



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City, 1100 Philippines

Department Circular No. 17
Series of 2020

**Subject: GUIDELINES ON THE LISTING OF TRADITIONAL CROP VARIETIES
FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE**

Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 7308 or the *Seed Industry Development Act of 1992*, RA 9168 or the *Philippine Plant Variety Protection Act of 2002*, and the Joint Resolution No.1 series of 2018, of the National Seed Industry Council (NSIC) and the Plant Variety Protection Board (PVPB), the following guidelines for the listing of traditional crop varieties are hereby promulgated:

SECTION 1
Objectives

This Department Circular aims to provide criteria, requirements, procedures, and guidelines for the listing of traditional crop varieties under Article 45 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9168 and a list of rare species/ varieties/ lines/strains of plants restricted for exportation as mandated under Section 15b of RA 7308.

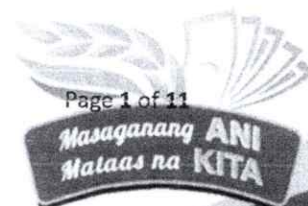
SECTION 2
Scope

This Circular shall cover all traditional varieties across crops which have been selected and cultivated by local farmers over generations, subject to applicable laws and regulations. Traditional varieties shall include landraces, farmers' varieties, and cultivars. These varieties may be endemic or indigenous species.

SECTION 3
Definition of Terms and Phrases

As used in this Circular, the following words, terms and phrases shall be construed to mean as follows:

A food-secure Philippines
with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk



CA/Anon 116
CONCHITA C. BROSAS
Administrative Officer V
Records Division

at Certified True Copy

1. "*Bioprospecting*" means the research, collection and utilization of biological and genetic resources for purposes of applying the knowledge derived therefrom solely for commercial purposes¹;
2. "*Characterization data*" any information (genotypic and phenotypic) that would validate the true identity of the traditional variety;
3. "*Commodity agencies*" refer to agencies tasked for the growth and development of the industry of a certain crop or crop group;
4. "*Endemic*" refers to species or subspecies which is naturally occurring and found only within specific areas in the country;
5. "*Landrace*" is a local variety of a species of plant that has distinctive characteristics arising from development and adaptation over time to conditions of a localized geographic region and that typically displays greater genetic diversity than types subjected to formal breeding practices;
6. "*Rare species/varieties/lines/strains*" is a group of crops that is very uncommon, scarce, or infrequently encountered whether in the Philippines or in other countries; and
7. "*Traditional varieties*" crop varieties whether food or non-food crops, that have been selected and cultivated by local farmers over generations, usually well adapted to local environmental conditions and connected with local culture and traditional customs.

SECTION 4 Applicants

Any Filipino citizens, organization, or institution may apply for the listing of traditional varieties under this Circular.

SECTION 5 Requirements

The applicant shall submit the following documentary requirements:

1. Application form (*Annex 1*)
2. Preliminary characterization data of the applicant; and
3. Endorsement by the local chief executive of the municipality/city upon the recommendation of municipal/city agriculturist, if filed by FA/FO or barangay/s; or agency head (if applicable).

¹ Republic Act No. 9147 re *Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act* and Joint DENR-DA-PCSD-NCIP Administrative Order No. 1 series of 2005 re *Guidelines for Bioprospecting Activities in the Philippines*




CONCHITA C. BRONOS
Administrative Officer V
Records Division

Certified True Copy

SECTION 6
Procedures for the Listing of Traditional Varieties

Step 1. Filing of Application – Applications for listing of traditional varieties shall be filed at the NSIC Office. Filing may be done online; through personal submission at the NSIC Office; or through courier.

Step 2. Document Assessment – The Council Secretariat shall check the completeness of the applicant's submitted documentary requirements.

Step 3. Website Publication - Received applications for listing shall be published in the NSIC-PVPO website within thirty (30) days upon receipt of the documents.

Step 4. Evaluation and Validation – The National Seed Industry Council - Technical Working Groups (NSIC-TWG), created under Article 11, Section 2 of DA Administrative Order No. 3 series of 1994, shall conduct the validation of the submitted documents. Results of the validation shall be endorsed by the concerned TWG to the NSIC Technical Secretariat for evaluation and recommendation of appropriate action to the Council and PVPB.

The NSIC-TWG shall develop protocol for the validation process.

Step 5. NSIC and PVPB Approval – Applications for listing shall be acted upon jointly by the NSIC and PVPB. The NSIC Office shall inform the applicant of the NSIC-PVPB decision in writing. In cases of non-approval of the application, the reason for denial shall be stated in the decision.

The applicant may file a Motion for Reconsideration with the NSIC-PVPB through the Council Secretariat within fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of the Decision on the application.

Appeal from the decision of the NSIC-PVPB shall be done in accordance with the Administrative Code of 1987, as amended, and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Step 6. Issuance of Certificate – A Certificate of Recognition for Traditional Variety shall be issued to the applicant of the listed traditional variety. Template of the certificate is in *Annex 2*.

SECTION 7
Opposition to the Grant of Recognition

Any person who believes that the applied traditional variety is not eligible for listing may file an opposition within 30 days from the period of website publication.

