

**[DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 44, S. 2000,
October 24, 2000]**

**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION OF FRUIT AND
PLANTATION SEEDS**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 7308, otherwise known as the Seed Industry Development Act of 1992, Article II, Section 3C, the following general guidelines are to be followed to ensure reasonable standard of quality of fruit and plantation seeds for propagation and distribution.

General Guidelines for Certification of Fruit and Plantation Seeds

1. Application of the General Guidelines — These general certification guidelines as adopted by the National Seed Industry Council shall constitute procedures for certification of fruit and plantation seeds. The word seed or seeds as used in these certification guidelines shall mean to include all propagating materials such as seed, seedling, tuber, slip, suckers, crown, scion, corms, rootstock, micropropagated plantlet and certified stock of registered variety as parent tree.
2. Purpose of Certification — To maintain and make available high quality seeds of superior crop varieties of known genetic and varietal purity including reasonable standards of quality considered for crop propagated/distributed.
3. Requirement for Certification — Varieties for certification must be duly registered and released by Philippine Seed Board/National Seed Industry Council.
4. Sources of Seed/Plant Material Recognized for Certification
 - 4.1 Parent Tree (PT) — are trees that have been surveyed, evaluated, indexed, registered, and approved in accordance with the parameters approved by the National Seed Industry Council to serve as source of plant propagules.
 - 4.2 Foundation Grove — an area where not more than four (4) registered PT are planted in government institutions as sources of planting materials for scion groves or plant propagules .
 - 4.3 Scion Grove — an orchard of different registered cultivars from foundation grove where accredited nursery operator shall be required to obtain their plant propagules for the production of certifiable plant materials.
 - 4.4 Seed Garden — is an orchard which will be the source of seeds for the production of sexually propagative plant material.
 - 4.5 In-Vitro Laboratories — place where mass production and multiplication of diseased-free propagules is undertaken.

5. Institution/Agencies/Firms Qualified to Produced Seed/Plant Material — The DA RFUs Experiment Stations and Seed Farms, BPI Centers and other government agencies involved in the development of fruit and plantation, crops and private group accredited are qualified to produce certified seed/plant materials in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the NSIC.

6. Seed/Plant Material Production and Maintenance System

6.1 Production and Maintenance System

6.1.1 Seed — The seed shall be produced from registered parent trees of seed garden. Seed production shall be the responsibility of any institution/individual who is maintaining seed gardens/parent trees in accordance with the program guidelines.

6.1.2 Bud Stick/Scion — This shall be taken from a registered parent tree, and foundation/scion grove. Maintenance of the registered tree shall be the responsibility of the owner whether private or government agency.

6.1.3 Slip. Runners, Others — Slip should be of uniform size and type. Production and maintenance shall also be the responsibility of the agency concerned whether private or government.

6.1.4 Micropropagules — Production and maintenance shall be the responsibility of the in-vitro laboratory. Seed banks, which are sources of x-plant, shall be properly inspected by NSQCS for visual symptoms of systemic diseases.

6.2 Production of Certified Seed/Plant Material

6.2.1 Plant nursery operators who have registered parent trees are eligible to produce certified plant materials in accordance with prescribed procedures for certification.

6.2.2 The production of seed/plant materials shall be done by the accredited nursery operators.

7. Registration and Accreditation System

7.1 Registration of Parent Trees

7.1.1 The parent tree as source of plant propagules must have passed the prescriptive selection and evaluation of the concerned Technical Working Group.

7.1.2 Evaluated parent trees shall be submitted by the Technical Working Group.

7.1.3 NSQCS shall tag registered parent trees after approval as source of plant propagules.

7.2 Accreditation of Scion Groves, Seed Garden and In-Vitro-Lab