

From Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:

## TURKISH REGULATION ON THE REGISTRATION OF PLANT VARIETIES

### PART ONE

#### Purpose, Scope, Basis, Definitions

##### Objective

ARTICLE 1 - (1) The purpose of this Regulation is to determine the principles of registration of varieties of agricultural plant varieties, creation of registration lists, duration and deletion thereof in the registry, and registration of plant genetic resources.

##### Scope

ARTICLE 2 - (1) This Regulation covers the works and procedures regarding the registration of varieties and genetic resources of field crops, vineyard garden crops and other plant varieties, authorisation and auditing of private sector research institutions.

##### Basis

ARTICLE 3 - (1) This Regulation has been prepared based on Article 4 of the Seed Law No. 5553 dated 31/10/2006 and Article 3 of the Law No. 969 dated 21/12/1967 on Provision of Revolving Funds to Central and Provincial Institutions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

##### Definitions

ARTICLE 4 - (1) In this Regulation;

The following means:

a) Research organisation: Public and private organisations engaged in the breeding or discovery and development of plant varieties, the qualifications and working procedures and principles of which are determined by the Ministry,

b) Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,

c) Pre-application trials: In field crops varieties, trials established by research organisations within the framework of technical instructions published by the Ministry in the relevant plant varieties before the application for registration,

ç) Pre-application trial report: The report stating the statistical analyses of the results of the trials conducted to determine the agricultural value of the variety, technological characteristics, trials and observations in which resistance to diseases and pests is determined, and one or more characteristics in which the variety is superior to the standard/control varieties in the trial in terms of economic value, within the framework of the technical instruction published in the relevant plant varieties before the application for registration,

d) Plant group: Each group consisting of field crops, vegetables, fruit/vine and ornamental plants,

e) Bulletin: Lists of plant varieties that are registered or removed from the register, and of the works and procedures related to registration,

f) Variety Description Document: The original approved document containing morphological, physiological and technological characters obtained from the official registration institution of the country where the variety or its parent lines are registered,

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\*This text of the Regulation covers the amendments made on 14.09.2008 (Amendment Number: 26997), 17.12.2009 (Amendment Number: 27435), 12.05.2012 (Amendment Number: 28290), and 25.09.2021 (Amendment Number: 31609).

g) Applicant: The research organisation or real persons who breed or develop the variety and seed producing organisations with authorisation document,

ğ) Variety registration report: The report prepared by the Seed Registration and Certification Centre Directorate by evaluating the results of variety registration trials and tests within the framework of the technical instructions published for the relevant plant varieties,

h) Distinctiveness, uniformity and stability tests (DUS): Observations or tests to verify the characteristics of the variety specified in the technical questionnaire and to determine whether the morphological and physiological characters of the variety are distinct from the existing varieties, uniform and stable,

i) General Directorate: General Directorate of Plant Production,

i) Location: The region with its own characteristics in terms of climate, soil and other ecological factors in terms of plant cultivation,

j) Preliminary trial: Trials established for the purpose of determining or verifying the characteristics of the variety of vegetable varieties in the technical questionnaire or Variety Description Document,

k) Standard sample: The sample of the varieties registered by the variety owner, the quantities of which are determined by TTSM on the basis of plant varieties and which meets the minimum seed standards at least in the original seed class,

l) Standard Seed: Seed or propagation material belonging to registered varieties in vegetable varieties, which is offered for trade only through laboratory controls and subjected to control trials to verify the identity and purity of the variety,

m) Standard Seed Variety List (STÇL): The list of registered and traded varieties in vegetable varieties,

n) Standard Seed Registration (STR): Registration of vegetable varieties,

o) Agricultural Values Measurement Trial (TDÖ): Trials by which agricultural values such as biological and technological characteristics of varieties belonging to field crop varieties and yield, resistance to diseases and pests are determined,

ö) Recommendation list: The list, the publication principles of which are determined by the General Directorate, indicating the suitable varieties according to the regions,

p) Registration: Recording in the registry the plant varieties bred or discovered and developed within the country or abroad by determining their distinctiveness, uniformity and stability and/or their biological and technological characteristics, resistance to diseases and pests and agricultural values,

r) Registration and STK trials: Trials established by TTSM as a basis for the registration of a plant variety,

s) Technical questionnaire: A form filled in by the breeder of the variety, containing some characteristics of the variety as a basis for the establishment of DUS tests, the sample of which is published by TTSM,

ş) Technical instruction: The criteria published by the Ministry in the relevant plant varieties, which determine the technical principles in TDÖ in pre-application and registration trials,

t) Seed producing organisation: Public institutions assigned by the Ministry for seed production and private sector organisations established for seed production, having the necessary infrastructure and actually producing certified or standard seeds,

u) TTSM: Variety Registration and Seed Certification Center

ü) UPOV: International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants,

v) Production permit: Time-limited permit granted until the plant variety is registered by determining the biological and technological characteristics, resistance to diseases and pests and agricultural characteristics of plant varieties bred or found and developed in Türkiye or abroad,

y) Authorisation document: The original document obtained from the variety owner organisation or breeder for at least five years, showing that the applicant is authorised for the procedures related to the registration of the variety

z) Clone: In fruit and vine varieties, a vegetatively propagated individual that differs from the variety to which it belongs,

aa) Free varieties: Varieties which are not covered by plant variety protection abroad or in Türkiye and which have been in production for more than 30 years for fruit, vine and potato and 25 years for other varieties

## **PART TWO**

### **General Principles Regarding Recording**

#### **Application**

ARTICLE 5 - (1) Applications for registration of plant varieties shall be made by the applicant to TTSM. A digital copy of the application file shall be attached to the application. If there is a request for a production permit, it shall be stated in the application petition. The address and Registered Electronic Mail (KEP) address to which official correspondence and notifications will be notified shall be notified to TTSM with the application by the applicant. The application file consists of the following three main sections:

- a) Application petition and form
- b) Technical information and documents of the variety
- c) Bank receipt of fee.

(2) In the applications for registration or STK, the examination of the application file shall be made by TTSM. In the applications for production permit, no evaluation is made for the section containing technical information and documents, provided that the three main sections required to be included in the application files are present.

(3) If, at the production permit meetings, the members of the committee referred to in Articles 20, 26 and 33 determine that there is any information or document deficiency in the section on technical information and documents that would lead to the rejection of the variety, the committee shall reject the request for production permit of the variety.

(4) Authorisation document is not required for applications made for free varieties.

