

*Extraordinary*



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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SEEDS COUNCIL  
ACT, NO. 21, 2019  
NATIONAL HARMONISED PLANT VARIETIES (REGISTRATION  
AND RELEASE) REGULATIONS, 2025



## ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

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S. I. No. 34 of 2025

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SEEDS COUNCIL  
ACT, NO. 21, 2019**

**NATIONAL HARMONISED PLANT VARIETIES (REGISTRATION  
AND RELEASE) REGULATIONS, 2025**

[22nd Day of December, 2025]

Commence-  
ment

**In exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 51 of the National Agricultural Seeds Council Act, No. 21, 2019 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the National Agricultural Seeds Council, makes the following Regulations —**

PART I — OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION

- 1.** The objectives of these Regulations are to — Objectives
- (a) promote an acceptable framework for the registration and release of new crop varieties in Nigeria;
  - (b) ensure that credible and improved varieties are introduced for general cultivation in the regions to which they are adapted, for inclusion in the National Seed Catalogue;
  - (c) protect farmers, consumers, and the environment from varieties that may be detrimental;
  - (d) enhance farmers' access to quality seeds to increase agricultural productivity and build resilience; and
  - (e) promote transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity in the variety release system.
- 2.** These Regulations apply to any person and organisation, whether public or private, national or international, seeking to register and release a new crop variety in Nigeria. Application

PART II — ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.** For the purposes of these Regulations, the Council shall — Responsibilities  
of the  
Council
- (a) receive notification of newly released crop varieties from the Committee;
  - (b) convey the approved newly released varieties to the Minister and other relevant stakeholders and facilitate the gazetting of the new varieties;
  - (c) support the publication of the National Seed Catalogue; and
  - (d) work in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Committee to coordinate the conduct of National Performance Trials "NPTs" for candidate varieties nominated for registration and release in the Nigeria.

4.—(1) There is established a Plant Variety Registration and Release Committee “the Committee” which shall consist of —

(a) a Chairperson who shall not be a person employed in the public service of the Federation or of a state, appointed by the President;

(b) the Director, Department of Agriculture of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security;

(c) the Director, Livestock Animal Breeding and Conservation of the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development;

(d) the Director, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy;

(e) the Director, Bio-resources Technology of the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology;

(f) the Director, National Center for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology “NACGRAB”, Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology;

(g) the Director General, National Agricultural Seeds Council;

(h) the Chairperson of the Committee of Deans of Faculties of Agriculture in Nigerian Universities;

(i) the President, Genetic Society of Nigeria “GSN”;

(j) two experienced breeders, appointed on merit by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology upon the recommendation of the Registrar;

(k) one large-scale crop farmer, appointed on merit by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology upon the recommendation of the Registrar;

(l) two General Managers representing River Basin Development Authorities from different ecological areas in rotation, appointed by the Minister upon the recommendation of the Registrar;

(m) the Executive Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria “ARCN”;

(n) the Director General, National Biotechnology Research and Development Agency “NBRDA”;

(o) the President, Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nigeria “SEEDAN”;

(p) the Head, Genetic Resources Center, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture “IITA”;

(q) the President Nigeria Plant Breeders Association “NPBA”;

(r) the President Association of Seed Scientists of Nigeria “ASSN”; and

(s) the Registrar, Nigeria Plant Variety Protection Office “NPVPO-NASC”.

(2) Subject to the provisions of section 12 of the Act, the Committee shall advise the Council on —

- (a) technical guidelines for the determination of Distinct, Uniform, and Stable “DUS” and Value for Cultivation and Use “VCU”;
- (b) nominations and supporting documentation for candidate varieties;
- (c) new crop varieties for registration and release; and
- (d) the evaluation of information from NPTs from the compilations of independently conducted trials.

5.—(1) There is established a Secretariat for the Committee which shall —

Secretariat  
of the  
Committee

- (a) provide administrative and technical support to the Committee;
- (b) receive and verify the acceptance of notifications from applicants;
- (c) provide reference varieties and check varieties for the required trials;
- (d) inform the applicant of the costs for trials and services, based on the harmonised fee structure;
- (e) receive and verify nomination forms for completeness before submission to the Technical Sub Committee Crop; and
- (f) facilitate the coordination of NPTs as directed by the Council.

