

(1000) Riyals and not more than five thousand (5000) Riyals shall be imposed on any person convicted of:

a. Knowingly planting varieties of seeds or seedlings that are not adopted by the Minister of Environment in accordance with Article 11 of this enclosed Law (Regulation).

b. Knowingly bringing into the State and planting any toxic or narcotic seeds or seedlings of plant species determined by a decision issued by the Minister of Environment in accordance with Article 15 of this enclosed Law (Regulation).

c. Knowingly circulating any species or variety of seeds or seedlings whose handling is banned under the decision issued by the Minister of Environment in accordance with Article 16 of this enclosed Law (Regulation).

2. The court shall order the confiscation of any seeds or seedlings involved in such violations, as the case may be.

#### • **Article 6 Introduction**

All due and payable fees shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this enclosed Law (Regulation) attached to a decision of the Minister of Environment.

#### • **Article 7 Introduction**

The Minister of Environment shall issue the Bylaws of this enclosed Law (Regulation) and the decisions necessary for their implementation. Until such decisions are issued, the decisions currently in force shall continue to be applied without contradicting the provisions of this Law.

#### • **Article 8 Introduction**

Any provision that violates the provisions of this Law and the enclosed Law (Regulation) shall be rescinded.

#### • **Article 9 Introduction**

All competent authorities, each in their respective jurisdiction, shall enforce this Law which shall be published in the Official Gazette.

## **Law (Regulation) Concerning Seeds, Seed Tubers and Seedlings in the States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)**

### Chapter One: General Provisions and Definitions

#### • **Article 1**

This Law (Regulation) shall be called the Law (Regulation) on Seeds, Seed Tubers and Seedlings of the States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and shall aim at regulating the handling of Seeds, Seed Tubers and Seedlings within such States.

## • Article 2

The following words must have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

“The Cooperation Council” means the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

“The States of the Council” means the States of the Cooperation Council.

“The Supreme Council” means the Supreme Council for the Cooperation Council.

“Secretariat-General” means the Secretariat-General of the Cooperation Council.

“The State” means one of the Member States of the Cooperation Council.

“The Ministry” means the Ministry of Agriculture or the competent body for agricultural affairs.

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“The competent authority” means the body responsible for all matters regarding seeds, seed tubers and seedlings as determined by the Minister or the competent minister.

“Phytosanitary control” means the control procedures implemented by the competent authority to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Law (Regulation).

“Inspector” means the official appointed by the Minister under the provisions of this Law (Regulation).

“Record” means the record prepared for the purpose of registering or recording seeds and seedlings.

“Licence” means the approval of the competent authority to circulate seeds, tubers and seedlings.

“Bylaw” means the Executive Bylaw of this Law (Regulation).

“Registration” means the process of assessing the comprehensive phytosanitary data for seeds, seed tubers and seedlings and the phytosanitary requirements for the handling thereof.

“Handling” means the production, import, export, transfer, sale, resale, purchase, distribution, storage, packing, preparation, processing or cuttings of seeds, seed tubers and/or seedlings.

“Seeds and tubers” means any part of the plant, including seeds, tubers, bulbs, corms, *rhizomes*, tuberous roots, stolons, branches, leaves, cuttings, stems, grafts, layering, buds, styles and shoots used for growth and the storage of nutrients, whether by seeding, vegetative propagation using roots, or by plant tissue cultures for field crops, vegetable crops, fruit plants, ornamental, medicinal and aromatic plants, and other plants subject to the application of the provisions of the approved phytosanitary regulations.

“Seedlings” means annual or perennial seeds planted in a nursery and propagated and grown for the purpose of agricultural activity or sale to the general public.

“Nursery” means an area where plants are propagated and grown.

“Approved phytosanitary regulations” means the regulations that restrict or prohibit the importation or marketing of different species of seeds or plants.

“Propagation places” means the places determined by the competent authority for the propagation of seeds, seed tubers and seedlings within the State.