(5) Seed producing organisations may register plant varieties bred by natural persons or research institutions. For this purpose, they shall have pre-application trials of the variety candidate to be registered by a research organisation and obtain the pre-application trial report from this organisation.

(6) Within the scope of this Regulation, natural persons who meet the following conditions shall have the pre-application trials of the varieties they breed conducted by a research organisation and obtain the pre-application trial report from this organisation.

a) They should graduate from agricultural faculties providing at least four-year education in Türkiye or abroad and have worked for at least three years in the breeding of plant varieties, or have been successful in a three-month theoretical and practical course organised by the Ministry or public interest organisations authorised by the Ministry on plant breeding, or have a master's degree or doctorate in breeding.

b) They must not be currently employed in any public or private research organisation.

### **Examination of Application**

ARTICLE 6 - (1) In the applications for the production permit together with the applications for the registration or STK, or in the applications only for the registration or STK;

a) The application file containing the request to take the variety for registration or STK trials is examined by TTSM. If no deficiency is detected, the variety is taken into registration or STK trials.

b) A digital copy of the application file containing the request for production permit of the variety shall be sent electronically to the members of the registration or STK committee at least one week before the meeting dates by TTSM together with the meeting invitation letter.

(2) In the event of a deficiency to be found in any of the three main sections of the file during the examination of the registration or STK application file, TTSM shall notify the applicant in writing of the deficiencies and the date on which the trials will be conducted in order to remedy the deficiency within fifteen days at the latest from the date of receipt of the application file by TTSM. If the applicant does not remedy the deficiency at least fifteen days before the date of the trials, the application file shall be returned to the applicant.

(3) If any one of the three main sections is found to be missing during the examination of the production permit and STK application file, the file shall be returned to the applicant and shall not be included in the agenda of the meeting. If the deficiency is completed, it is included in the agenda provided that a new application is made.

### **Conducting registration and STK trials**

ARTICLE 7 - (1) Registration and STK trials are established by TTSM.

(2) In case the infrastructure facilities of TTSM in terms of personnel, land, tools and equipment are not sufficient for the procedures related to the establishment and maintenance of the trials, the trials of the variety may be outsourced to research institutions under the supervision of TTSM.

(3) Public research institutions shall be assigned by the Ministry through a protocol to be signed. The materials required for the trials to be conducted by research institutions shall be prepared by TTSM by assigning a code number and used in the trials, provided that the variety name and owner are reserved. These trials shall be evaluated by TTSM.

(4) The locations of the registration or STK trials to be established and the standard or control varieties to be used in the trials shall be determined by TTSM taking into consideration the proposal of the variety owner.

(5) The variety owner is obliged to provide the seed of the candidate variety and the varieties to be used as standard or control in the trials.

(6) In the registration and production permit requests, if there is no previously registered variety in the species to which the variety belongs, the materials provided by the variety owner are used as the standard variety in the TDÖ.

(7) The quantities and dates in which the trial material belonging to the variety to be taken into registration trials shall be delivered to TTSM shall be announced by TTSM within thirty days following the publication date of the Regulation. The files of the varieties belonging to the trial material not delivered for two growing seasons shall be returned to the variety owner and the production permit for these varieties shall be terminated.

(8) In plant varieties, determination of the resistance of the variety to diseases and pests and technological characteristics of the variety shall be carried out and evaluated by the relevant research institutions, universities and other institutions in accordance with the principles to be determined in the protocols to be signed

between TTSM and these institutions. Public research institutions shall be assigned by the Ministry to carry out trials and observations.

(9) For vegetable varieties, the trial material, the amount of which is announced by TTSM, shall be sent to TTSM for the purpose of establishing trials within thirty days at the latest after the completion of the application procedures. The files of the varieties belonging to the trial material not sent within the time limit shall be returned to the variety owner and the production permit for these varieties shall be terminated.

#### **Registration times**

ARTICLE 8 - (1) Plant varieties, except fruit and vine varieties, are registered for certain periods. This period is ten years and is calculated as of the end of the calendar year.

(2) For the renewal of the registration period, it is essential to apply two years before the expiry date of the registration period. If the variety is produced in sufficient quantities or if it is required to be preserved as a genetic resource, the registration period shall be extended for periods of ten years if an application is made and the variety fulfils the conditions of distinctiveness, uniformity and stability.

(3) Among the varieties removed from the registration lists, if the variety owner applies to the TTSM, the varieties which are found to be distinct, uniform and stable shall be included in the list with the decision of the registration or STK committee.

#### **Standard sample**

ARTICLE 9 - (1) Standard samples of the varieties registered under this Regulation in the quantities specified by TTSM shall be submitted by the variety owner to TTSM within sixty days from the date of the meeting at which the variety was registered. These samples shall be renewed every ten years for field crops and every five years for vegetables. Standard samples of the varieties included in the Sub-List mentioned in Article 36 and of the vegetatively propagated varieties shall be kept by the variety owner.

#### **Principles of denominating the registered variety**

ARTICLE 10 - (1) The registered variety shall be given a name by the registration or STK committees taking into consideration the proposal of the variety owner. The following points shall be taken as basis in denominating the variety.

a) The variety name may consist of one or more words, or letters or numbers that do not form a word may be added to this denomination.

b) It must not cause deception or confusion, and must not be the same as, or susceptible to confusion with, the denomination of another variety.

c) It must not be unlawful, ugly, indecent or offensive, and the letter or letters in it must not have been used for such meanings.

ç) It should not be any name or word prohibited by laws and relevant legislation at the date of registration.

d) It should not be the name of a registered variety of the same botanical varieties existing in our country or in a foreign country.

e) Varieties may not be denominated after a person living at the time of registration or after a person who has died within ten years of the date of registration without the written consent of the person or his heir.

f) The name of a legal person, organisation or institution may not be given without written permission.

g) Country, city or place names may not be given.

ğ) Varieties registered in foreign countries shall be given their original names if they are registered in our country. If another variety with a similar name is registered in the same or similar plant varieties or if the name is contrary to the provisions of this Article, these varieties shall be given a different name.

h) After the variety is registered, the name shall not be changed except for technical or legal obligations. The applications to be made with the documentation of technical or legal obligations are evaluated by the STK Committee or registration committees.

ı) The names of the same varieties or lines protected under the Law on the Protection of Breeders' Rights to New Plant Varieties dated 8/1/2004 and numbered 5042 cannot be different. In case of a name difference, the name under protection within the scope of Law No. 5042 shall be taken as basis.

