



COCONUT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Guidelines for Recognition of Coconut Nursery

Background

Coconut is a versatile crop, which provides livelihood for more than 10 million farm families in the country. There are more than five million coconut holding of which 98% are below 2 ha size. The level of present production of coconut in India is 21.66 billion nuts from an area of 2.14 million ha with a productivity level of 10122 nuts per ha. Among the four states, Kerala accounts for the largest area of 7.97 lakh ha (37.24%) followed by Karnataka 5.17 lakh ha (24.17 %), Tamilnadu 4.65 lakh ha (21.73%) and Andhra Pradesh 1.21 lakh ha (5.7%). The remaining area is scattered in other 13 states and 2 Union territories.

Availability of quality planting material is a prerequisite to the success of coconut farming. Inadequate availability of quality planting material is one of the important deterring factors in sustainable development of coconut industry. It is of special significance especially in perennial crop like coconut which has a long gestation period and effects are known only in later stages. Supply of 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 prevalence of old and senile palms, poor genetic base of good proportion of the seedling now under cultivation, over populated stands of both coconut and other trees in the homesteads, poor management attention given to the crops and severe incidence of pest and diseases are the major reason for the low productivity of coconut plantations in the country particularly in the state of Kerala. The use of poor quality seedlings which lowers the production needs immediate correction. Though CDB implemented various programmes to ensure the production of quality planting material throughout the country, the availability of quality seedlings is still less.

The production of coconut seedlings in the public sector is by the State Department of Agriculture, State Agricultural Universities, Coconut Development Board and CPCRI (31.55 lakh seedlings). There are about 2000 private nurseries and Farmer Producer Organizations (CPFs) are also involved in the seedling production (39.42 lakh seedlings).

In the case of private nurseries the seed nuts are collected by the nursery men and there is no verification by any agency at present. Even at the time of distribution of seedling there is no

check on the quality and number of seedlings. In addition there is large scale inflow of coconut seedlings from unknown sources and sold under wide range of names to attract farmers. Farmers who are unaware of the quality of these planting materials are tempted to purchase these seedlings especially under situation of short supply of quality planting materials.

Present annual production of seedlings from different nurseries as detailed below:

| State | Agency | Seedling Production (in Lakh) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| KERALA | Department of Agriculture | 8.50 |
| | Coconut Development Board | 1.00 |
| | KAU | 0.55 |
| | CPCRI | 0.30 |
| | FPOs | 2.87 |
| | Private Nurseries | 6.60 |
| | Sub Total | 19.82 |
| Karnataka | Department of Agriculture | 1.70 |
| | Coconut Development Board | 1.50 |
| | FPOs | 0.40 |
| | Private Nurseries | 8.25 |
| | Sub Total | 11.85 |
| Tamil Nadu | Department of Agriculture | 9.00 |
| | Coconut Development Board | 0.30 |
| | FPOs | 0.40 |
| | Private Nurseries | 8.50 |
| | Sub Total | 18.20 |
| Andhra Pradesh | Department of Agriculture | |
| | Coconut Development Board | 0.70 |
| | FPOs | 0.00 |
| | Private Nurseries | 12.00 |
| | Sub Total | 12.70 |
| Others | Department of Agriculture | 6.00 |
| | Coconut Development Board | 2.00 |
| | FPOs | 0.00 |
| | Private Nurseries | 0.40 |
| | Sub Total | 8.40 |
| | G. Total | 70.97 |

| ESTIMATED SEEDLINGS REQUIREMENT BY 2016-17 | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Name of State | Estimated increase in area (000ha) | Estimated seedlings requirement (lakh) |
| Kerala | 16.1 | 27.3 |
| Karnataka | 21.71 | 36.9 |
| Tamil Nadu | 36.11 | 61.38 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 8.2 | 13.94 |
| Other state | 8.9 | 15.13 |
| | 91.02 | 154.65 |

With a view to ensuring availability of genuine and quality planting material, Coconut Development Board has put a system of Recognition of Coconut Nurseries in place to facilitate, promote and monitor production and trade of quality planting materials with a special emphasis on coconut on voluntary basis.

Scope

The Recognition of Coconut Nurseries envisages tackling various challenges faced by the nursery industry in the country. The scheme provides standards of individual nurseries. It aims to align nurseries' operations standards with CDB guidelines, and in the long run, to develop and maintain productive & profitable venture.