“Species” means any agricultural crops similar in composition and specification and known individually or collectively by a specific name, such as wheat, peanuts and tomatoes.

“Genus” means a group of plant species which carries distinct, homogeneous and stable characteristics in its genetic composition before and after propagation and differs from other groups in one or more

advantages.

“Category” means the degree or grade of seeds produced and propagated in the phytosanitary system according to the genetic characteristics determined by the competent authority.

“Preparation” means the cleaning, grading or sorting of seeds in order to obtain certain specifications but does not include packaging, labelling or mixing of seeds and/or tubers.

## Chapter Two: Handling of Seeds, Seed Tubers and Seedlings

- **Article 3**

The competent authority shall oversee, regulate and control the handling of seeds, seed tubers and seedlings within the State and supervise the bodies that produce and propagate them.

- **Article 4**

The competent authority must create the record and the bylaw regulations that determine the methods and ways of registration.

- **Article 5**

A nursery may be established only after obtaining a licence from the competent authority.

- **Article 6**

All stages of the production and propagation of seeds, seed tubers and seedlings shall be subject to phytosanitary control, field inspection and laboratory analysis to ensure compliance with the specifications.

- **Article 7**

Each producer of seeds, seed tubers and seedlings shall comply with the procedures and specifications related to monitoring, accreditation and quality control prescribed by a decision of the Minister

- **Article 8**

The bodies which establish projects for the production, propagation or handling of seeds, seed tubers and seedlings and which conduct experiments in the State shall comply with the regulations and conditions specified by the competent authority.

- **Article 9**

The owner or operator of a nursery shall, at his own expense, protect seeds, seed tubers and seedlings from pests and diseases by means determined by the competent authority.

- **Article 10**

The competent authority shall determine the specifications that shall be available in each of the categories of propagation stated in the bylaw and the methods of their production.

- **Article 11**

The Minister shall determine the cultivation of adopted plant varieties in certain areas based on the recommendation of the competent authority and in accordance with the agricultural circumstances.

- **Article 12**

The stages of preparation of seeds, seed tubers and seedlings may be established only after obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

- **Article 13**

The handling of seeds, seed tubers and seedlings shall be allowed only after obtaining a licence from the competent authority and after complying with the conditions and specifications prescribed by this Law (Regulation).

- **Article 14**

The handling of genetically modified seeds, seed tubers and seedlings shall be allowed only after obtaining a licence from the competent authority.

- **Article 15**

The Minister shall determine those toxic and narcotic seeds, seed tubers and seedlings which are banned from entering the State and from being planted.

- **Article 16**

The Minister may prohibit, either permanently or temporarily, the handling of any type or class of seeds, seed tubers and seedlings. The competent authority shall control and inspect such handling and stop it where it does not conform to the bylaw regulations.

- **Article 17**

The Minister shall appoint inspectors to control the handling of seeds, seed tubers and seedlings and such inspectors, based on a decision issued by the competent bodies with regard to the implementation of the provisions of this Law (Regulation), bylaws and its implementing resolutions, shall have the powers of judicial enforcement officers.

## Chapter Three: Penalties

- **Article 18**

Each member state of the Council shall have the power to determine the penalties to be imposed on any person who violates the provisions of this Law (Regulation), its bylaw and its implementing resolutions.

## Chapter Four: Final Provisions

- **Article 19**

Any person affected by the implementation of the provisions of this Law (Regulation) may appeal to the competent authority in accordance with the applicable Laws and Bylaws and in each state.

- **Article 20**

The Minister may issue the bylaw for this Law (Regulation) or amend it in accordance with the provisions of this Law (Regulation) or the standards and conditions specified by the relevant international conventions, and the bylaw shall determine the procedures and conditions to be applied to the provisions of this Law (Regulation).

- **Article 21**

Any amendment to this Law Regulation shall take effect after its adoption by the Supreme Council, and the same procedures stated in Article 22 shall apply.