### **PART THREE**

#### **Registration of Varieties of Field Crops**

##### **Field crops varieties list**

ARTICLE 11 - (1) The list of field crops varieties that can be registered is published by the Directorate General.

##### **Pre-application trial periods**

ARTICLE 12 - (1) Candidate varieties for registration of plant varieties shall be subjected to pre-application trials. These trials shall be conducted simultaneously in at least two locations in accordance with the nature of development of the variety candidate in one growing season or at least two growing seasons in one location for annual field crop varieties, and in at least two growing seasons and two locations for perennial field crop varieties.

##### **Application in field crops**

ARTICLE 13 - (1) The section "Technical information and documents of the variety" in subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph of Article 5 consists of the following information and documents for field crops other than hybrid varieties.

a) If the variety is not registered in Türkiye or abroad or if it is registered in a country where DUS tests are not carried out according to UPOV rules; the following should be available in the application file:

- 1) Pre-application trial report,
- 2) Technical Questionnaire,
- 3) Photographs, slides and similar documents, if any,
- 4) Translations of foreign language documents certified by a sworn translation office,
- 5) Authorisation document.

b) If the variety is registered in a UPOV member country where DUS tests are carried out abroad in accordance with UPOV rules; the following should be available in the application file:

- 1) Pre-application trial report,
- 2) Variety Specificity Certificate,
- 3) Photographs, slides and similar documents, if any,
- 4) Translations of foreign language documents certified by a sworn translation office,
- 5) Authorisation document,

### **Application in maize and sunflower varieties**

ARTICLE 14 - (1) The section "Technical information and documents of the variety" in subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph of Article 5 consists of the following information and documents for maize and sunflower varieties.

a) The variety has not been registered in Türkiye or abroad or has been registered in a country which is not a member of UPOV; the following should be available in the application file:

1) Technical questionnaire for hybrid and parent lines. If either or both of the parent lines have been previously registered in Türkiye, the technical questionnaire of the lines is not submitted. the variety description document of the registered lines if either or both of the parent lines have been previously registered in a UPOV member country,

2) Pre-application trial report,

3) Authorisation document,

4) Translations of foreign language documents certified by a sworn translation office,

5) Photographs, slides and similar documents, if any.

b) If the variety is registered abroad in a UPOV member country;

1) Variety Description Document for hybrid and parent lines,

2) Pre-application trial report,

3) Authorisation document,

4) Translations of foreign language documents certified by a sworn translation office,

5) Photographs, slides and similar documents, if any,

6) In the case of trials conducted or commissioned by the applicant, the differences, if any, identified according to the variety description document shall be marked on the variety description document form published by TTSM. If one or both of the parent and parent lines are not registered in a specified country, the technical questionnaire of this line or lines

### **Application and meeting dates for field crops**

ARTICLE 15 - (1) Variety registration and/or production permit application times and meeting dates for field crops are given below.

a) For summer sowing;

1) applications for registration are made in December and January,

2) Registration meetings are held in March or April,

3) Production permit application are made in the first week of December and January,

4) Production permit meeting is held in the last week of December and January,

b) For winter sowing;

1) Applications for registration are made in July and August,

2) Registration meetings are held in March and April,

- 3) Production permit application is made in the first week of July and August,
- 4) Production permit meeting is held in the last week of July and August,
- c) For green area grass plants;
  - 1) Applications for registration are made in December and January,
  - 2) Registration meetings are held in March or April,
  - 3) Production permit application is made in the first week of December and January,
  - 4) Production permit meeting is held in the last week of December and January,

(2) For parent and parent lines registered abroad within the scope of subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph of Article 14 of this Regulation and for varieties registered abroad within the scope of the sixth paragraph of Article 16 of this Regulation, the application for registration and meeting shall be held during the production permit periods.

#### **Registration trials in field crops**

ARTICLE 16 - (1) If the variety is a variety within the scope of subparagraph (a) of the first paragraph of Article 13, DUS and TDÖ are carried out simultaneously by TTSM in registration trials.

a) DUS is established in at least one location and two growing seasons.

b) TDÖ is established for two growing seasons in at least three locations for annual varieties and three growing seasons in at least three locations for perennial varieties.

(2) If the variety is a variety within the scope of subparagraph (a) of the first paragraph of Article 14, DUS and TDÖ are conducted simultaneously by TTSM in registration trials.

a) DUS is established in at least one location for two growing seasons. If either or both of the parent lines have been registered before, they are not included in DUS.

b) TDÖ is established with the hybrid variety for two growing seasons in at least three locations according to the technical instructions published by the Ministry for the relevant plant varieties.

(3) If the variety is within the scope of subparagraphs (b) of the first paragraphs of Articles 13 and 14, only TDÖ shall be established according to the technical instruction published by the Ministry for the relevant plant varieties. In case any incompatibility is observed between the characters of the variety and the characters specified in the Variety Description Document in the TDÖ conducted by the TTSM, the variety owner shall be notified in writing. In this case, the variety owner shall also apply for DUS. TDÖ is conducted for two growing seasons in at least three locations for annual varieties and for three growing seasons in at least three locations for perennial varieties.

(4) Varieties which are protected in Türkiye within the scope of Law No. 5042 shall be included in the trials within the scope of the third paragraph of this Article.

(5) For green field grass plants and medicinal and aromatic plant varieties specified in the varieties list of field crops, application shall be made according to the first paragraph of Article 24 of this Regulation. These varieties shall be registered only according to the results of DUS tests.

(6) For tobacco, green field grass plants and medicinal and aromatic plant varieties specified in the varieties list of field crops; if the variety is registered abroad in a UPOV member country where DUS tests are carried out in accordance with UPOV rules, the varieties are registered by the registration committee upon

application to TTSM by obtaining the original DUS test report and variety description document from the authorised Office of the country of registration.

#### **Hybrid varieties other than maize and sunflower**

ARTICLE 17 - (1) For hybrid varieties other than maize and sunflower, technical information and documents shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Article 14. In the varieties covered by this Article, registration trials shall be conducted according to the provisions of the second and third paragraphs of Article 16. In these varieties, DUS of parent and parent lines shall not be established. In case a hybrid variety is registered, the parents forming the hybrid shall be registered on the basis of the characteristics specified in the technical questionnaires in the application file of the variety owner. The parents registered under this article are not included in the variety lists.