(2) The National Crop Varieties and Livestock Breed Registration and Release Committee established under the National Crop Varieties and Livestock Breed Registration and Release Act, 2022, shall serve as the secretariat of the Committee and shall make recommendation to the Council on matters relating to registration and release of any given crop variety.

6.—(1) There is established the Technical Sub Committee Crop which shall consist of —

Technical  
Sub  
Committee  
Crop and  
Cost Sub  
Committee

- (a) the Director NACGRAB who shall be the Chairperson;
- (b) all Crop coordinators within Coordinating Research Institutes;
- (c) the President of the Nigerian Plant Breeders Association “NPBA”;
- (d) the President of the Genetic Society of Nigeria “GSN”;
- (e) two representatives of seed companies, nominated by the President of SEEDAN; and
- (f) two experienced breeders on the recommendation of the Committee.

(2) The members of the Technical Sub Committee Crop shall serve for a term of four years.

(3) The Technical Sub Committee Crop shall establish a Cost Sub-Committee.

(4) The Cost Sub-Committee shall compose of members with expertise in plant breeding, crop science and other related discipline, including representatives from research institutions and the private seed sector.

(5) The Cost Sub Committee shall —

(a) develop, maintain, and propose an annual harmonised cost overview for any trial, supervision, and assessments conducted by Collaborating Regenerance Organization “CRO” and for NPTs; and

(b) submit the proposed cost overview to the Technical Sub Committee Crop for recommendation to the Council.

PART III — GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR REGISTRATION AND RELEASE

Purpose of plant variety registration and release

7. The registration and release of new crop varieties is to ensure that —

(a) farmers have access to quality seeds of high-performing varieties adapted to their regions, as listed in the National Seed Catalogue;

(b) varieties introduced into the agricultural system pose no harm to human and animal health or the environment; and

(c) the diversity and performance of available varieties are documented to guide future breeding and agricultural development priorities.

Mandatory criteria for release

8. A candidate variety shall only be registered and released where the Committee is satisfied that —

(a) it is DUS as determined through appropriate testing or accepted exemption;

(b) it demonstrates a VCU that is superior or complementary to existing varieties, as determined through appropriate testing, including NPTs, or accepted exemption;

(c) it is not detrimental to human or animal health or the environment;

(d) the proposed variety name is unique, not misleading, and not likely to cause offence; and

(e) no false or misleading information was submitted in support of the nomination.

PART IV — REGISTRATION AND RELEASE PROCESS

Application for plant variety registration and release

9.—(1) An application for the registration and release of a plant variety shall, pursuant to section 12 of the Act, be granted in respect of a plant variety that meets the set criteria for —

(a) VCU; and

(b) novelty, distinctness, uniformity, and stability and has an acceptable denomination.

(2) A breeder of a new variety, who seeks the registration and release of his variety shall file an application to the Registrar in Form PVRR-1 as prescribed by the Council.

(3) An application under sub-regulation (2) of this regulation shall be accompanied by —

(a) the prescribed application fee, and where applicable, any other relevant fee;

(b) such propagating material, as may be required by the Registrar, for the conduct of a NPT;

(c) such propagating material, as may be required by the Registrar, for the conduct of a Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability Test in accordance with the provisions of the Plant Variety Protection Act No. 5, 2021;

(d) the proposed denomination, in line with the provisions of the Plant Variety Protection Act No. 5, 2021; and

(e) where applicable, proof of authority of the accredited agent submitting the application.

(4) Where an application for the registration and release of the variety is by a successor-in-title to a breeder, the applicant shall —

(a) comply with the application requirements under sub-regulations (2) and (3) of this regulation; and

(b) furnish the Registrar, —

(i) an original or a certified copy of the deed of assignment,

(ii) an original or a certified copy of a certificate of grant of letter of administration, or

(iii) such other document, as is in the opinion of the Registrar, sufficient to establish title of the application.

(5) Where an application is incomplete or contains any error or inaccuracy, the Registrar shall request the applicant to complete or effect the correction in the application within 14 days after notification.

(6) An application, which is not completed or corrected within the period stated under sub-regulation (5) of this regulation shall be considered not to have been filed, and the Registrar shall, within 21 days notify the applicant of the decision rejecting the application.

(7) Form PVRR-1 shall be as prescribed by the Council.

**10.—(1)** An applicant who seeks to amend an application for registration and release of a variety or rectify an error in a document submitted, in respect of the application shall, —

(a) file a request for amendment with the Registrar in Form PVRR-2 as prescribed by the Council;

(b) pay the prescribed fees;

(c) in the case of rectifying a document, submit the document indicating the error and the intended correction; and

(d) furnish any other information, as the Registrar considers necessary.

