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PREFACE

Availability of quality planting material is a prerequisite to the success of horticulture development initiatives. The Working Group on Horticulture and Plantation Crops for the Eleventh Five Year Plan has projected the total requirement of planting materials of fruits, coconut, cashew, black paper, tree spices, areca-nut etc. as 2000 million by the year 2012 at a modest growth rate of 4% per annum. In the segment of fruit crops alone, the projected demand for the planting material would be 7,145,851 by the year 2007-08; which may increase to 8,359,632 by the year 2011-12. Supply of such a huge quantity of disease free, true to type quality planting material is a big challenge and needs to be addressed at the right time.

The Seeds Act and the Nursery Registration Act have been in operation since December 1966. However, as reported by the said Working Group, the Nursery Registration Act is presently in force in respect of horticulture nurseries only in the States of Punjab, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. Some system of registering/monitoring exists for horticulture nurseries in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala while there is no horticulture nursery act in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal. In the absence of any formal system of quality assurance for horticulture planting material, it is not feasible to put any kind of quality control related restrictions on horticulture nurseries which do not have adequate production-related infrastructure and pedigreed mother plants.

With a view to ensuring availability of genuine and quality planting material until a new regime of registration of horticulture nurseries under the provisions of a new Seeds Act come in force, it is essential to put a system of Recognition of Horticulture Nurseries in place to facilitate, promote and monitor production and trade of quality planting materials of horticulture crops with a special emphasis on perennial fruit crops which are propagated vegetatively.

It is heartening to note that the National Horticulture Board under the Ministry of Agriculture has taken initiative to start a voluntary system of recognition of horticulture Nursery which is a system of graded certification of production system and procedure in respect of a candidate horticulture nursery. It is different from the system of Licensing of Horticulture Nurseries under provisions of an Act or

Administrative Orders and is aimed at establishing a network of quality horticulture nurseries across the country for the purpose of propagation and distribution of quality planting material of horticulture crops. Guidelines for Recognition of Horticulture Nursery have been prepared by the National Horticulture Board in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and the ICAR; which, in turn, not only provide for a procedure of nursery recognition but also aim at capacity building among owners of horticulture nurseries to continuously strive for upgrading the same to attain a higher level of recognition and maintain the quality so as to meet the criterion of regular surveillance too.

I hope that this system of Recognition of horticulture Nursery by the NHB will fill the existing systemic gap in ensuring supply of quality planting material and go a long way establishing a network of quality horticulture nurseries across the country.



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INTRODUCTION

Inadequate availability of quality planting material is one of the important deterring factors in development of sound horticulture industry. It is of special significance especially in perennial horticultural crops which has a long gestation period and effects are known only in later stages. In the existing infrastructure, there are just over 100 big nurseries. A number of Government nurseries also exist in different states. Planting material is also being produced by the ICAR institutes and SAUs, Private nurseries also play important role to meet the requirement of the growers and at present the number of small and medium scale nurseries is over 6300. Presently only 30-40% demand of planting material is being met by the existing infrastructure. Generally, Farmers do not have access to good quality certified disease free planting material of true to type varieties as a result of which production, productivity and quality of the of produce suffers heavily. At present, most of the dependence is on the unregulated private sector nurseries in most of the states which lacks modern infrastructure such as green house, mist chamber, efficient nursery tools and gadgets, implements and machinery.

There are several constraints in the existing system of plant propagation. There are several private nurseries operating in the country playing important role in multiplication of planting material of horticulture crops and many of them follow traditional methods and lack adequate infrastructure and sell plant material of unknown pedigree. Of many other constraints, un-availability of standardized root stocks and non- maintenance of healthy stocks of elite varieties are worth mentioning.

Working group on Horticulture and Plantation crops for the XI Five Year has projected the total requirement of planting material of fruits, coconut, cashew, black pepper, tree spices, areca-nut etc. as 2000 distribution of quality planting material of horticulture crops. Guidelines prepared by National Horticulture Board for Recognition of Horticulture Nursery not only provides information for procedure of recognition but also provide technical information for setting up of fruit plant nursery.

It is hoped that this system will fill up the existing gap and go a long way to establish a network of quality horticulture nurseries across the country.

Bijay Kumar
Managing Director
NHB



Guidelines for Recognition of Horticulture Nursery

1.0 BACKGROUND

Availability of true to type, quality planting material is crucial for success of commercial horticulture. This necessitates having a net-work of Horticulture Nurseries which conform to Model Nursery Standards in terms of Infrastructure, Quality of Seed and Planting Materials and adoption of Nursery Management Practices.

