Nursery with National Horticulture Board shall be period specific and the validity period will be for two years from the date of issue of letter/certificate by the Board.

Note: Initially Rose, Carnation, Gerbera, Anthurium, Chrysanthemum, Lilium and Orchids produced under controlled condition will be considered for recognition of Cut Flower Plants Nurseries.

Procedure for Nursery Recognition and Renewal of Recognition

- The nursery seeking NHB Recognition shall apply in Application Form (**Appendix-I**) to National Horticulture Board, Plot No. 85, Sector 18, Institutional Area, Gurgaon – 122015 (Haryana). Each such application shall be accompanied by layout of nursery showing location of infrastructure components and land utilization plan, details of technically qualified staff in the nursery, major farm machineries and operational manual prepared by nursery for selection and maintenance of varieties, process followed for production of planting material and management of inventory of planting material. The Nursery shall submit details regarding source of planting material/seeds used for raising seedlings of Flower plants in prescribed form and shall also maintain a register for sale of seedlings/planting material for Flower crops.
- The application form duly completed along with necessary enclosures shall be submitted to NHB, Head Office at Gurgaon.
- Each application will be considered by NHB based on criteria specified for recognition of nursery.
- The recognition of nursery by NHB shall generally be considered product wise/aspect wise as required.
- On receipt of the application for recognition, assessment would be done by NHB or its identified agency with the help of an Assessment Committee.
- The Assessment Committee shall submit its assessment report to NHB along with recommendations as per marks obtained out of total score of 100 (**Appendix-II**).
- On the basis of the assessment report NHB shall decide whether to register the nursery with or without up-gradation/modification.
- The decision of NHB shall be conveyed to the concerned nursery. In case of recognition, the period of validity of recognition with other terms and conditions shall be indicated. In case of any deficiency, the nursery shall be given time frame for compliance; failing which, the application shall be rejected. In case of requirement, additional assessment visits may be undertaken.

Criteria for Nursery Assessment

The criteria have been aligned with infrastructural requirements of Model Nursery and product specific technical requirements and adoption of good nursery practices for production of good quality planting material as detailed below:-

- a) Product specific criteria to assess for capability and competence of nursery follow technical programme for specific crop as laid down in "Hand Book of Seed and Planting Material Testing Manual for Horticulture Crops" prepared by ICAR.
- b) Prescribed Nursery Management Practices and Adoption of Model Layout Plan.

Assessment Criteria: A system of Graded Certification: It is essentially different from licensing of Cut Flower Plants Nurseries under the provision of some Act or administrative orders. It is based on continuous evaluation of raising disease free seedlings by adoption of technically prescribed method, adoption of Good Nursery Management Practices, reliable record keeping and training of

staff. Each parameter will be critically examined by the Assessment Team as per laid down criteria. Following grading shall be provided:

Excellent	- 3 Star (***)	81 and above marks obtained
Very Good	- 2 Star (**)	71 to 80 marks obtained
Good	- 1 Star (*)	61 to 70 marks obtained
Not found eligible for accreditation	- No Star (0)	Up to 60 marks obtained

Procedure for Application to Higher Grade

- On receipt of an application for recognition, to higher grade from existing lower grade, the application will be considered to register the nursery, for fresh assessment.
- On the basis of the report submitted and the recommendations of the Committee, the Competent Authority of NHB will decide on the need to proceed with processing the case of the nursery for up gradation and subsequent recognition or otherwise.

Renewal of Recognition

- The nursery seeking renewal of recognition shall apply in prescribed form.
- The renewal of recognition will be done based on the satisfactory performance reported as per surveillance/periodic inspection carried out during the validity period and fresh assessment, if felt necessary by NHB or considering the feedback from farmers/growers.

Processing fee

- The processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Non refundable) shall be submitted in the form of demand draft payable or online transfer to NHB, Gurgaon along with the application for recognition.
- In case of renewal of recognition, processing fee of Rs 3000/- (Non- Refundable) shall be submitted in the form of demand draft payable to NHB, Gurgaon along with application for renewal or through electronic money transfer.
- Government/SAU's/ICAR nurseries shall be exempted from the processing fee.

Assessment and Assessment Committee

The Assessment Committee which may have representative from:

- i) Consultant empanelled with NHB (Team Leader),
- ii) Representative from Flower Division of State Agriculture University,
- iii) Representative from Apex Horticulture Institute, NRC or Regional Station of ICAR,
- iv) Representative from Flower Growers Association/ Nurserymen Association,
- v) Representative from State Directorate of Horticulture/Agriculture, and
- vi) National Horticulture Board.