(2) Form PVRR-2 shall be as prescribed by the Council.

Amendment  
or  
rectification  
of  
application  
or document

**11.—(1)** A breeder, who has duly filed an application for the registration and release of a plant variety in one of the Economic Community of West African States "ECOWAS" member States to which Nigeria is a party, shall enjoy a right of priority for consideration for registration and release of the variety.

(2) In order to benefit from the right of priority, during the pendency of an application for registration and release of a variety in Nigeria, a breeder shall —

- (a) submit an application for the right of priority to the Registrar in Form PVRR-3 as prescribed by the Council;
- (b) pay the prescribed fee; and
- (c) furnish any other document or material, as the Registrar deems necessary.

(3) Where the Registrar receives more than one application for the same variety, priority shall be granted in the order of entry of requests, taking into account compliance with the demanded requirements.

(4) Where an application in Nigeria is preceded by another in a country with which Nigeria has reciprocal agreements —

- (a) in the matter of variety registration;
- (b) in respect of the same applicant; and
- (c) for the same variety, without affecting sub-regulation (2) of this regulation,

priority shall be given to the applicant of the preceding application, provided a claim for right of priority has been validly submitted within 12 months from the effective date of the preceding application.

(5) Form PVRR-3 shall be as prescribed by the Council.

**12.—(1)** Subject to regulation 11(2)(c) of these Regulations, the Registrar may, for the purpose of attributing priority, require a breeder to submit any document or material, within three months of the effective date of the subsequent application for plant registration and release in Nigeria.

(2) The documents or materials required to establish priority under sub-regulation (1) of this regulation are —

- (a) an authentic copy of the documents, which constitute the first application; and
- (b) reference sample or any other evidence proving that the concerned variety in both applications are the same.

(3) Where a breeder fails to comply with the provisions of this regulation, it shall be considered as if the right of priority has not been requested.

13.—(1) An applicant for the grant of plant variety registration and release may withdraw an application, at any time before the final decision on such application.

(2) Any applicant, who seeks to withdraw an application under sub-regulation (1) of this regulation shall —

(a) file a notice of withdrawal of application with the Registrar in Form PVRR-4 as prescribed by the Council; and

(b) pay the prescribed fee.

(3) Upon receipt of a notice of withdrawal of application under sub-regulation (2)(a) of this regulation, the Registrar shall make the necessary rectification and correction to the register, and in any other document, as is necessary to reflect the withdrawal.

(4) The withdrawal of an application under this regulation terminates the application process for the registration and release of such variety.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation, an applicant whose initial application was successfully withdrawn may initiate a fresh application.

#### PART V — EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATE FOR VARIETY REGISTRATION AND RELEASE

14.—(1) The Registrar shall, upon the submission of an application for variety registration and release, examine the application, supporting documents, and any other material, in order to determine whether the application conforms with the conditions for registration and release under section 13 of the Act.

Request for  
examination

(2) The Registrar may, for the purposes of determining conformity with section 13 of the Act, require the performance of any test and trial with the variety, under any condition, as the Technical Sub Committee Crop considers necessary.

(3) Upon the receipt of notification from the Registrar that an application for registration and release of a variety is in order, an applicant shall within three months from the date of the notification, submit a request for examination of the variety to the Registrar in Form PVRR-5 as prescribed by the Council, with the prescribed fee.

(4) Pursuant to a request for examination, the Registrar shall in accordance with section 12(b) of the Act and section 27(2) of the Plant Variety Protection Act, No. 5, 2021 arrange to get statistically any valid trial conducted by a designated competent authority approved by the Council for the conduct of the NPTs and the Nigerian Plant Variety Protection Office for DUS testing to examine the conformity of the candidate variety for registration and release in Nigeria.

(5) Form PVRR-5 shall be as prescribed by the Council.

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NPTs  
Phase I

**15.**—(1) The Council in collaboration with the Committee shall coordinate the conduct of NPTs for the evaluation of candidate varieties.

(2) For the purpose of these Regulations, an NPTs is a multi-locational trial managed or conducted independently to generate independent and reliable data on the VCU of a candidate variety under Nigerian agro-ecological conditions.

(3) An NPTs may be conducted by —

- (a) the Council directly;
- (b) an accredited institution; or
- (c) the claimant (applicant).