State Governments ensure supply of quality planting materials for fruit crops by enactment of Fruit Plant Nursery (Regulation) Act and enforcement of its provisions through licensing of horticulture nurseries. However, all the States have not enacted Horticulture Nursery Acts. As per the information available in report of the working group on Horticulture for the XI Five Year Plan, at present only 8 states have adopted Nursery Act and in 9 states some system of registration/ monitoring exists for nurseries whereas in 13 states there is no nursery act at present. Status of adoption of Nursery Act is given at Annexure I. Further, rules framed under existing acts generally do not provide for Technical Specification for Quality of Planting Material and Process of Production, Infrastructure required for production of quality planting material and Good Nursery Management Practices. The Acts in present form also do not deal with planting materials of flowers, ornamental plants, plants and vegetables. Therefore, it has become necessary to find a solution to the problem by putting in place a system of Recognition of Horticulture Nurseries.

National Horticulture Mission has taken initiative to specify the Nursery Standards by specifying Infrastructure required for setting up of Model Horticulture Nursery etc. ICAR has recently come out with technical specification of horticulture planting material and its production procedure in a recently published document titled as “Handbook of seed and planting material testing manual for Horticultural crops”. Existing Rules framed under Horticulture Nursery (Regulation) Acts provide for record keeping part for such nurseries. However, each one of them individually does not completely define a Model Horticulture Nursery. Therefore, it is imperative to define a Model Nursery in all the three aspects of Nursery Infrastructure, Production System & Quality Parameters of Planting Material and Good Nursery Management Practices in a comprehensive manner and put a Nursery



Recognition Regime in place. A recognized Model Horticulture Nursery should function as a reliable source of supply of quality planting material for horticulture crops.

With a view to ensure availability of Good Quality planting material as outlined above, NHB has started a system of Recognition of Horticulture Nurseries on voluntary basis.

2.0 SCOPE

2.1 The scope of the scheme is to establish a network of quality nurseries across the country for the purpose of propagation and distribution of quality planting material of specified horticulture crops.

The recognition shall be accorded to the nurseries for:

- a) Production of quality planting material 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.

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

- 2.2 The recognition shall be accorded to the nurseries for the crops specified in the Document of recognition
- 2.3 Recognition shall be granted as such or after up gradation as per requirement.
- 2.4 Nursery Farms licensed under State Act by Competent Authority shall be given Provisional Recognition for a period of one year under the purview of this scheme but their Final Recognition will be subject to assessment by Technical committee.
- 2.5 Recognition of Nursery with NHB shall be period specific.

3.0 PROCEDURE FOR NURSERY RECOGNITION AND RENEWAL OF RECOGNITION

3.1 The Nursery seeking NHB Recognition shall apply in Form- I to NHB HQ at Gurgaon. Each such application shall be accompanied by lay out 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 mother plants, process followed for production of planting material and management of inventory of planting material. The Nursery shall submit details regarding source of Mother Plants used for propagation of Horticulture plants in prescribed form (FORM- 1) and shall also maintain a register for sale of horticulture plants.

- 3.2 The application form duly completed along with necessary enclosures shall be submitted to NHB, Head Office at Gurgaon
- 3.3 Each application will be considered by NHB based on criteria specified for recognition of nursery.
- 3.4 The recognition of nursery by NHB shall generally be considered product wise/aspect wise as required.
- 3.5 On receipt of the application for recognition, assessment would be done by agency identified by NHB with the help of a Technical Committee.
- 3.6 Agency shall submit its assessment report to NHB along with recommendations.
- 3.7 On the basis of the assessment report NHB shall decide whether to register the nursery with or without up-gradation.
- 3.8 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 condition 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.

4.0 CRITERIA FOR NURSERY ASSESSMENT

The criteria have been aligned with Infrastructural requirement of Modal Nursery and Product specific technical requirement and adoption of Good Nursery Practices for propagation 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 “Handbook of Seed and Planting Material Testing manual for Horticulture crops” prepared by ICAR.
- b) Prescribed Nursery Management Practices and Adoption of Model layout plan.



4.1 **Assessment Criteria : A system of Graded Certification:-** It is essentially different from licensing of Horticulture Nurseries under provision of some Act or administrative orders. It is based on continuous evaluation of source of parent material, propagation in disease free condition 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 assessment team as per laid down criteria. Following grading shall be provided:

Outstanding	-	★	★	★	★	★
Excellent	-	★	★	★	★	
Very Good	-	★	★	★		
Good	-	★	★			
Satisfactory	-	★				

5.0 PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION TO HIGHER GRADE

- 5.1 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 assesment.
- 5.2 On the basis of the report submitted and the recommendations of the pre assessment of the Committee, the Competent Authority will decide on the need to proceed with processing the case of the nursery for up gradation and subsequent recognition or otherwise.

6.0 RENEWAL OF RECOGNITION

- 6.1 The Nursery seeking renewal of recognition shall apply in prescribed form.
- 6.2 The renewal of recognition shall be done based on the satisfactory performance reported as per the surveillance/periodic inspection carried out during the validity period and fresh assessment if felt necessary by NHB.