1. Encourage an increased focus on improving productivity in nursery operations.
2. Encourage the shift from traditional work practices to more modern and innovative practices.
3. To set quality standards across the industry as a tool to meet industry goals.
4. To increase the operating standards of nurseries in order to improve the reputation of the local coconut industry.
5. To establish a network of quality coconut nurseries in the country, to ensure quality planting materials are available across the country

The Nursery Recognition also aims to provide useful feedback and suggestions to nurseries. This aids nursery owners in understanding how to make their service more productive and sustainable.

Benefits from being Recognised Coconut Nurseries

- The increase in reliability of nursery amongst consumers by demonstrating compliance to Nursery recognition standards.
- Establish sustainability and productivity through improved work practices in key areas identified for improvement by Recognition of Coconut Nurseries.
- Recognition of Coconut Nurseries is awarded by CDB hence applicants are encouraged to purchase plants from accredited nurseries to qualify for CDB schemes.

Criteria for Nursery Recognition & Renewal.

Nurseries pass the assessment based on (but not limited to) the following criteria:

- The site must be easily accessed by road
- The nursery must be reasonably close to coconut growing areas
- The site must have a good supply of fresh water
- The applicant of the nursery must be experienced in nursery management and operations. Experience with a coconut nursery is highly desirable
- The nursery will use only seed material from approved mother palm garden
- The applicant must be prepared to apply and use best practice nursery techniques and quality control measures (as per CDB guide line).
- The applicant must be prepared to change nursery layout and design to match with CDB specifications if required.
- The nursery area should be fenced off.
- Applicant should continuously raised at least 25000 seedlings annually.

Procedure for Nursery Recognition & Renewal.

- The nursery seeking recognition shall apply in the prescribed application Form to Coconut Development Board, Kera Bhavan, SRVHS Road, Kochi, Kerala.
- Such application shall be accompanied with layout of nursery showing location of infrastructure components and land utilization plan, details of technically qualified staff for nursery operations, major farm machineries, Tools & equipments available, operational manual for selection of mother palms and seed nuts, certification of mother palms, process followed for raising seedling and management of nursery, selection procedure for quality seedling and certification of coconut seedlings. The nursery shall submit details regarding mother palms and seed nuts used for raising coconut seedlings in prescribed form and shall also maintain a register for seed garden and sale of seedlings.
- Assessment Committee shall scrutinize each application, according to the nursery recognition criteria specified and subject to physical verification by the committee.
- After scrutiny and field verification, the Assessment Committee shall submit nursery wise assessment report to CDB along with recommendations. If any up-gradation / modification addition required it will be communicated to that particular nursery and will be given a chance to full fill / rectify the shortfalls with in a stipulated time frame; failing which, the application shall be rejected.
- On compliance, the committee will re-visit the nursery for assessment report will be submitted.
- On the basis of the assessment report CDB will take suitable decision on recognition to the nursery. Initially the recognition will be accorded for 2 years and renewed after physical field verification as per norms.
- The non refundable recognition fee of Rs.5000/- shall be remitted to CDB by way of DD or “NEFT” along with application in the prescribed format.
- Application should be submitted in prescribed format for the renewal along with fee of Rs.3000/-
- The validity period of recognition & renewal will be for a period of two years
- Accredited nursery shall have to sign a MOU with CDB for terms and conditions of recognition
- The decision taken by Chairman CDB on this regard will be final. The competent authority have right to accept or reject any application with or without assigning any reason what so ever. All disputes will be settled under the jurisdiction of Ernakulam

A system of Graded Certification, based on Assessment Criteria:

Assessment Criteria

| | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Location of Nursery | 2 | Connectivity by Road / Train |
| 3 | Area under Nursery (in Ha) | 4 | Soil Type & ph |
| 5 | Quality of Irrigation water (EC & pH) | 6 | Infrastructure facility |
| 7 | Variety | 8 | Source of seed nut |
| 9 | Nursery Management Practices | 10 | Seedling certification procedure |
| 11 | Branding (labeling) of seedlings | 12 | Record maintenance |
| 13 | Record Maintenance | 14 | Staff & Technical guidance |
| 15 | Marketing strategies | 16 | No of seedlings produced during last 5 years |
| 17 | innovative management practices adopted | 18 | specific achievements related to nursery |

It is essentially different from licensing of Coconut 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

| Marks obtained | Grade | Star Rating |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 81 & above | Excellent | *** |
| 66 to 80 | Very Good | ** |
| 55 to 65 | Good | * |
| Less than 55 | Not eligible for Grading | 0 |

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE:

CDB shall nominate one Agency / committee to coordinate the process who will take in to consideration, hereinafter referred to as Assessment Committee which may have Representatives from:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | State Agriculture University in the State concerned | 2 | NRC or Regional Station of ICAR/ CPCRI |
| 3 | Director of Horticulture/ Agriculture or Representative | 4 | CDB state representative |
| 5 | Nursery Men Association | 6 | Farmer producer organisations |
| 7 | Expert/ Nominated person. | | Others Nominated by CDB |

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 CDB for this purpose.