#### **Evaluation of the trials**

ARTICLE 18 - (1) Variety candidates which have completed two growing seasons in the trials within the scope of Article 16 and which are found to be distinct, uniform and stable are taken into evaluation together with the results of TDÖ. A variety registration report on these varieties is prepared by TTSM to be submitted to the relevant Field Crops Registration Committee.

(2) In case of any problem of the variety in DUS tests in the first or second growing season, DUS tests continue in the third growing season. Variety candidates that fail in DUS tests are not taken into evaluation. This situation is notified to the variety owner in writing.

#### **Evaluation of hybrid maize and sunflower trials**

ARTICLE 19 - (1) In the trials within the scope of Article 16, variety candidates and parent lines that have completed two growing seasons are subjected to evaluation.

(2) Varieties which are found to be distinct, uniform and stable are evaluated according to the results of TTSM. A variety registration report on these varieties shall be prepared by TTSM and submitted to the Field Crops Registration Committee.

(3) In case of any problem of the variety or parent lines in DUS in the first or second breeding season, DUS continues in the third breeding season. If the variety candidates and their parent or parent lines fail in DUS, they are not taken into consideration. This situation is notified to the variety owner in writing.

#### **Establishment and working principles of the Field Crops Registration Committee**

ARTICLE 20 - (1) The registration reports prepared by TTSM shall be sent digitally and electronically to the organisations whose members will participate in the Field Crops Registration Committee in March and April each year, together with the meeting invitation letter.

(2) The Field Crops Registration Committee shall consist of two representatives from TTSM, one representative each from the General Directorate, Faculties of Agriculture, Public Agricultural Research Institutions, Seed Industrialists and Producers Sub-union, Plant Breeders Sub-union, the industry sector related to the product and the Union of Chambers of Agriculture of Türkiye.

(3) In addition to inviting the variety owner to the Field Crops Registration Committee meeting, research institutions working on agricultural pest control and technology and consultant members may be invited, provided that at least one of the public agricultural research institutions is an agricultural research institution engaged in plant breeding. After receiving the invitation letter, the organisations invited to the committee shall appoint an expert agricultural engineer according to the type of the variety proposed for registration.

(4) The Field Crops Registration Committee shall convene with the presence of at least seven full members. At the meeting;

a) Only full members can vote. Those invited as counsellors can attend the meetings but cannot vote.

b) At each meeting, a chairman is elected among the full members. Clerking of the meeting shall be carried out by TTSM.

c) TTSM shall present the reports on the variety verbally at the meeting. The variety owner may also make statements about the variety at the meeting. During the voting, no one other than the members of the committee, including the variety owner, shall be present in the meeting hall. The decision is made by the Field Crops Registration Committee.

ç) The registration decision shall be taken with the favourable vote of the majority consisting of two thirds of the full members attending the meeting. Varieties are voted separately at the meeting. The variety shall be given a name in accordance with the principles specified in Article 10 and the variety shall be registered with this name.

d) If the owner of a variety, whose registration or production permit is rejected due to deficiencies, objects to the decision in the same session, the objection shall be taken into consideration. If the Field Crops Registration Committee is of the opinion that the deficiencies causing the decision can be eliminated, the variety may be re-examined at the Field Crops Registration Committee to be held in April for summer trials and in September for winter trials, provided that a new application is made after the deficiencies are eliminated. The decision taken as a result of this meeting becomes final.

e) Varieties that are not registered after being discussed by the Field Crops Registration Committee, if the results of DUS tests are positive, are included in the Sub-List published annually by TTSM, if requested by the variety owner within thirty days from the date of the meeting.

f) A protocol shall be drawn up for each session of the meeting. The decisions taken on whether the variety is registered or not, together with the reasons, are included in this protocol. The protocols shall be signed by the holders of voting rights and their acceptance, rejection or abstention shall be indicated.

g) The varieties decided to be registered by the registration committee are sent to the relevant institutions and the variety owner by TTSM. Varieties rejected at the meeting are notified to the applicant.

ğ) For varieties that are not registered after being discussed by the registration committee, if a new feature of economic value emerges as a result of the pre-application trials, another application can be made to TTSM with a request for registration.

(5) Among the varieties for which a registration report is submitted, the Field Crops Registration Committee evaluates the variety which is determined to be distinct, uniform, stable, equivalent to or superior to the average of the standard varieties in the TCC in terms of one or more characters of economic value, together with all its aspects. In the evaluation; the issues detailed in the technical instructions for each plant varieties such as yield, earliness, resistance to diseases and pests, storage and transportation, suitability for fabrication and mechanisation, compliance with the quality standards sought in domestic and foreign markets are accepted as economic value. Variety candidates deemed appropriate as a result of the evaluation are registered by the registration committee.

#### **Principles of production permit for field crops**

ARTICLE 21 - (1) Production permit for varieties of field crops shall be granted by the Field Crops Registration Committee referred to in Article 20.

(2) A production licence for a variety is granted in accordance with the following principles.

a) The application for registration made by the variety owner to TTSM must have been accepted.

b) The application is made with the production permit request specified in the application for registration petition and the digital copy of the documents specified in the first paragraph of Article 5. The originals and digital copies of the documents of the variety shall be kept in the registration file.

c) Seed producing organisations shall have their pre-application trials conducted by a research organisation.

ç) The variety shall be presented verbally to the Field Crops Registration Committee by the organisation applying for a production permit.

d) Plant varieties shall be granted production permits during registration trials. Production permits of varieties with unfavourable registration trial results shall terminate.

e) The denomination of the variety for which production permit is granted shall be made in accordance with Article 10.

f) If the variety is a variety within the scope of subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph of Article 14, a application for registration is made for foreign registered parental lines with Variety Description Document. These lines shall be discussed and registered by the Field Crops Registration Committee.

g) A variety for which a production permit has already been granted shall not be granted a second production permit.

## **PART FOUR**

### **Registration of Varieties of Vegetable varieties**

#### **List of vegetable varieties**

ARTICLE 22 - (1) The list of vegetable varieties that may be registered shall be published by the Directorate General.

#### **Preliminary trials**

ARTICLE 23 - (1) For the varieties falling within the scope of subparagraph (a) of the first paragraph of Article 24, the variety owner shall apply to TTSM with the application file containing the technical questionnaire and other documents. Seed producer organisations shall obtain the technical questionnaire of the varieties which they are authorised to register from the breeder of the variety. For varieties for which DUS tests are carried out by TTSM, no preliminary trial is required.