(The quorum of Committee shall be four persons including Team Leader).

Validity Period of Recognition

- In case of approval, initially, recognition shall be granted for a period of two years.

- The effective date of recognition shall be considered from the date of issuance of letter/certificate.

Surveillance/Monitoring

- Surveillance visit shall be carried out once in a year or as required depending on the performance of the nursery.
- The designated team shall essentially conduct surveillance visit during validity of recognition.

Issue of Recognition Certificate

- In case, Technical Committee satisfies that the nursery conforms to the requirements of this recognition, it will recommend for recognition of the nursery. The recognition shall bear an identification number. Recognized Nursery shall have to sign a MOU with NHB for terms & conditions of recognition.
- Any change in the location, layout, design or capacity of the nursery shall be intimated to NHB.
- The date of validity of the nursery recognition shall be specified on the recognition certificate.
- The recognition certificate once issued shall continue to be in force till the date specified in the certificate unless suspended or cancelled at earlier date by Competent Authority. The Issuing Authority may institute surprise checks through its officers in order to ensure that the nursery has maintained the standard as required for issue of the recognition certificate.

Refusal/Cancellation of Nursery Recognition

Issue of recognition certificate may be refused or, if issued, may be cancelled or suspended:

- i) If the nursery does not conform/fail to perform as per requirements of this scheme.
- ii) If there are adverse reports from the farmers/users or any other complaints made to NHB by any other entity and upon enquiry duly conducted it is established that the Nursery has breached any of the conditions of recognition.
- iii) On expiry of the recognition date specified in the Recognition Certificate the recognition ceases to be valid unless renewed.

Appeal against Refusal/Cancellation of Recognition

- Appeal against refusal/cancellation of recognition shall reach to the Managing Director, NHB within 30 days from the receipt of such order.
- In case of cancellation of recognition, the appeal shall accompany the original certificate.
- MD, NHB will consider the application on merit and, in case, found necessary, order re-assessment of the nursery.

Disclaimer

NHB shall host list of recognized nurseries in its website www.nhb.gov.in and promote use of its planting material through schemes implemented by it.

National Horticulture Board**Application Form for Accreditation and Rating of Nurseries of Cut Flower Plants Grown under Protected Cover**

Name of the nursery : _____
 1. Constitution : _____

(Individual/Proprietorship, Partnership, Central/State Govt., SAUs/Organization under ICAR/CSIR, Cooperative Society, Trust, Company and others)

2. Name/ details of Collaborator, if any: _____

3. Year of establishment of the nursery: _____

4. Details of other registration/recognition: _____

5. Whether any support for nursery from NHB/NHM/Other Organization: _____

6. Any information, if any: _____

7. Promoter's profile: _____

8. a) Full address (with phone number/mobile/fax/e-mail/web page) and with survey number (self-attested copy of land document must be enclosed with the application).

b) Owner of nursery and its land (with phone number/mobile/fax/e-mail)

9. Location of the nursery (with complete address pin code etc.)

11. Substrate details (soilless growing media): _____

12. Details of Floriculture (Cut Flower) crop, area and it's varieties:

(Rose, Carnation, Gerbera, Anthurium, Chrysanthemum, Liliun and Orchids produced under controlled condition will be considered for recognition of flower nurseries)

Name of crop, variety and source of varieties	Details
Crop with area in ha. or sqm. or number: Variety: Source of variety:	
Crop with area in ha. or sqm. or number: Variety: Source of variety:	
Crop with area in ha. or sqm. or number: Variety: Source of variety:	
13. Planting material being used for nursery raising with source: Public, Private, Imported-Quarantine, if imported, (Nucleus stock in form of tissue culture material or mother block or mother stock)	
14. Propagation Techniques: Vegetative method, Tissue Culture	

<p>15. Infrastructure available for production of planting materials:</p> <p>Protected Structures- Poly house, Net house, Mist Chamber, etc.</p>	
<p>16. Mixtures (Substrate): Pro-trays filled with coco peat/vermiculite/perlite/; soil + sand + compost mixture in polythene bag etc.</p>	
<p>17. Details of tissue Culture Unit (as per DBT standards)- Growth room & it's capacity</p> <p>Substrate- Sterilization unit & method of Sterilization</p>	
<p>18. Source of water</p> <p>Quality of Water</p> <p>Water treatment facility (Biological & Chemical)</p> <p>Method of Irrigation:</p>	
<p>19. Mechanization in Nursery:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Substrate filling- ▪ Automized fertigation and irrigation- ▪ Other if any-