VALIDITY PERIOD OF RECOGNITION:

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

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

SURVILLANCE / MONITORING:

Surveillance visit shall be carried out at least 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 REGOGNITION 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 CDB for terms &

conditions of recognition. Any change in the location, layout, design or capacity of the nursery shall be intimated to CDB. 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.

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 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.

RENEWAL OF RECOGNITION:

The Nursery seeking renewal of recognition shall apply in prescribed form. The renewal of recognition shall be processed based on the satisfactory performance reported as per the surveillance/periodic inspection carried out during the validity period and fresh assessment.

PROCESSING FEE:

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

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

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

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 CDB 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 Chairman, CDB within 30 days from the receipt of such order.

In case of cancellation of recognition, the appeal shall accompany the original certificate.

DISCLAIMER:

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

APPLICATION FORM FOR RECOGNITION OF COCONUT NURSERY

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | Name the applicant (Contact address, mobile Phone no & email Id) | |
| 2 | Constitution (Individual / Proprietorship/Partnership/central/State Govt., SAUs/ Organization under ICAR /CISR, Co op society, Trust, Company, CPS/CPF/CPC, or others) | |
| 3 | Whether belongs to SC / ST | |
| 4 | Adhar card no / Ration card no / PAN no | |
| 5 | Bank account No | |
| 6 | Name of Branch & IFSC no | |
| 7 | Name of Nursery | |
| 8 | Date of Establishment of Nursery | |
| 9 | Location of the Nursery (Clearly indicate route map from the district HQ , local bus stop & distance) | |
| 10 | District | |
| 11 | Panchayath | |
| 12 | Whether the applicant is the Owner of the land where Nursery is established | Yes / No |
| 13 | If not, pl. indicate the full contact address with mobile phone no & email Id. (Copy of lease agreement to be attached) | |
| 14 | Survey no of the plot where Nursery established. | |
| 15 | Total extend of land (ha) | |
| 16 | Area of land under nursery (ha) | |
| 17 | Soil type | |
| 18 | PH of the soil | |
| 19 | Water source | River/Pond/ open Well/ Bore well / Canal/ others |
| 20 | EC& Ph of the water | |
| 21 | Irrigation method | Sprinkler, Micro sprinkler, Flood, Hose, others |

