



TOBACCO BOARD  
(Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India)  
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(AN ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED ORGANISATION)



F.No.1(6)/2025-26/PDN/

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**C I R C U L A R**

Sub:-2025-26 crop season in Karnataka – Criteria/ guidelines for registration of nursery growers – Reg.

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As per Section 10(A) (1) of Tobacco Board Act, 1975, Nursery growers intending to raise nursery for commercial purposes shall obtain registration as commercial nursery growers. Registered growers who grow nursery for their own use (domestic) need not obtain any registration as such, but as per procedure has to file an application detailing registration particulars and location/area where he intends to raise nursery for his own use.

As the nursery sowings in Karnataka for 2025-26 crop season will commence in the month of February, 2025, the criteria/guidelines for grant of registration or renewal of registration as nursery growers of Virginia Tobacco (as per Rule 33-D of Tobacco Board Rules 1976) for 2025-26 Karnataka crop season are placed in **Annexure-I**.

All the Auction Superintendents are directed to strictly follow the guidelines issued and regulate the area under tobacco nursery effectively so as to prevent unauthorized nurseries.

(A. SRIVIDHAR BABU)  
Executive Director

Encl: As above.

To

All the Regional Managers & Auction Superintendents in Karnataka.

Copy to: 1) The Director (Auctions) Tobacco Board, Bengaluru.  
2) The Manager (Extension), Head Office, Guntur-for information  
3) The Computer section, Head Office, Guntur-for information.

**Criteria/Guidelines for registration of nursery growers for 2025-26 crop season in Karnataka.**

**A) Registration of Commercial nursery growers (Rule 33-C,D)**

1. Farmers intending to obtain registration/renewal of registration as a commercial nursery grower have to file an application in Form-3 and furnish information required there under and these applications shall be considered for grant of registration/renewal of registration subject to the following conditions:
  - a) The field/plot where commercial nursery is proposed to be raised should be free from soil borne diseases and should be away from known areas for such diseases.
  - b) Applicant shall possess adequate water facility suitable for irrigating tobacco nursery and water meant for irrigation should not contain chlorides more than 40 PPM.
  - c) The Nursery Growers shall use "Authorised seed" supplied by Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) or ITC-ILTD research division invariably.
  - d) An amount of Rs.50/- per 0.10 ha or part thereof may be collected towards registration fees.
  - e) The nursery grower should not have been involved in activities which are in violation of Tobacco Board Act, Rules & Regulations, such as involving in illegal sales/purchases/ unauthorized cultivation/construction of barns etc.
2. An individual commercial nursery grower may be granted registration to a maximum extent of 1.00 ha.
3. In case of renewal of registration, the nursery grower shall submit returns Form No-7 & 8 of the previous season within stipulated time. In case the same are not submitted by the applicant last year, a penalty of Rs.500/- may be imposed on such commercial nursery growers. For delayed submission of returns, a penalty of Rs.250/- may be imposed.
4. The applicants for renewal of registration as commercial nursery growers are also required to submit registers in Form No-5 & 6 [Rule-33-E (1)] to the Auction Superintendents on demand for verification and scrutiny before issue of seed and granting renewal of registration as commercial nursery growers.
5. Commercial nursery growers shall display a notice board at the nursery plot indicating varieties grown, TBNR No. etc., and supply pure, healthy, disease and nematode free and hardened seedlings to registered growers only and follow directions and conditions as applicable to commercial nursery growers.

**B. Raising of nursery by registered FCV tobacco growers for their own use (Domestic nursery)**

1. Registered growers who desire to raise nursery/seedlings for their own use shall apply to the concerned Auction Superintendent giving the details of registration as a grower for the season, full address and location particulars and boundaries of lands where he intends to raise nursery for his own use and for obtaining seed under domestic category.

2. Considering the vagaries of weather affecting seed germination/mortality of seedlings and to enable obtaining required seedlings in time, an area not exceeding 1/25<sup>th</sup> of the registered area may be allowed for raising nursery under domestic category by registered growers.
3. Registered growers raising their own nursery shall use "Authorised seed" only procured from Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) or ITC-ILTD research division.
4. Registered growers raising their own nursery may be monitored closely to ensure that they will not exceed the limits set.

**C. Regulation of unauthorized tobacco nursery**

- 1) All the commercial nursery growers/registered growers raising their nursery shall be informed that the supply of seedlings shall be completed and all the seed beds shall be destroyed on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 to avoid late and staggered plantations.
- 2) Raising of nursery by the commercial nursery grower/registered grower for domestic use beyond stipulated date i.e., after 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 is a violation. The Auction Superintendents shall organize conducting Mahazarnamas and serve notices to these growers calling for explanation why registration can't be cancelled by the Board.
- 3) Auction Superintendents shall also identify the following categories of growers of unauthorized nurseries/violators and organize conducting Mahazarnamas and serve notices for cancellation of the registration as the case may be:
  - a) Commercial nursery men taking up commercial nursery without registration from Board.
  - b) Registered growers raising domestic nursery in excess of eligible area permitted.
  - c) Unauthorized growers raising nursery for his own use
- 4) The Auction Superintendent should also identify the source of seedlings for unregistered growers of Virginia tobacco and serve notices for cancellation of registration on such commercial nursery grower/registered grower of tobacco who supply seedlings raised by them to such unregistered growers thereby abetting the contravention of provisions of the Tobacco Board Act, Rules & Regulations.
- 5) Auction Superintendents should prepare proposals in all the above cases and send to Directorate of Auctions through Regional Manager concerned for obtaining permission for taking action against these erring nurserymen from Head office, Guntur.

**D. Reporting**

Weekly reports on nursery registration, area planted under nursery in comparison with last year, variety wise nursery grown shall be submitted to Directorate of Auctions and Head Office through Regional Managers' Office. Reports on Nursery condition, seedling prices shall also be submitted at regular intervals.

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