

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 03, S. 2018, June 11, 2018]

**REVISED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS
GOVERNING THE ACCREDITATION OF OIL PALM NURSERIES
THEREBY AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 03, SERIES OF 2004**

*Adopted: 31 May 2018
Date Filed: 11 June 2018*

WHEREAS, integral to the state policy enunciated in Presidential Decree No. 1468 is to promote the rapid integrated development and growth of the coconut and other palm oil industry in all its aspects and to ensure that the coconut farmers become direct participants and beneficiaries of such development and growth;

WHEREAS, in the implementation of the declared national policy, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is mandated by law to formulate and adopt a general program of development for the coconut and other palm oil industries in all its aspects;

WHEREAS, the PCA, in consultation with the stakeholders, has formulated a national complementary development program for the palm oil industry, which includes PLANTING and REPLANTING PROJECTS, and its monitoring and development, to increase local oil palm hectarage and production with high quality planting materials to attain self-sufficiency in the supply of palm oil product;

WHEREAS, to attain the foregoing activities, there is a need for the accreditation of suppliers of planting materials to ensure that only the best quality and productive seedlings/planting materials may be used for the development projects;

WHEREAS, to maintain the good quality of oil palm planting materials, there is a need to conduct regular periodic monitoring/ocular inspection on all the existing registered oil palm nurseries, and provide guidelines, such as submission of quarterly inventory and status reports of their nurseries;

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Governing Board of the Philippine Coconut Authority hereby adopts and promulgates the following rules and regulations:

SECTION 1. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- a) Oil Palm Nursery is any establishment engaged in the propagation of oil palm seedlings obtained through importation either in the form of seeds or pre-germinated seeds, which is intended for sale or other forms of disposal.

Accredited nursery is a nursery that is certified by PCA to have established the capability and capacity to propagate high quality planting materials and for the purpose of supplying the same by sale or other forms conveyance as planting materials for the planting and replanting projects under these rules and regulations.

b) Nursery Inspection Agreement is a written agreement between the PCA and the nursery applicant whereby the latter or the nursery operator shall allow the PCA inspection team to enter the nursery premises to inspect and verify compliance with the requirements or prescribed guidelines in the production and propagation of high quality planting materials.

c) Accreditation is a recognition certified by and granted by the accreditation body of the PCA to a registered nursery operator who meets the requirements and qualifications of an accredited nursery as defined in Section 1a paragraph 2 of this rules.

d) PCA Inspection and Accreditation Team - composed of the oil palm Regional and Provincial Focal Persons, and the PCA Agriculturist assigned in the Municipality where the proposed nursery is or will be established. They will be ordered to inspect the proposed or existing nursery and will provide inspection report and recommendations to the Division Chief I for the approval/disapproval of the Accreditation.

e) Philippine Palm Oil Development Council, Inc. (PPDCI) - recognized by the PCA as a private association representing the general stakeholders of the palm oil industry.

f) F1 planting materials are those that grow from seeds taken from the mother palms which have been pollinated by artificial means using pollens from desirable male palms, which bear the desirable characteristics of the parent materials.

g) High quality planting materials refer to those oil palm seedlings that are healthy, without any appearance of abnormalities, and are free from signs and symptoms of pest and chemical damage. These seedlings are also strong and stand uprightly at 90 degrees position.

h) Lethal Yellowing Disease is a disease of coconut and oil palm, which is caused by a transmissible phytoplasma that kills the coconut, or oil palm.

i) Oil Palm Seedling Abnormalities are any of the common deformities present in different stages of oil palm seedlings. These abnormalities may appear on the pre-nursery up to the main nursery stages. Yield loss ranges from 41%-100%. (Refer to Annex 2.)

SECTION 2. APPLICATION FOR PCA ACCREDITATION

The following may apply for accreditation:

- a) Individuals or Sole Proprietors whose business names are duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry;
- b) Partnerships or Corporations duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- c) Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority; and
- d) Associations registered with the Bureau of Rural Workers / Department of Labor and Employment.

SECTION 3. FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ACCREDITATION

- a) The application for accreditation, in such form prescribed by the PCA, shall be filed with the PCA Provincial Office, which has jurisdiction over the place where the proposed or existing nursery is located.
- b) The Division Chief I shall acknowledge the filing and receipt of the application and ensure that same is fully accomplished with all the supporting documents attached thereto, and immediately endorse the same to the Regional Manager of the Regional Office.
- c) The Regional Manager, upon receipt of the provincial endorsement shall immediately notify the applicant for the execution of the Nursery Inspection Agreement.
- d) The applicant shall pay a non-refundable registration fee of Twenty-five thousand pesos (P25,000.00) to the Philippine Coconut Authority.
- e) The Regional Manager shall order the PCA Inspection and Accreditation Team, to visit and inspect the proposed or existing nursery within three (3) days from the signing of the Nursery Inspection Agreement.
- f) The Certificate of Accreditation shall be issued, or action thereon shall be taken by the Regional Manager, with due notice to the applicant within twenty four (24) hours from receipt of the report and recommendation/s of the PCA Inspection and Accreditation Team.

SECTION 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR PCA ACCREDITATION

A. New Nursery Operator-Applicant

A.1 A new applicant shall submit the following documents to the PCA Provincial Office having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed nursery:

- i. DTI Certificate (Business Name), Articles of Partnership or Incorporation, and By-laws;
- ii. City or Municipal Business Permit issued by the Mayor;