(4) The Council shall provide conditions or technical guidelines for the management and conduct of NPTs, including accreditation standards, trial protocols, data integrity, and reporting formats, which shall be analogous to the conditions applied for DUS testing.

NPTs  
Phase II:  
Testing and  
Evaluation  
Pathways

**16.**—(1) The Secretariat shall, based on the information provided in the notification, determine the applicable testing pathway and inform the applicant in writing.

(2) There is established the following pathways —

(a) Standard Pathway, where the candidate variety shall undergo —

- (i) DUS testing (on-station, one growing period),
- (ii) NPTs for VCU testing (multi-locational, two growing periods, minimum of 10 sites), and
- (iii) on-farm trials (one growing period, minimum 10 fields);

(b) Exemption A (Exemption from DUS Testing), which is applicable where the —

- (i) variety is already released in another country with complete DUS data, and
- (ii) applicant provides the data for assessment by the CRS;

(c) Exemption B (One Growing Period VCU Testing - ECOWAS Release), which is applicable where the —

- (i) variety is registered in another ECOWAS member state,
- (ii) applicant provides the release certificate, and
- (iii) variety undergoes one confirmatory growing period of NPTs (minimum 5 sites) and on-farm trials;

(d) Exemption C (One Growing Period VCU Testing - Existing Data), which is applicable where the —

- (i) applicant possesses high-quality data from advanced varietal development,
- (ii) data is assessed by the CRS, and
- (iii) variety undergoes one confirmatory growing period of NPTs as in exemption B;

(e) Exemption D (Exemption from On-Farm Trials - Tricot Data), which is applicable where the —

- (i) applicant has conducted tricot participatory on-farm trials, and
- (ii) data is assessed by the CRO for exemption from conventional on-farm trials; and

(f) Exemption E (Vegetable Crops), which is applicable where —

- (i) vegetable varieties are exempted from VCU testing, and
- (ii) on-farm trials are required, with data from a minimum of five farmers' fields presented for nomination.

(3) The procedure and guidelines for the conduct of the NPT shall be as prescribed by the Council.

17.—(1) The applicant for the grant of variety registration and release shall, within 30 days of a written request by a DUS testing and evaluation institution, submit to the institution at the address specified by that institution —

- (a) propagating material, descriptions, drawings or photographs of the plant variety, in respect of which the examination is to be conducted; or
- (b) any other material or document that is necessary to conduct an examination.

Examination  
by a DUS  
testing and  
evaluation  
institution

(2) A DUS testing and evaluation institution in Nigeria shall conduct statistically valid trials, in accordance with the National DUS Test Guidelines in accordance with the international Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plant "UPOV" by the Plant Variety Protection Office.

(3) Where during an examination, a DUS testing and evaluation institution finds that the plant variety is —

- (a) not DUS within the meaning of sections 14, 15, and 16 of the Act; or
- (b) unsuitable for registration for any other reason in the opinion of the DUS testing and evaluation institution,

the DUS testing and evaluation institution shall —

- (i) notify the applicant, in writing, of that finding, and state fully the reasons for the finding, and
- (ii) transmit a copy of the finding and reasons for the finding to the Registrar.

(4) The applicant may, within 30 days of the receipt of the findings of a DUS testing and evaluation institution, file a reply to the findings by submitting to the Registrar and the DUS testing and evaluation institution —

- (a) written arguments countering the DUS testing and evaluation institution's findings;
- (b) supporting documents for the further consideration of the DUS testing and evaluation institution; or
- (c) an amendment to the description of the application for plant variety.

(5) Where the applicant has filed an argument or amendment under sub-regulation (4) of this regulation, the DUS testing and evaluation institution —

(a) may issue a further written statement to the Registrar stating fully the reasons for the findings referred to in sub-regulation (4) of this regulation; and

(b) shall issue the applicant a further written statement of its position, accordingly.

(6) Any response by the applicant to the further written statement referred to in sub-regulation (5)(a) of this regulation shall be made within 30 days from the date of receipt of the further written statement.

(7) A further written opinion issued by the DUS testing and evaluation institution to the Registrar referred to in sub-regulation (5)(a) of this regulation may not take into account any argument or amendment filed by the applicant under sub-regulation (4) of this regulation after it has commenced drawing up its opinion.