(2) For varieties falling within the scope of subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph of Article 24, a preliminary trial for one growing season in at least one location shall be established by the variety owner prior to the application. In the trial, control or similar varieties shall be used to determine or verify the characteristics of the variety in the technical questionnaire or in the Variety Description Document. The variety owner organisation notifies TTSM of the trial location and plan. TTSM controls the trials within the annual programmes and prepares a technical report.

#### **Application in vegetable varieties**

ARTICLE 24 - (1) The section "Technical information and documents of the variety" in subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph of Article 5 consists of the following information and documents for vegetable varieties.

a) If the variety is not registered in Türkiye or abroad or if it is registered in a country where DUS tests are not carried out according to UPOV rules; the following should be available in the application file:

1) Technical questionnaire,

2) Authorisation document,

- 3) Translations of foreign language documents certified by a sworn translation office,
  - 4) Images, slides and other documents describing the type,
- in the application file.

b) If the variety is registered abroad in a UPOV member country where DUS tests are carried out in accordance with UPOV rules; the following should be available in the application file:

- 1) Variety Description Document,
- 2) Technical report prepared by TTSM on the preliminary trial,
- 3) Authorisation document,
- 4) Translations of foreign language documents certified by a sworn translation office,
- 5) Images, slides and other documents describing the type,

(2) STK and production permit application times and meeting dates are specified below.

- a) STK trial applications are made in February, May, October,
- b) STK and production permit applications are made in the first week of February, May, October,
- c) STK committee and production permit meetings are held in the last week of February, May, October.

#### **STK trials**

ARTICLE 25 - (1) In vegetable varieties, DUS is established for two growing seasons in at least one location.

(2) Varieties within the scope of subparagraph (a) of the first paragraph of Article 24 shall be evaluated by TTSM or according to the DUS established under the coordination of TTSM.

(3) According to the results of two growing seasons, an STK report is prepared about the variety candidates which are found to be distinct, uniform and stable in DUS.

(4) If a variety has been granted a production permit, the variety owner is informed by TTSM in case of failure in the DUS of the first growing season.

(5) In case of any problem of the variety in DUS in the first or second growing season, DUS continues in the third growing season. Variety candidates that fail in DUS are not taken into consideration. This situation is notified to the variety owner in writing.

(6) Varieties within the scope of subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph of Article 24 shall be registered if deemed appropriate by the STK Committee, provided that preliminary trials have been conducted and these trials have been controlled by TTSM, the preliminary trial reports belong to the last year and a positive report has been written.

(7) If the STK Committee rejects the registration of varieties within the scope of subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph of Article 24, the applicant may reapply after completing the identified deficiencies, if the STK Committee accepts the deficiency as a compensable deficiency. If the STK Committee is of the opinion that the deficiency cannot be compensated, STK trials may be applied for these varieties within the scope of subparagraph (a) of the first paragraph of Article 24 and a production permit may be requested.

### **Establishment and working principles of the STK Committee**

ARTICLE 26 - (1) The reports prepared by TTSM are sent digitally and electronically to the organisations whose members will participate in the STK Committee in March and April each year together with the meeting invitation letter. The STK Committee consists of one representative from the General Directorate, one representative from public agricultural research organisations, one representative from TTSM, one representative from the faculty of agriculture and one representative from the relevant sub-association.

(2) The working principles of the STK Committee are set out below.

a) The variety owner is invited to the meeting.

b) A Chairman shall be elected among the members at each meeting. Clerking of the meeting shall be carried out by TTSM.

c) TTSM representative shall present the report on the variety verbally at the meeting. The variety owner may also make statements about the variety at the meeting. During the voting, no one other than the members of the STK Committee, including the variety owner, shall be present in the meeting room. The decision is taken by the STK Committee.

ç) The STK Committee convenes with the presence of at least four full members. The STK Committee takes decisions by majority vote. Varieties are voted separately at the meeting. The STK Committee shall register the variety, which is found to be distinct from the existing varieties, uniform and stable, among the varieties for which an STK report has been submitted. The variety shall be given a name in accordance with the principles set out in Article 10 and the variety shall be registered under this name. The registered varieties shall be published annually in the STÇL.

### **Production permit principles for vegetable varieties**

ARTICLE 27 - (1) Production permit for vegetable varieties is granted by the STK Committee.

(2) A production licence for a variety is granted in accordance with the following principles.

a) The STK application made by the variety owner to TTSM must be accepted.

b) The application is made with the production permit request specified in the application for registration petition and digital copies of the documents in the three main sections specified in the first paragraph of Article 5. The originals and digital copies of the documents of the variety shall be kept in the STK file.

c) The variety is presented to the STK Committee by the variety owner.

ç) Vegetable varieties within the scope of subparagraph (a) of the first paragraph of Article 24 shall be granted production permits during the STK trials. Production permits of varieties with unfavourable STK trial results shall expire. For varieties within the scope of subparagraph (b) of Article 24, only STK application shall be made to TTSM.

d) The denomination of the variety for which production permit is granted shall be made in accordance with Article 10.

e) A variety for which a production permit has already been granted shall not be granted a second production permit.

### **Registration of ornamental plants**

ARTICLE 28 - (1) If requested, ornamental plant varieties applied for registration shall be registered according to the provisions determined for vegetable varieties. In case of ornamentals, DUS is conducted in at least one location and one growing season.

(2) Registered ornamental plants are published in the Ornamental Plant Variety List.

## **PART FIVE**

### **Registration of Varieties of Fruit and Vine varieties**

#### **Fruit and vine varieties list**

ARTICLE 29 - (1) The list of fruit and vine varieties that can be registered is published by the Directorate General.

#### **Application in fruit and vine varieties**

ARTICLE 30 - (1) The applicant shall apply to TTSM with the application file containing the technical questionnaire and other documents. Sapling producer organisations shall obtain the technical questionnaire of the varieties for which they are authorised to register from the breeder of the variety.

(2) Prior to the application for registration, in order to determine whether the established trial will be accepted as a registration trial or not, the applicant shall apply to TTSM with a petition and a digital copy of the trial location sketch, planting plan and technical questionnaire in order to check the trial. The address where official correspondence and notifications will be notified and the Registered Electronic Mail (KEP) address are stated in the same petition. TTSM assigns an expert specialised on the subject matter to check the trial and prepare a report. If the report prepared after the assignment is positive, the variety owner carries out the trial in cooperation with TTSM.