20. Public Utility Facilities and sanitation measures for workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Toilets/ Wash Room- ▪ Change Room ▪ Bio-sanitary measures
21. Facilities to raise Flower nursery during off season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilities to grow nursery during low temperature condition with heating device/ poly house/ others where ever necessary 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilities to grow nursery during high temperature condition with cooling device/shade net/others. 	
22. Treatment facility to Grow Disease and Insect free plants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nursery treatment with permitted insecticides/fungicide/bio-agent. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sterilization of nursery with chemical treatment- Formaldehyde/fungicides/others 	
23. Nursery Raising Practices: Growing Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raised Table/ Benches ▪ Raised Bed ▪ Flat Bed weed mat or Ground covers ▪ Any other
24. Operational manual Flow chart/calendar of operation with	

time scale for Flower nursery production (Crop wise)	
25. Traceability/ Labeling of seedlings lot	
(i) Record keeping of Planting Materials, Inputs and sale proceeds (ii) Customers Feedback record (iii) Agreement/ Permission to propagate/ sale of planting material procured from collaborative nursery	
26. Staff & Qualification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical, Skilled, Semi-skilled, Un-skilled and Managerial Manpower available for Flower nursery management. ▪ Training details of Technical staff 	
27. Capacity to Produce/ Sale- Crop-wise quantity of plant produced and sale details for the last three years	Tabular Form-
28. Any specific achievements related to nursery	

29. Declaration

I hereby declare that information given above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have read the rules and undertaken to fulfill all the conditions prescribed in the rules or as amended from time to time.

Signature of the Applicant

Place: _____

Date : _____

Enclosures:

- 1) Lay out plan of Flower nursery with complete address including email.
- 2) Demand Draft No. _____ dated _____ for Rs _____ towards processing fee for Accreditation and Rating of Flower Nursery.
- 3) Any other documents.

National Horticulture Board

Assessment Sheet for Accreditation and Rating of Nurseries of Cut Flower Plants Grown under Protected Cover

Particulars	Assessment	Maximum Marks	Marks obtained
1. General Information:		6	
▪ Accessibility			
▪ Connectivity- Train/bus/Air (whichever is applicable)			
▪ Topography	i. Flat with a gradual slope in one direction. ii. Free from water logging. iii. Drainage		
▪ Substrate Properties- Soil, Coco pit, Moss, etc.			
▪ Soil type in locality			
▪ Irrigation Water properties	▪ Biological & Chemical ▪ Water Treatment facilities		
▪ Source of Water	Canal Water Ground water		
▪ Source of manure (FYM, Leaf mould, Vermicompost)- Purchased from Self/ Un-certified source	Self Purchased		
2. Crops wise detail with variety and source (Number of crops should commensurate with the infrastructure available)		10	
Name of Crop/ Area/ Number	Variety with Source		

(i)			
(ii)			
(iii)			
(iv)			
3. Infrastructure- with area in ha. or sqm.		7	
Propagation structure			
(i) Greenhouse			
(ii) Hot bed as per requirement			
(iii) Net house			
(iv) Mist propagation chamber as per requirement			
(v) Nursery beds			
(vi) Hardening chamber			
(vii) Pot yard			
(viii) Packing yard			
(ix) Tissue Culture lab			
4. Extent of mechanization and availability of tools/implements/equipments- Own/ Hired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fertigation system ▪ Pot filling/ plug machine ▪ Automatic Climate Control ▪ Plant protection equipments ▪ Any other 	5	
5. Planting Material Production		6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rootstock block ▪ Method of propagation ▪ Source of planting material 	<p>Wherever relevant like Roses, etc.</p> <p>Own/ Private/ Public/ Certified Nursery</p> <p>(indicate the supplier address</p>		