Page 3 of 11




CONCHITA C. BROSAS
Administrative Officer V
Records Division

Certified True Copy

Opposition to the application may be made on any of the following grounds:

- The crop entry is not a traditional variety as defined in this Circular; or
- Any false claim in the application.

Opposition to the application shall be filed online, through courier or through personal submission at the NSIC Office together with documents supporting the ground/s cited. The documents shall be endorsed and reviewed by the concerned NSIC-TWG. The recommendation by the NSIC-TWG through the Technical Secretariat shall be elevated to NSIC and PVPB for official action.

SECTION 8 Assigning of List Code

A traditional variety approved for listing shall be assigned with a list code, based on the following:

- Prefix as TVar (commodity code see *Annex 3*)
- Year of listing approval
- Sequence number

Example of a list code for a rice traditional variety: TVarRc 2009-001

Listed varieties with asterisk (*) shall mean rare species/varieties/line/strains, subject to export restriction pursuant to Section 15b of RA 7308.

SECTION 9 Entry into the Registry Database

Listed traditional crop varieties shall be entered into a website database. A separate category in the NSIC and PVPO websites shall be created solely for the listed traditional varieties. Location, variety information and characterization data shall be uploaded and form part of the database.

SECTION 10 Depository of Listed Traditional Varieties

All applicants with listed traditional varieties are required to submit planting materials for the safekeeping of germplasm to any of the following institutions:

Crop	Designated Depository
Rice	Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)
Corn and other Cereal/Pseudocereal Grains	National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory (NPGRL) and BPI (OPV only)
Vegetables	
Legumes	

Page 4 of 11




CONCHITA C. BROSAS
 Administrative Officer V
 Records Division

Certified True Copy

Sugarcane and other Sugar Crops	Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) and NPGRL
Fiber crops	Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) and NPGRL
Tobacco	National Tobacco Administration (NTA)
Rootcrops	NPGRL, Philippine Root Crops Research and Training Center (PRCRTC), Northern Philippine Root Crops and Training Center (NPRCRTC) and BPI
Fruits	NPGRL and BPI
Plantation	
Coconut	Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and NPGRL
Cacao	Cavite State University (CvSU), University of Southern Mindanao (USM), Benguet State University (BSU), NPGRL, BPI
Rubber	USM
Coffee	CvSU, USM, BSU, and BPI
Mulberry	Sericulture Research and Devt Institute (SRDI)
Ornamentals	NPGRL and BPI
Culinary Herbs, Spices, Essences, and Medicinal Crops	NPGRL and BPI

The required quantity of planting materials per crop is listed in *Annex 4*. Further, resubmission of planting materials to the designated depository shall be required if deemed necessary.

SECTION 11 Exportation Restriction

All traditional varieties listed as rare species/varieties/lines/strains shall be restricted for exports under Section 15b of RA 7308, except when to be utilized for scientific research and international exchange agreements entered into by the government. Only the designated depositories as per Section 10 herein shall be allowed to export for scientific purpose, subject to applicable laws.

SECTION 12 Benefits of Listing

The use of listed traditional varieties for bioprospecting purposes shall require sharing of benefits with the community where it came from, in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.



Concinta C. Boco
CONCINTA C. BOCO
 Administrative Officer V
 Records Division

Certified True Copy

SECTION 13
Annexes

All annexes, or any part thereof, referred to in this Circular are deemed integral part of this document but may be revised as a separate document, if deemed necessary.

SECTION 14
Repealing Clause

All provisions of existing issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Circular, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15
Separability Clause

If any portion of this Circular is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portion or portions thereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 16
Effectivity

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation, and registration with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), and shall remain in force unless revoked by the Secretary of Agriculture.

21st day of December 2020, Metro Manila, Philippines

Approved:



WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In replying pls cite this code :
For Signature: S-12-20-0610
Received : 12/21/2020 11:16 AM



Page 6 of 11


CONCHITA C. BROSAS
Administrative Officer V
Records Division

Certified True Copy

Annex

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
NATIONAL SEED INDUSTRY COUNCIL - PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE

Application Number: _____

Date of Application: _____

LISTING OF TRADITIONAL VARIETY APPLICATION FORM

Name of Applicant: <i>(To whom the Certificate will be named)</i>		
Name of Contact Person/Agent:		
Applicant's Address:		
Contact No. <i>(applicant)</i>		Email Address:
<i>(agent)</i>		

CROP VARIETY DETAILS

Crop:		Scientific Name:	
Place of Origin:			
Considered rare species/variety/line/strain?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Name of Traditional Variety Entry:	Brief history of the traditional variety entry:		
Required Supporting Documents:			
1. Applicant's preliminary characterization data 2. Photo documentation of the traditional variety entry			

 Applicant/Contact Person
(signature over printed name)

Endorsed by: (if applicable)

 Signature over Printed Name of the Municipal/City Local Chief Executive



CM Brocos
CONCHITA C. BROCOS
 Administrative Officer, V
 Records Division

Certified True Copy

Annex 2

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

The National Seed Industry Council (NSIC) and the Plant Variety Protection Board (PVPB) duly recognize the varieties listed below as traditional varieties under Article 45 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act (RA) 9168 or the *Philippine Plant Variety Protection Act of 2002* [and Section 15b of RA 7308 or the *Seed Industry Development Act of 1992*]².