(3) The section "Technical information and documents of the variety" specified in subparagraph (b) of the first paragraph of Article 5 consists of the following information and documents.

a) If the variety is not registered in Türkiye or internationally or if it is registered in a country where DUS tests are not carried out according to UPOV rules; the following should be available in the application file:

- 1) Report indicating that the trials established by the variety owner can be evaluated by TTSM,
- 2) Technical questionnaire,
- 3) Authorisation document,
- 4) Translations of foreign language documents certified by a sworn translation office,
- 5) Images, slides and other documents describing the type,

b) If the variety is registered in a UPOV member country where DUS tests are carried out abroad in accordance with UPOV rules; the following should be available in the application file:

- 1) Variety Description Document,
  - 2) Authorisation document,
  - 3) Translations of foreign language documents certified by a sworn translation office,
  - 4) Images, slides and other documents describing the type,
- (4) Fruit and vine varieties;

a) applications for registration are made in February and October,

b) Production permit application is made in the first week of February and October,

c) Registration and production permit meeting is held in the last week of February and October,

ç) For varieties registered abroad within the scope of subparagraph (b) of the third paragraph of Article 30 of this Regulation, the application for registration and meetings therefor shall be made during the production permit periods.

(5) In fruit and vine varieties, an application for registration may also be made for clones of a variety published in the Fruit and Vine Variety List. The principles for registration of clones are the same as the principles for registration of varieties. In the registered clones, a clone number is assigned by the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee next to the variety name. These clones are published in the Fruit and Vine Variety List.

#### **Evaluation of fruit and vine registration trials**

ARTICLE 31 - (1) In fruit and vine varieties, DUS is established for two crop years in at least one location.

(2) According to the results of two crop years, a registration report is prepared for the variety candidates which are found to be distinct, uniform and settled in DUS.

(3) If a production permit is granted to a variety within the scope of subparagraph (a) of the third paragraph of Article 30, in case the variety fails the DUS in the first crop year, the variety owner shall be informed by TTSM.

(4) In case of any problem of the variety in DUS in the first or second crop year, DUS continues in the third crop year. Variety candidates that fail in DUS are not taken into consideration. This situation is notified to the variety owner in writing. The production licences of the varieties that fail in DUS are terminated.

#### **Registration of fruit and vine varieties**

ARTICLE 32 - (1) Varieties within the scope of subparagraph (b) of the third paragraph of Article 30 shall be registered without the need for any trial if deemed appropriate by the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee.

(2) If the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee rejects the registration of varieties within the scope of subparagraph (b) of the third paragraph of Article 30, if the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee accepts the deficiency as a compensable deficiency, after the variety owner completes the deficiencies determined, the variety shall be discussed again at the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee to be held after the meeting date. If the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee is of the opinion that the deficiency cannot be compensated, registration trials may be applied for these varieties within the scope of subparagraph (a) of the third paragraph of Article 30. The variety owner may request a production permit for these varieties on condition of applying for registration.

#### **Organisation and working principles of the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee**

ARTICLE 33 - (1) The registration reports prepared by TTSM are sent digitally and electronically to the organisations whose members will participate in the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee in March and April each year, together with the invitation letter for the meeting. The Fruit and Vine Registration Committee consists of one representative from the General Directorate, one representative from public agricultural research institutions, one representative from TTSM, one representative from agricultural faculty and one representative from the relevant sub-union.

(2) The working principles of the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee are set out below.

a) The variety owner is invited to the meeting.

b) A chairman shall be elected among the members at each meeting. Clerking of the meeting shall be carried out by TTSM.

c) TTSM shall present the report on the variety verbally at the meeting. The variety owner may also make explanations about the variety at the meeting. During the voting, no one other than the members of the

Fruit and Vine Registration Committee, including the variety owner, shall be present in the meeting room. The decision is taken by the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee.

ç) The Fruit and Vine Registration Committee convenes with the presence of at least four full members. Decisions are taken by majority of votes. Varieties are voted separately at the meeting. The variety shall be given a name in accordance with the principles specified in Article 10 and the variety shall be registered with this name.

d) The Fruit and Vine Registration Committee shall register the variety which is found to be distinct from the existing varieties, uniform and stable.

e) The registered varieties are published annually in the Fruit and Vine Variety List.

#### **Production permit principles for fruit and vine varieties**

ARTICLE 34 - (1) Production permits for fruit and vine varieties and rootstocks are granted by the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee.

(2) A production permit for a variety is granted in accordance with the following principles.

a) The application for registration made by the variety owner to TTSM must have been accepted.

b) The application is made with the production permit request specified in the application for registration petition and the digital copy of the documents specified in the first paragraph of Article 5. The originals and digital copies of the documents of the variety shall be kept in the registration file.

c) The variety shall be submitted to the Fruit and Vine Registration Committee by the variety owner with a request for a production permit.

ç) Fruit and Vine varieties are granted production permits only for the purpose of establishing breeding parcels during registration trials. Production permits of varieties with unfavourable registration trial results are terminated.

d) The denomination of the variety for which production permit is granted shall be made in accordance with Article 10.

e) A variety for which a production permit has already been granted shall not be granted a second production permit.

## **PART SIX**

### **Listing of Varieties of Plant varieties**

#### **Registration lists**

ARTICLE 35 - (1) Plant varieties are registered in the followings:

a) Sub-list,

b) National Variety List,

c) Standard Seed Variety List,

ç) Fruit and Vine Variety List,

d) Ornamental Plants Variety List,

e) Recommendation List

(2) Natural or legal persons who register plant varieties are responsible for the conservation of the variety. Where more than one person or organisation is responsible for the conservation of the variety, the names of these persons or organisations shall be kept in the register by TTSM.

#### Sub-list

ARTICLE 36 - (1) Sub-List is the list in which the varieties of field crops are recorded which are found to be distinct, uniform and stable in the DUS tests, other than TDÖ.

(2) The variety owner cannot reapply to the TDÖ in the following years for a variety that has been included in the Sub-list.

(3) Varieties registered in the Sub-list may not be traded in Türkiye. Varieties shall remain on the list for ten years. The Sub-list shall be published by TTSM in June every year.

