

Memorandum Circular

No. 6

April 3, 1990

SUBJECT: Guidelines in the Handling and Disposition of Forest Tree Seeds from Selected Provenances

With the massive reforestation of the denuded areas and critical watersheds of the country, the DENR through the National Forestation Program (NFP) realizes the urgent need to improve the quality and quantity of seeds used in reforestation projects. Towards this end, the NFP has imported a limited quantity of seeds from international sources that supply seeds from selected hi-quality provenances. These seeds are intended not only for the establishment of production and protection forests but also for the establishment of genetically improved plantations for Seed Production Areas (SPA) in the future. These imported seeds are not available. Within the year, seeds from selected provenances of endemic species will be collected and distributed.

In order to ensure that these seeds are properly handled and disposed of, the following guidelines are hereby promulgated:

A. Distribution and Recipients of Seed Lots

1. Distribution

The imported seed lots are available from the Reforestation Division, Forest Management Bureau. The species are the following:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY
a. Eucalyptus deglupta	Seedstand	2.5 kg
b. Acacia mangium	Plantation	15 kg
c. Gmelina arborea	Plantation	2000 kg

Distribution shall be through the PENRO's on a first-come first-serve basis, provided the requirements on site characteristics as discussed hereafter are fully met. To this effect, PENRO's interested to avail of these planting stocks should make a request in writing, including in such request the following information:

- a. Species required
- b. Quantity requested

- c. Location of the CENRO & planting site
- d. Map of area where the planting stocks shall be planted
- e. Statement whether the area is within a established DENR reforestation project or reservation, and whether the growing and tending of the stocks are by contractor(s) and a copy of a duly accomplished contract should be submitted
- f. Description of the site: soil characteristics, terrain, species composing the present vegetative cover

The Forest Management Bureau shall determine, based on the information submitted, the appropriateness of the site as future Seed Production Area (SPA) for the species requested. If the site is appropriate, the seed lot(s) shall be released to the requesting PENRO or his duly authorized representative, together with the documentation as discussed hereafter.

2. Recipients/End-users

The seed stocks may be released only to the requesting PENRO or his duly authorized representative. These planting stocks may be planted in reforestation projects under contract. The contractor should be made aware of the nature of such seeds, and the extra tending work required for such plantations established from these stocks. The end-user or a contractor, should be aware of the additional responsibilities required to ensure that the Seed Production Areas (SPAs) using these stocks are established.

B. Tending and Maintenance

1. Nursery tending

Upon receipt of the seed lot, the PENRO concerned shall designate a specific nursery to handle the germination, potting and tending of the seedlings from these seeds. For ease of documentation, only one nursery should be designated to handle the whole seed lot.

The seed lot(s) should be germinated and handled in a separate area of the nursery designated for the purpose. Extra effort should be made to ensure that the seed lot(s) and seedlings therefrom are not mixed with other planting stock in the nursery.

The seed lots are identified by source (seed-orchard seed, seed stand seed, or plantation seed), country/province of origin, and provenance. These identifications should accompany each seed lot at all times, from germination to planting. The necessary labels/markers should be provided at all times.

2. Planting sites

The PENROs concerned shall designate suitable areas which will be planted out of these stocks. These areas shall be treated as future Seed Production Areas (SPAs), hence, extra effort should be made to select the sites with the best biophysical conditions for these stocks. These contract reforestation areas should provide the requirements of best-site and absence of risk and potential damage are met. The necessary facilities and requirements to protect these plantation sites should be installed immediately before or at the time of outplanting, and should continue to be maintained.

Stocks of the same species, source and provenance should be planted in a homogeneous stand, but similar species of different sources and provenances should not be planted adjacent to each other to avoid cross-pollination in the future. The plantation layout should be pre-planned such that different species are planted adjacent to each other, such that each group constitutes a buffer zone for each other.

3. Documentation

Consistent and strict documentation of the planting stocks, starting from the nursery to plantation stage, is required. The Forest Management Bureau (FMB) in coordination with the Environmental Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) are instructed to assist each of the recipient PENROs to set up their respective documentation, reporting and monitoring systems, with respect to these seed lots, using the enclosed forms, and such other instruments which shall be necessary.

The PENROs concerned shall submit quarterly reports on the progress of development of the seed production areas from these stocks through their respective REDs. In the same manner, the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) and the Environmental Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) shall monitor and periodically report on the progress of such plantations.

C. Deduction

Since the end user is a contractor, the cost intended for the seedling production/seed procurement shall be automatically deducted from the contract price and the amount shall be used by the PENRO in establishing a nursery for the purpose or to contract additional area within their jurisdiction.

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Secretary