7.0 PROCESSING FEE

- 7.1 Processing Fee of Rs. 5,000/- (non-refundable) shall be submitted in the form of demand draft payable to NHB, Gurgaon along with the application for recognition.



7.2 In case of renewal of recognition, processing fee of Rs. 3000/- (Non-refundable) shall submitted in the form of demand draft payable to NHB, Gurgaon along with the application for renewal

7.3 Government/ SAUs/ ICAR nurseries shall be exempted from Processing Fee

8.0 ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

8.1 NHB shall nominate one Agency to coordinate the process who will take in to consideration assessment report from a Technical Committee, hereinafter referred to as Assessment Committee which may have Representatives from:

- i. State Agriculture University in the State concerned
- ii. Apex Horticulture Institute, NRC or Regional Station of ICAR
- iii. Nursery Men Association
- iv. National Horticulture Board
- v. State Directorate of Horticulture/ Agriculture

The members in the Assessment Committee shall be nominated by NHB in consultation with agencies concerned. Assessment Committee shall conduct pre assessment, final assessment and periodic / surveillance of the nurseries. The committee shall submit report and their recommendations to Agency designated by NHB for this purpose.

9.0 VALIDITY PERIOD OF RECOGNITION

9.1 In case of approval, initially, recognition shall be granted for a period of two year.

9.2 The effective date of recognition shall be considered from the date of issuance of certificate.

10.0 SURVILLANCE / MONITORING

10.1 Surveillance visit shall be carried out at least once in a year or as required depending on the performance of the nursery.

10.2 The designated team shall essentially conduct surveillance visit during validity of recognition.

11 ISSUE OF REGOGNITION CERTIFICATE

11.1 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.

- 11.2 Any change in the location, layout, design or capacity of the nursery shall be intimated to NHB.
- 11.3 The date of validity of the nursery recognition shall be specified on the recognition certificate
- 11.4 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.

12.0 REFUSAL/CANCELLATION OF NURSERY REGOGNITION

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.

13.0 APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL / CANCELLATION OF RECOGNITION

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

14.0 DISCLAIMER

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



Note:

- ◆ In case of information about source of mother plants is not available, their performance in respect of yield and quality of fruit before being used as mother plant may be given.

A2. Mother Plants are taken Form Other Source

Sr. No.	Crop/ Variety	Source of scion	Address	If source is recognised by NHB, Please give detail thereof	Performance Record	
					Yes	No

A. DETAILS OF MOTHER PLANTS OF ROOT STOCK:

Area in Ha.	Crop/Variety of Root- Stock	Source of Mother Plants	No. of Plants	Age	Performance Record	
					Yes	No

- ◆ If root stock plants are not his own, please give particulars of the source from which they will be obtained.

Sl. No.	Variety	Source of Stock	Address	No. of Plants	Performance Record	
					Yes	No



C. NUMBER OF GRAFTED, BUDDED OR ROOTED CUTTINGS:

Give the details of varieties of each horticultural crop, the applicant wants to produce every year.

Crop	Variety	Method of Propagation	Details of Last two years sales, if any	
			1st Year	2nd Year

7. Future Action Plan for Fruit Plants Production for next three years: -

Crop	Variety	Method of Propagation	No. of plants proposed to be propagated during next three year		
			1st Year	2nd Year	3rd year

8. Details of the facilities for production of disease free planting material

i) Tools & Equipments:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Equipments	Year of Purchase	Number

ii) Plants & Machineries including tunnels, shade-house and Poly-House:-

Type of Infrastructure	Number	Year of Erection	Area/Dimension
Tunnel			
Shade-House			
Poly-House			
Others:- Pl. Specify			

9. Source of Irrigation:-

- (a) Ground Water
- (b) Surface Water
- (c) Micro Irrigation (Drip/Sprinkler)



10. The Sketch plan of the area under nursery and trees showing location of infrastructure components and land utilization

11. Status of implementation of Operation Manual

Flow chart with Time Scale for Production Process	Identification of Input necessary for for each stage of production with specifications	Labeling of each planting material produced	Record Keeping

12. Details of Technically qualified staff in the nursery and their training level

Sl. No.	Name	Qualification	Training under went, if any

13. Trade Relationship with recognized Nursery YES/ NO

14. Particulars of application fee paid by Demand Draft in favour of National Horticulture Board payable at Gurgaon or New Delhi:-

Name of Issuing Bank	Amount	DD. No.	Date

15. 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:



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION/DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT
ANY OF OUR FOLLOWING OFFICES**

Location	NHB Field Office	
AHMEDABAD	Tele/Fax	: 079-26766416, 26766413
	E-mail	: nhbahd@yahoo.co.in
BANGALORE	Tele/Fax	: 080-23371935, 23374149
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