| Details of the coconut Nursery | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 22 | Total no of seed nuts sown during current year | | |
| | a | <i>Tall</i> | |
| | b | <i>Dwarf</i> | |
| | c | <i>Hybrids</i> | |
| | d | <i>Others (Specify)</i> | |
| 23 | Total no of Seedlings produced during current year | | |
| | a | <i>Tall</i> | |
| | b | <i>Dwarf</i> | |
| | c | <i>Hybrids</i> | |
| | d | <i>Others (Specify)</i> | |
| 24 | Price at which seedling sold | | |
| | a | <i>Tall</i> | |
| | b | <i>Dwarf</i> | |
| | c | <i>Hybrids</i> | |
| | d | <i>Others (Specify)</i> | |
| 25 | Whether the seedlings maintained in nursery bed or Poly bag. | | |
| 26 | Details of the no of Seed nuts sown during last 5 years | Details may be furnished in separate sheet.(Variety, no of nut sown, source, etc | |
| 27 | Details of the no of Seedlings produced during last 5 years | Details may be furnished in separate sheet.(Variety, no of seedlings produced) | |
| 28 | Source of Seed nuts (Central/State Govt. farms, SAUs/ Organization under ICAR/CSIR, CDB certified mother palm garden,Private garden, Own source, others)(indicate the full contact address of the seed garden with mobile phone no & name of the contact person) | | |
| 29 | Whether the seed garden approved by CDB | Yes / No | |
| 30 | Procedure adopted for identification of mother palms / specification of mother palms, Seed nuts and adherence to the required specification. | Details may be furnished in separate sheet. | |
| 31 | Nursery Management practices adopted | | |
| | a | <i>Nursery beds</i> | Flat / Raised / Shallow/ Sand / others |
| | b | <i>Sowing of seed nuts (method)</i> | vertical / Horizontal / others |
| | c | <i>Mulching</i> | |
| | d | <i>Irrigation</i> | |
| | e | <i>Weeding</i> | |
| | f | <i>Removal of Un germinated nuts</i> | |
| | g | <i>Plant protection activates</i> | |
| | h | <i>Fertiliser application to nursery</i> | |
| | i | <i>Culling of un healthy seedlings</i> | |
| | j | <i>whether proper display boards indicating variety/no of nut sown/date of sowing / source of seed nuts are placed in the nursery.</i> | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 32 | Calendar of operation with time frame for nursery production | Calendar of operations may be submitted in separate sheet |
| 33 | Standards for selecting quality seedlings | |
| 34 | No of seedlings certified during the year | |
| 35 | Certification mechanism adopted | |
| 36 | Names & Designations of the committee members who certified the Seedlings | |
| 37 | Date of Seedlings Certification. | |
| 38 | whether branding of seedlings were done (labeling) | |
| 39 | Infrastructure available | |
| | a Working shed | |
| | b Machineries, Tools & Implements (Specify) | |
| | c Assured water source | |
| | d Pump set etc | |
| | e Irrigation system | |
| | f Electricity | |
| | g Skilled & Trained workers | |
| h Marketing facility, Trade relation etc. | | |
| 40 | Records Maintained (please specify) | |
| 42 | Any specific achievements related to nursery (attach documentary evidence) | |

I / We S/Ohereby solemnly declare that the above stated information is true and correct to my best of knowledge and belief.

I / We S/Oundertake, without any reservation, to abide by the terms & conditions that may be prescribed by Board from time to time and the terms & conditions mentioned in the accreditation certificate granted to us. And also agree to abide by the sale price & quality parameters direction / guidelines that may stipulated by the CDB

I/We further understand that our Recognition is liable to be cancelled in the event of breach of any of the undertaking mentioned above and any of the information furnished above are found false/ wrong.

I / We also understand & agreeable that, all disputes and any legal matters (if any) will be settled under the jurisdiction of Kochi only.

I / We solemnly declare that I/we have not applied to the any other department / Authority for nursery accreditation If I / We have applied to any other Department / Auhority accreditation the copy of the application will be made available to the Board.

Place

Signature of the Applicant

Name

Date

Address

Appendix II
COCONUT DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Assessment Sheet for Recognition of Coconut Nursery

| Sl. No | Name of Nursery Particulars | Assessment | Total Marks | Marks Recommended |
|--------|---|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Location of the Nursery | | 2 | |
| 2 | Connectivity by Road/Train | | 2 | |
| 3 | Area under nursery (in acres) | | 2 | |
| 4 | Soil type and pH | | 2 | |
| 5 | Irrigation water (pH & EC) | | 2 | |
| 6 | Infrastructure facility | | 14 | |
| | Availability of assured irrigation water. | | | |
| | Irrigation system including Electricity / Motor pumpsets (Hose, Flooding, Sprinkler, Micro sprinkler etc) | | | |
| | Poly house insect proof/Shade net/Mist Chamber | | | |
| | Availability of tools/implements/ equipments (pro-bags, use of other machineries in nursery) | | | |
| | Facility for working shed. | | | |
| | Facilities for hardening:(green house etc). | | | |
| | Field Sign Boards indicating bed number & no of nuts sown, Variety, Date of sowing & Source | | | |
| 7 | Variety (Hybrid, Dwarf, Tall & cultivar) | | 4 | |
| 8 | Source of Seednut (Central / State Seed farms/ SAUs/ CDB certified mother palm gardens/ ICAR / CISR organisations/ /Private/Own garden (indicate the supplier address along with documentary evidance) | | 10 | |
| 9 | Nursery Management Practices: | | 9 | |
| | Sowing of seed nuts- flat bed /raised bed/Poly bags filled with coco peat/vermiculite/soil + sand + composed mixture | | | |
| | Seed Nuts sown in uniform beds | | | |
| | Adoption of scientific management practices such as Weeding,Mulching, PPC/fertilier application etc | | | |
| 10 | Seedling Certification Procedure | | 9 | |
| | No of seed nuts germinated | | | |
| | No of seedlings certified | | | |
| | Team members who certified the seedlings | | | |
| 11 | Branding (labeling) of Seedlings | | 3 | |
| 12 | Record Maintenance | | | |
| | Nursery sowing, germination & certification | | | |
| | Flow chart / calendar of operation with time scale for nursery production. | | | |