#### **National Variety List**

ARTICLE 37 - (1) National Variety List is the list where the varieties of field crops are registered. Plant varieties are included in this list for the purpose of trade and seed production. The parental lines of the varieties included in the National Variety List under Article 14 shall be published in a separate list at the end of the section on the varieties to which they belong. If an application is made by another variety owner for a previously registered line to be included in the list, no second registration shall be made if the Variety Description Document of this line is available in the TTSM registry. In this context, if the description documents of the lines in two separate applications with the same name are different, TTSM takes the line belonging to the next application to DUS tests. The records of the lines are kept confidential and are not disclosed in any way. Records of varieties and minutes of meetings can be given to those who request by paying a fee.

(2) The varieties for which production permit is granted are published on the website of TTSM and updated after each production permit meeting. These varieties shall be deemed to have been published in the National Variety List.

(3) National Variety List is published by TTSM in June every year.

#### **Standard Seed Variety List**

ARTICLE 38 - (1) STÇL is the list where varieties of vegetable varieties are registered. Vegetable varieties are included in this list for the purpose of standard seed production or certified seed production and trade. STÇL is published by TTSM in June every year.

(2) The varieties for which a production permit is granted are published on the website of TTSM and updated after each production permit meeting. These varieties shall be deemed to have been published in the NTSL.

#### **Fruit and Vine Variety List**

ARTICLE 39 - (1) Fruit and Vine Variety List is the list where the varieties of fruit varieties are registered. Plant varieties are included in this list for the purpose of certified production and trade of production materials and seedlings of varieties and rootstocks. Fruit and Vine Variety List is published by TTSM in June every year.

(2) Varieties for which a production permit is granted are published on the website of TTSM and updated after each production permit meeting. The varieties for which production permit is granted shall be deemed to have been published in the Fruit and Vine Variety List.

#### **Ornamental Plants Variety List**

ARTICLE 40 - (1) This is the list of ornamental plant varieties registered according to the provisions of Article 28. The Ornamental Plant Variety List is published by TTSM in June every year.

(2) The varieties for which a production permit is granted are published on the website of TTSM and updated after each production permit meeting. These varieties are deemed to be published in the Ornamental Plants Variety List.

#### **Recommendation List**

ARTICLE 41 - (1) The principles for publication of the Recommendation List shall be determined by the Directorate General.

#### **Delisting**

ARTICLE 42 - (1) Among the varieties published in the registration lists, the following varieties shall be removed from the registration lists:

- a) Varieties for which the registration period is not extended and the standard sample is not renewed on time,
- b) Varieties that, after examination, proved to be no longer distinct, uniform and stable,
- c) Varieties requested to be removed by the variety owner,
- ç) Varieties that have been identified by official tests as potentially harmful to plant health or posing a risk to human health or the environment in the cultivation of species or varieties.

ARTICLE 43 - (1) The registration of varieties belonging to varieties not included in the lists shall be initiated after the completion of technical requirements by TTSM in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.

### **PART SEVEN**

#### **Application, Establishment and Audit Principles for Private Sector Agricultural Research Organisations**

##### **Application guidelines**

ARTICLE 44 - (1) Private sector organisations, which declare that they are working on research on plant breeding and/or variety development, wishing to become a private sector agricultural research organisation shall apply to the Directorate General with an application petition indicating the plant group in which they wish to carry out activities and an application file in which the following conditions are documented.

- (2) Application conditions for private sector agricultural research organisations:
- a) Having a trade registry.
  - b) Having signed a letter of undertaking to fulfil the obligations specified in Article 47.
  - c) Fulfilling the requirements determined by the Ministry regarding the land, greenhouse, laboratory, warehouse, building, tools and equipment and personnel in relation to the plant group on which it works.
  - ç) Having paid the application fee.
  - d) Carrying out its researches by a sufficient number of technical staff specialised in the subject required by the plant group. Documenting that at least three of these technical staff are agricultural engineers and at least one of them has worked in a research institution for 3 years in the field of plant variety breeding, or has been successful in a three-month theoretical and practical course organised by the Ministry or public interest organisations working in the field of plant breeding authorised by the Ministry, or has a master's degree or doctorate in plant breeding, and submitting the documents related to the employment of these technical personnel.

(3) The number of land, greenhouses, laboratories, warehouses, buildings, tools and equipment and personnel required to be employed by research organisations according to the plant groups they work on shall be determined by the Ministry.

#### **Examination of the application and making a determination**

ARTICLE 45 - (1) The organisations applying for a private sector agricultural research organisation and whose application is accepted shall be assessed on-site by a commission to be assigned by the Directorate General. If deficiencies are detected in the application file, the file shall be returned to the applicant by the Directorate General.

(2) The Directorate General establishes and assigns an examination commission to examine and decide whether the applicant organisation meets the specified conditions. The examination commission consists of one representative from the General Directorate, one representative from public agricultural research institutions, one representative from TTSM, one representative from agricultural faculty and one representative from the provincial directorate.

(3) Organisations invited to the examination commission shall, after receiving the invitation letter, ensure the participation of an agricultural engineer who is an expert on the subject according to the subject matter of the applicant organisation.

(4) The working principles of the examination commission are as follows.

a) The Commission works with the full number of its members.

b) A chairman shall be elected from among the members of the Commission. The clerk of the Commission shall be the member participating from TTSM.

c) The Commission shall carry out an on-site inspection, check the trials and their records, if any, established by the organisation in accordance with its fields of activity, and determine whether it meets the conditions specified in Article 44.

ç) The examination Commission takes its decisions unanimously. A reasoned report is prepared about the decision of the commission. The chairman and members sign the report.

d) If unanimity cannot be achieved in the Commission, the opinions of the members with a negative opinion are added to the report. The report is signed by the members.

e) The deficiencies identified by the Commission are notified to the organisation by the General Directorate. The organisation may reapply with the same method after completing its deficiencies.

#### **Registration of a private sector agricultural research organisation**

ARTICLE 46 - (1) If the decision of the examination commission is positive, upon the approval of the decision by the Ministry, the organisation shall be registered by the Ministry as a private sector agricultural research organisation working on the breeding and/or development of varieties belonging to the plant group specified in its application.

(2) If an organisation registered as a private sector agricultural research organisation wishes to change the scope of its field of activity in terms of plant groups or if it merges with another organisation, it shall apply to the Directorate General again under the conditions specified in Article 44. The Directorate General shall register the organisation as a result of the determination procedures as specified in Article 45.

(3) In case of any change in the information declared during registration, the organisation registered as a private sector agricultural research organisation shall apply to the Directorate General with a request for change. The Directorate General examines the documents submitted by the organisation. If the submitted documents are

deemed appropriate, the request is approved. If the submitted documents are not deemed sufficient, the Directorate General may make determination procedures as specified in Article 45.