	along with documentary proof, if any)		
6. Sanitary Measures (Crops)	Media sterilization unit/ platform with shade, etc.	5	
7. Nursery Health Management	i) General Health of Plants* ii) Plants/Nursery treatment with insecticides/fungicide/bio-agent. iii) Sterilization of nursery with chemical treatment (H ₂ O ₂ with Silver) iv) Solarization of the nursery * Free from disease, appearance of plants, etc.	12	
8. Facilities to raise flower crop year round	To grow nursery during low temperature condition with heating device To grow nursery during high temperature condition with cooling device	6	
9. Nursery Raising Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raised Table/ Benches ▪ Raised Bed ▪ Flat Bed weed mat or Ground covers ▪ Pro-trays filled with coco peat/ vermiculite/soil + sand + composed mixture ▪ Any other 	4	
10. Operational manual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flow chart/calendar of operation with time scale for nursery production ▪ Procedure for identification/required specification of inputs and 	10	

	<p>adherence to required specification of each input</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Labeling of planting materials produced ▪ Record keeping of plant materials and sale proceeds ▪ Receipt/bills, if any, if planting material is procured from outside other nursery 		
11. Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Skilled ➤ Semi-skilled ➤ Un-skilled ▪ Managerial Manpower <p>(Undergone any Skill Training-Trained Manpower will get more weightage)</p>	6	
12. Trade relation and capacity to produce/sale	<p>Kind and quantity of flower crop nurseries being produced for the last two years</p> <p>Kind and quantity of flower plant nurseries being sold for the last two years</p>	3	
13. Traceability record of planting material produced	<p>Present</p> <p>Absent</p>	4	
14. Intellectual Property Right (IPR) and Plant Breeders Rights	<p>Implemented</p> <p>Not Implemented</p>	3	
15. Quality Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ISO Certification ▪ DBT Certification for tissue culture unit ▪ GAP certification ▪ Any other 	4	
16. Printed catalogue and transparent price list	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For the last three years ▪ For the last two years 	3	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For last one year ▪ Yet to make : No marks 		
17. Labour welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ESIC ▪ EPF ▪ Well taken care ▪ Ignored 	2	
18. Green Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solar energy ▪ Water recycling ▪ Polythene disposal ▪ Eco friendly inputs 	2	
19. Any Awards won	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Level ▪ State level ▪ District level 	2	
20. Any specific achievements related to nursery			

21. Total marks obtained and grade:

<u>Marks obtained</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Star Rating</u>
61 to 70	Good	(*)
71 to 80	Very Good	(**)
81 & above	Excellent	(***)

Note: The Nursery secured less than 60 marks will be "No Star" (not found eligible for rating)

Signature of the Assessment Team

UNDERTAKING (AFFIDAVIT)

(On Stamp Paper of Rs. 50/- to be taken before handing over of Nursery Certificate)

I/we..... (Name of the owner of nursery) son of Sh.
..... resident of Do hereby
solemnly affirm and declare as under:

2. That I/we (Name of owner) have a
horticulture nursery of flower crops i.e. at Sy.
No. Village Tehsil..... District
..... State (Location of the nursery).
3. That the terms & conditions of the scheme of NHB under which an application had made by
me/us for Recognition of fruit Nursery have been fully complied by me.
4. That the Certificate of accreditation and rating is issued by the Board based on the
evaluation report of Expert Committee made during their visit to the candidate nursery on
..... and information furnished by candidate nursery.
5. That the Certificate is valid for a period of Two (2) years from date of issue unless revoked
earlier.
6. That the nursery owner will maintain all the parameters on the basis of which the certificate is
issued till its validity and would not allow any of the parameter to become inferior.
7. That the Certificate relates to evaluation made as per specified criteria relating to locations
and infrastructure at Nursery, production system, operation procedure, trading practices,
record keeping etc. and would not be in any way, be considered as quality certification of
planting materials supplied by the Nursery.
8. That the nursery owner undertakes to keep record of production and sales of planting
material in prescribed manner and display the same at prominent place by means of notice
Board etc.

9. That the nursery owner undertakes to return the certificate of accreditation on expiry of its validity or no revocation there of as the case may be.
10. That the candidate nursery shall report to NHB, if any change in location of nursery, its business pattern or any deviation from conditions based on which the certificate is being issued.
11. That the NHB does not accept any liability to any third party under any trade or trade relations, directly or indirectly with candidate nursery.

DEPONENT

DEPONENT VERIFICATION

Verified on solemn affirmation at (place) on this (date) of (month), 20 (year) that the content of this above undertaking (affidavit) are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed.

DEPONENT/COMPETENT AUTHORITY