| | | | | |
|----|--|--|----|--|
| | Procedure for identification / required specification of inputs and adherence to required specification of each input. | | 24 | |
| | Sales register / Purchase register | | | |
| | Stock register of Inputs & seedlings | | | |
| | Availability of earlier registers for verification | | | |
| | Facility for field cross checking with registers | | | |
| | Lay out map of the nursery | | | |
| 14 | Staff & Technical guidance | | 6 | |
| | Skilled and technical manpower available for nursery management. | | | |
| | Training level of technical staff. | | | |
| | Facility for extending technical guidance for | | | |
| 15 | Marketing strategies | | 3 | |
| | Availability of own outs lets/ Counters | | | |
| 16 | No of seedlings produced during last 5 years | | 3 | |
| 17 | Any other innovative management practices | | 2 | |
| 18 | Any specific achievements related to nursery | | 3 | |

Remarks:

| Remarks: | Grade | Star Rating | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|
| Marks obtained | Excellent | *** | |
| 81 & above | Very Good | ** | |
| 66 to 80 | Good | * | |
| 55 to 65 | Not eligible for Grading | 0 | |
| Less than 55 | | | |

Signature of the Assessment Team

Documents to be attached along with the application

1. Self attested Copy of Land Document & tax receipt for the current year
2. Lease agreement (in Rs.50/- stamp paper) if applicant is not owner of the land where nursery established.
3. Lay out plan of the Nursery
4. Photograph of the Mother palm Garden
5. Documentary evidence for the source of the seed nuts.
6. Proof for transportation of seed nuts
7. Demand draft for Rs. 5000/- or Rs.3000/- for Fresh / Renewal application
8. Photo graphs of the certified coconut seedlings in the beds / Poly Bags.
9. Location & route map of the Nursery from district HQ
10. Calendar of Nursery operation with time frame
11. Details of the seed nuts sown & seedlings produced during last five years with documentary evidence
12. Procedures adopted for Mother Palm Identification & selection of seed nuts.
13. Affidavit / MOU
14. Copy of Soil & water test report
15. Copy of the address Proof of applicant
16. Procedure adopted in the identification of mother palms, Seed nuts and quality seedlings

General instructions

The nursery seeking recognition shall apply in the prescribed application Form to Coconut Development Board, Kera Bhavan, SRVHS Road, Kochi, Kerala.

Such application shall be accompanied with layout of nursery showing location of infrastructure components and land utilization plan, details of technically qualified staff for nursery operations, major farm machineries, Tools & equipments available, operational manual for selection of mother palms and seed nuts, certification of mother palms, process followed for raising seedling and management of nursery, selection procedure for quality seedling and certification of coconut seedlings.

The nursery shall submit details regarding mother palms and seed nuts used for raising coconut seedlings in prescribed form and shall also maintain a register for seed garden and sale of seedlings.

Assessment Committee shall scrutinize each application, according to the nursery recognition criteria specified and subject to physical verification by the committee.

After scrutiny and field verification, the Assessment Committee shall submit nursery wise assessment report to CDB along with recommendations. If any up-gradation / modification addition required it will be communicated to that particular nursery and will be given a chance to full fill / rectify the shortfalls within a stipulated time frame; failing which, the application shall be rejected.

On compliance, the committee will re-visit the nursery for assessment report will be submitted.

On the basis of the assessment report CDB will take suitable decision on recognition to the nursery. Initially the recognition will be accorded for 2 years and renewed after physical field verification as per norms.

The non refundable recognition fee of Rs.5000/- shall be remitted to CDB by way of DD or "NEFT" along with application in the prescribed format.

Application should be submitted in prescribed format for the renewal along with fee of Rs.3000/-

The validity period of recognition & renewal will be for a period of two years

Accredited nursery shall have to sign a MOU with CDB for terms and conditions of recognition

The decision taken by Chairman CDB on this regard will be final

The competent authority have right to accept or reject any application with or without assigning any reason what so ever.

All disputes will be settled under the jurisdiction of Ernakulam