List Code	Variety Name	Name of Applicant and/or Place of Origin
TVarRc 2020-001	Awot	Alamada, North Cotabato
TVarRc 2020-002	Dinorado	
TVarRc 2020-003	Hinumay	

Complete characterization data of these varieties are duly recorded in the Plant Variety Registry of the NSIC - Plant Variety Protection Office (NSIC-PVPO).

Given this _____, 2020 at the Bureau of Plant Industry, Malate, Manila.

GEORGE Y. CULASTE, PhD.
Director, Bureau of Plant Industry
Executive Director, NSIC
Acting Registrar, PVPO

² [and Section 15b of RA 7308 or the *Seed Industry Development Act of 1992*] - will be mentioned if the listed traditional variety is considered rare



CC Brosas
CONCHITA C. BROSAS
Administrative Officer V
Records Division

Certified True Copy

Annex 3. NSIC-PVPO Crop Code of Nomenclature

Crop	Code
Corn	Cn
Fiber	
Abaca	Mt
Cotton	Ct
Fruits	
Abiu	Ab
Avocado	Av
Bignay	Bg
Bread fruit	Bf
Caimito	Ca
Camachile	Cm
Cashew	Cs
Chico (Sapodilla)	Sd
Durian	Dr
Gov. Plum (Bitungol)	GP
Guava	Gv
Jackfruit	Jf
Jambolan (Duhat)	Ja
Lanzones	Ln
Mabolo	Ml
Mango	Mn
Mangosteen	Ms
Marang	Mr
Navel orange	On
Papaya	Pp
Pili	Pl
Pummelo	Pm
Rambutan	Rm
Santol	Sn
Satsuma Mandarin	Md
Soursoup	Ss
Sugarapple	Sa
Sweet orange	SO
Tamarind	Tr
Legumes	
Chickpea	Ck
Mungbean	Mg
Peanut	Pn
Pigeonpea	PP
Soybean	Sy

Crop	Code
Ornamentals	Or
Plantation	
Cacao	Cc
Coffee	Cf
Coffee arabica	Cf-A
Coffee hybrid	Cf-H
Coffee liberica	Cf-L
Coffee robusta	Cf-R
Mulberry	Mb
Rubber	Rb
Coconut and Other Palm Trees	
Coconut	Co
Rootcrops	
Cassava	Cv
Lesser Yam (Tugi)	Ly
Sweet potato	Sp
Taro	Gb
Greater yam (ubi)	Gy
Potato	Po
Sorghum	Sg
Sugarcane	Sc
Tobacco	Tc
Vegetables	
Bush sitao	BS
Bush snap bean	BSnBn
Cowpea	Cp
Eggplant	Eg
Garden pea	GP
Pole sitao	PS
Pole snap bean	PSnBn
Tomato	Tm
Squash	Sq
Garlic	Gr



CCBROSAS
CONCHITA C. BROSAS
 Administrative Officer V
 Records Division

Certified True Copy

Annex 4. Required Quantity of Available Planting Materials of the Listed Traditional Variety for Submission to NSIC-PVPO Designated Germplasm Depositories

Crop	Quantity	Remarks
Corn	300 g	OPV
Fiber		
Abaca	2 cultures	
Cotton	600 g	
Fruits	20 grafted seedlings	15 for BPI; 5 for NPGRL
Papaya	30 seeds/ 20 seedlings	
Legumes		
Chickpea	200 g	
Mungbean	200 g	
Peanut	500 g	unshelled
Pigeonpea	200 g	
Soybean	200 g	
Ornamentals	1 to 3 potted	
Plantation		
Cacao	20 grafted seedlings	
Coconut	20 seedlings	
Coffee		
Coffee arabica	20 seedlings	
Coffee hybrid	20 seedlings	
Coffee liberica	20 rooted cuttings	
Coffee robusta	20 rooted cuttings	
Mulberry	20 rooted cuttings	
Rubber	20 budded seedlings	
Rice	5 kgs	Breeder seed
Rootcrops		
Cassava	30 cuttings	
Lesser Yam (Tugi)	15 propagules	
Sweet potato	60 cuttings	
Taro	15 corms	
Greater yam (ubi)	15 propagules	
Potato	10-20 tubers or 5 test tubes or 3-5 bottles of tissue-cultured	




CONCHITA C. BRONIS
 Administrative Officer V
 Records Division

Certified True Copy

Crop	Quantity	Remarks
	plantlets	
<i>Sorghum</i>	100 g	
<i>Sugarcane</i>	20 cuttings	2-eye cuttings
<i>Tobacco</i>	250 g	
<i>Vegetables</i>		
Bush sitao	200 g	
Bush snap bean	200 g	
Cowpea	200 g	
Eggplant	10 g	
Garden pea	200 g	
Pole sitao	200 g	
Pole snap bean	200 g	
Tomato	10 g	



Conchita C. Burgos
CONCHITA C. BURGOS
 Administrative Officer V
 Records Division

Certified True Copy