(4) The application file and documents of the private sector agricultural research organisation shall be kept in the archive and register of the Directorate General.

#### **Obligations of private sector agricultural research organisations**

ARTICLE 47 - (1) The organisation registered as a private sector agricultural research organisation is obliged to fulfil the following matters.

a) To preserve and maintain the conditions for its registration as an agricultural research organisation, and to notify the Directorate General of the changing conditions within six months.

b) To notify TTSM of the plan and location of the trials established for the purpose of registration or production permit in field, vegetable, fruit and vine varieties,

c) To attend meetings to which they will be invited by the Ministry.

ç) To submit annual work reports on their researches to the Directorate General.

d) To notify the General Directorate at the end of each year of the insurance notifications or other official records of the employment of the technical personnel who are obliged to be employed according to the provisions of the Regulation.

e) To be a member of the Plant Breeders Sub-association.

#### **Auditing of private sector agricultural research organisations**

ARTICLE 48 - (1) Organisations registered as private sector agricultural research institutions shall be audited by a commission consisting of representatives of the General Directorate, TTSM and the provincial directorate of the Ministry in order to determine whether the matters and conditions specified in Article 44 and the obligations specified in Article 47 are fulfilled.

(2) Audits are conducted every three years. The General Directorate may bring the audit period earlier when it deems necessary. Annual audit programmes shall be prepared by the General Directorate. Measures and necessary works and procedures regarding the realisation of the annual audit programme shall be carried out by the General Directorate. A report is prepared as a result of the audit. If deficiencies of the organisation subject to audit are identified in the report, these deficiencies are notified to the organisation by the Directorate General. After completing the deficiencies within three months, the organisation shall apply for the audit to be repeated. If it is determined in the second report prepared by the Commission for the institution subjected to re-audit that the conditions specified in Article 44 and the obligations specified in Article 47 are not fulfilled, the private sector agricultural research institution licence shall be cancelled by the Ministry.

(3) An organisation whose private sector agricultural research organisation licence has been cancelled cannot apply to be a private sector agricultural research organisation again for three years. At the end of three years, the organisation has the right to apply to the Directorate General with the request to be registered as a private sector agricultural research organisation, provided that it meets the conditions specified in Article 44 and complies with the obligations specified in Article 47.

## **PART EIGHT**

### **Miscellaneous and Final Provisions**

#### **Fees**

ARTICLE 49 - (1) Fees for registration works and procedures shall be announced by the Ministry in January every year.

(2) The fees for the registration works and procedures are stated below.

a) Application review fee.

b) Registration fees,

1) Trial fee; DUS test fee, TDÖ trial fee, Technological analysis fee,

2) Registration fee,

c) Production permit fee,

ç) Certification fee,

d) Publication fees.

(3) Fees shall be deposited in advance to the relevant account of the Revolving Capital Enterprise of TTSM in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation on the Implementation of Revolving Capital Enterprises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs published in the Official Gazette dated 28/12/2006 and numbered 26390.

### **Responsibility**

ARTICLE 50 - (1) Plant varieties are registered by determining their morphological, biological and agricultural characteristics in certain environments. The variety owner is responsible for the occurrence of results different from the reasons for registration due to environmental factors such as climate and soil which may change during the production phase.

### **Variety cycle**

ARTICLE 51 - (1) The breeder of the variety or the persons or institutions authorised by the breeder for the transfer of the variety may transfer the varieties they have registered under the provisions of a special agreement to be made in the presence of a notary public. Information and documents pertaining to the transfer transactions shall be submitted to TTSM.

### **Repealed regulation**

ARTICLE 52 - (1) As of the publication date of this Regulation, the Regulation on Registration of Plant Varieties published in the Official Gazette dated 19/9/1997 and numbered 23115 shall be repealed.

### **Regulatory authorisation**

ARTICLE 53 - (1) The Ministry is authorised to make all kinds of arrangements to ensure the implementation of this Regulation.

### **Participation of sub-union representatives in committees**

PROVISIONAL ARTICLE 1 - (1) In the event that the representatives of the sub-associations who were to attend the meetings of the Registration or STK Committee do not attend due to the fact that the sub-associations have not been actually established, the committee shall be deemed to have convened with the full number of members with the participation of other committee members.

### **Transition period**

PROVISIONAL ARTICLE 2 - (1) The permits and registration certificates of the Private Sector Agricultural Research Organisation Certificate holders who do not bring their status into conformity with this amendment within one year from the date of entry into force of this Regulation shall be cancelled by the Ministry.

### **Varieties tested**

PROVISIONAL ARTICLE 3 - (1) Plant varieties for which trials for registration, production permit or commercial registration have been established before the entry into force of the Regulation and the evaluations for registration have not been completed shall be evaluated according to the provisions of the previous Regulation.

### **Certification of varieties in the commercial vegetable registration list**

PROVISIONAL ARTICLE 4 - (1) Among the varieties included in the Commercial Vegetable Registration List before the publication date of this Regulation, the varieties other than those whose DUS is performed by official institutions shall not be produced within the certification system.

### **Green area grass plants registration and production permit for 2012**

PROVISIONAL ARTICLE 5 - (1) For green turf grass plants, applications for registration and production permits will be made in the second week of June and meetings for registration and production permits will be held in the first week of July for one time only in 2012.

### **Transitional provision**

PROVISIONAL ARTICLE 6 - (1) Applications made before the effective date of this article shall be finalised in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force on the date of application.

### **Enforcement**

ARTICLE 54 - (1) This Regulation shall enter into force on the date of its publication.

### **Execution**

ARTICLE 55 - (1) The provisions of this Regulation shall be executed by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

### **Receiving an application**

ANNEX ARTICLE 1 - (1) The applications to be made within the scope of this Regulation shall be made physically or electronically with annexes consisting of information and documents filled in and signed with wet or electronic signature.

(2) In case the Ministry switches to an electronic application system, the application documents received through the system shall be accepted as equivalent to the originals. In case of deficiencies detected after the application, information and documents that cannot be obtained electronically, original documents that must be obtained from foreign institutions and, if deemed necessary, the original application documents or copies of the application documents approved by the competent authorities with wet signatures shall be requested from the applicant organisation or the applicant.

(3) Notifications and invitation letters to be made within the scope of this Regulation shall be sent via Electronic Document Management System (EBYS) or Registered Electronic Mail (KEP) address.