Corresponding  
examination  
report

18.—(1) An applicant for the grant of registration and release of a variety may, in lieu of submitting a request for an examination under regulation 14(1) of these Regulations, file an application with the Registrar in Form PBR-9 as prescribed by the Council, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notification under regulation 14(3) of these Regulations, and with payment of the prescribed fees, requesting the Registrar to rely on an examination report issued and certified by —

(a) a DUS testing and evaluation institution in Nigeria, in respect to the same variety, subject to sub-regulation (3) of this regulation; or

(b) the national DUS testing and evaluation institution of a foreign country from which the variety originates, subject to sub-regulations (2) and (3) of this regulation, where the application is in respect to a plant variety originating from outside Nigeria.

(2) The corresponding examination report referred to in sub-regulation (1)(b) of this regulation shall certify that —

(a) the plant variety, which is the subject of examination satisfies the DUS test guidelines of the Plant Variety Protection Office; and

(b) the report is issued by a foreign authority recognised by the Plant Variety Protection Office, in respect of which an agreement exists pursuant to section 52 of the Act.

(3) An applicant referred to in sub-regulation (1) of this regulation shall ensure that —

(a) a DUS testing and evaluation institution that issues a corresponding examination report delivers a copy of the report to the Registrar within three months from the date of filing the application; and

(b) the corresponding examination report submitted to the Registrar was issued by a DUS testing and evaluation institution not later than three years, prior to the filing date of the application.

(4) Where a corresponding examination report fails to comply with the provisions of the Act and these Regulations, the Registrar shall notify the applicant, in writing, of the rejection and the reasons why the report was rejected.

(5) Where a corresponding examination report is rejected, an applicant shall submit a request for examination to the DUS testing and evaluation institution within 30 days from the date of rejection and, for the purposes of determining the time within which a request for examination is to be submitted, the date of the notification of rejection referred to in sub-regulation (4) of this regulation shall be taken to be the date of notification that the application is in order.

(6) Form PBR-9 shall be as prescribed by the Council.

19.—(1) A DUS testing and evaluation institution shall issue an examination report to the Registrar upon conclusion of—

(a) an examination under regulation 17 of these Regulations; or

(b) its consideration of a corresponding examination report under regulation 18 of these Regulations.

(2) A report issued under this regulation shall confirm whether a plant variety which is the subject of an application for registration and release is DUS within the meaning of sections 14, 15, and 16 of the Act.

20.—(1) Upon successful completion of the required testing and evaluations, including NPTs where applicable, the CRO, on behalf of the applicant, shall submit a nomination to the Technical Sub Committee Crop.

(2) The nomination document shall comply with formatting and content requirements, including justifications, methodology, results, and relevant assessment reports, and shall include a comprehensive report of the NPTs results.

(3) The Technical Sub Committee Crop shall review the nomination and may—

(a) recommend the variety for release to the Committee;

(b) request re-presentation with additional information; or

(c) recommend rejection of the nomination to the Committee.

Examination  
report

NPTs Phase  
III:  
Nomination  
and Decision

(4) The Committee shall make the final decision to approve or reject the registration and release of the candidate variety based on the recommendation of the Technical Sub Committee Crop.

(5) The Secretariat shall notify the applicant of the Committee's decision in writing.

(6) Upon approval, the variety shall be included in the National Seed Catalogue.

Post-release obligations

**21.**—(1) Upon approval by the Committee, the applicant shall, as a condition for the registration and release, provide a specified quantity of seeds or planting material, deemed fit by the Registrar or Committee as follows —

- (a) foundation seed for certification purposes to the Council; and
- (b) breeder seed for conservation in the National Genebank, to the NACGRAB.

(2) Where the applicant fails to provide the required seeds under subregulation (1) of this regulation, the Council may suspend the variety's release status.

Criteria for an applicant

**22.**—(1) An applicant for variety registration and release shall be a legal entity.

(2) Private companies, including foreign entities, shall be registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission "CAC".

(3) Seed companies, in addition to sub-regulation (2) of this regulation, shall be registered with the Council.

(4) An eligible applicant includes —

- (a) National Agricultural Research Institutes "NARIs";
- (b) Universities;
- (c) Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research Centres "CGIARC", working through a NARI;
- (d) private seed companies;
- (e) Non-Governmental Organisations; and
- (f) farmers engaged in variety development.

Rejection and re-presentation

**23.**—(1) A nomination shall be rejected where the candidate variety fails to meet the mandatory criteria.

(2) The Technical Sub Committee Crop may allow the re-presentation of a rejected variety in a subsequent meeting where the applicant demonstrates that the deficiencies have been remedied.

**24.**—(1) A variety that is released may be deregistered from the National Seed Catalogue where it is —

Deregistration  
of a variety

(a) found to have an adverse effect on human, animal, or environmental health;

(b) found to be indistinguishable from another variety already in the catalogue;

(c) demonstrated that false or misleading information was submitted during the nomination process; or

(d) deemed to have a detrimental effect on the agricultural system.

(2) The process for deregistration shall be approved by the Committee upon recommendation of the Technical Sub Committee Crop.

**25.**—(1) An applicant aggrieved by a decision of the Committee may appeal in writing to the Council within 60 days of notification, stating the grounds for the appeal.

Appeal  
procedure

(2) The Council shall constitute an independent Appeal Panel to review the case.

(3) The appellant shall be given an opportunity to present their case.

(4) The Appeal Panel shall make a recommendation to the Council, whose decision shall be final.

**26.**—(1) An applicant may designate specific information submitted as Confidential Business Information "CBI".

Confidentiality  
of  
information

(2) The Secretariat and members of the Committee shall take the necessary measures to protect CBI from unauthorised disclosure.

(3) Information regarding the denomination, characteristics, and performance of a released variety shall be public.

#### PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS

**27.**—(1) The applicant shall be responsible for all costs associated with testing, supervision, and evaluation, including the costs of NPTs.

Fees and  
costs

(2) The fees for services shall be in accordance with the harmonised fee structure prescribed by the Council.

**28.** In these Regulations, —

Interpretation

"*accredited institution*" means a public or private entity approved by the Council to conduct NPTs;

"*Act*" means the National Agricultural Seeds Council Act, No. 21, 2019;

"*applicant*" means an organisation that is a legal entity which applies for variety registration and release under these Regulations;

“*breeder*” means a person who develops or discovers a new crop variety;  
“*candidate variety*” means a new plant variety submitted for registration and release;

“*claimant*” has the same meaning as “applicant”;

“*check variety*” means a local, registered, and released variety currently popular in the targeted agro-ecology, used as a standard for comparison during VCU and on-farm trials;

“*Collaborating Regenerance Organisation “CRO”*” means an organisation endorsed by the Technical Sub Committee Crop with the capacity to conduct trials, oversee implementation, and assess documentation for the registration and release process;

“*Collaborating Reference Scientist “CRS”*” means a scientist, approved by the Technical Sub Committee Crop, with recognised expertise in a specific crop, responsible for conducting or overseeing trials and assessing documentation;

“*Council*” means the National Agricultural Seeds Council established under the Act;

“*Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability “DUS”*” means the characteristics of a candidate variety that is —

- (i) clearly distinguishable from any other known variety,
- (ii) sufficiently uniform in its essential characteristics, and
- (iii) stable in its essential characteristics after repeated propagation;

“*National Performance Trial “NPTs”*” means a multi-locational trial conducted to evaluate the VCU of a candidate variety under Nigerian agro-ecological conditions, coordinated by the Council;

“*National Seed Catalogue*” means the official catalogue of released varieties maintained by the Council pursuant to section 10 of the Act;

“*notification*” means the formal initial application by an applicant to the Secretariat, of the intention to undertake pre-registration trials for a candidate variety;

“*nomination*” means the formal submission by a CRO on behalf of an applicant to the Technical Sub Committee Crop for the registration and release of a candidate variety;

“*Registrar*” means the Registrar of the Plant Variety Protection Office;

“*tricot*” means the triadic comparison of technologies, an alternative method for conducting on-farm trials; and

“*Value for Cultivation and Use “VCU”*” means the value of a variety for farming and industrial communities, determined by its agronomic performance, adaptation, stability, and reaction to biotic and abiotic stresses compared to existing varieties.

29. These Regulations may be cited as the National Crop Varieties (Registration and Release) Regulations, 2025. Citation

MADE at Abuja this 22nd day of December, 2025.

FATUHU MUHAMMED  
*Director-General,*  
*National Agricultural Seeds Council*

Federal Republic of Nigeria  
Official Gazette

No. 111 Lagos, 19th Dec, 2025

Government of Nigeria

Containing Regulations for the National Agricultural Seeds Council

Part II of the Statutory Instruments of Nigeria

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Lagos, 19th Dec, 2025