

Guidelines for Recognition of Hardening Center(s) of Recognized Tissue Culture Production Facilities

Background:

It has been observed that many tissue culture production facilities (with production capacity of more than 3.0 million plants per annum) have more than one hardening center(s) in different locations. Some companies have even more than 10 hardening centers in various locations which are difficult to evaluate and recognize during site visit to the main production facility. At present as a part of the "Certificate of Recognition" issued to the tissue culture production facilities, recognition is only given to the main hardening unit(s) which is in close proximity of the tissue culture lab. However, to ensure the distribution of quality planting material and enable certification of tissue culture raised plants, it is necessary that all the hardening centers of the recognized tissue culture production facilities used for the distribution of plants within the country should be in conformity with the NCS-TCP guidelines. In such cases, Recognition of multiple hardening center(s) of recognized tissue culture production facility is essential for the distribution of virus free and genetically true to type/ uniform tissue culture raised plants. Recognition of multiple hardening center(s) would also be helpful for the companies to get tissue culture raised plants certified from the nearest ATLS.

Eligibility criteria for recognition and or renewal of hardening centre(s):

- i. Only hardening centre(s) of the Recognized Tissue Culture Production Facility are only eligible to apply for recognition of their multiple hardening center(s) located at various parts within the country under NCS-TCP.
- ii. Each hardening centre seeking recognition should have the basic infrastructure facilities such as poly house/green house with misting arrangements for primary hardening of tissue culture plantlets and also shade net facilities for secondary hardening or nursery. The applicant multiple hardening center(s) located at various locations should harden the plants received from only recognized facility.
- iii. Each hardening centre seeking recognition under NCS-TCP should have minimum hardening capacity of 0.5 million plants per annum

- iv. Each hardening centre of recognized tissue culture production facility will be treated as extended facility of recognized units and hence should comply with standard operating procedures established under NCS-TCP with respect to management of hardening centre and subject to assessment for recognition/renewal.
- v. Each hardening centre should apply separately for seeking recognition under NCS-TCP, through the recognized tissue culture production facility.

Application Procedure for Recognition of Hardening Centre:

- i. Each recognized tissue culture production facility will submit separate applications in prescribed format entitled “Application for Recognition of Hardening Center(s) under NCS-TCP (*NCS-TCP Form-3*)” in respect of each of multiple hardening centres located in various parts of the country.
- ii. Each applicant should also submit the duly filled and signed “self assessment form” in respect of each hardening centre at the time of application to ensure the mandatory requirements stated there under are complied with. Also a suitable lay out plan of hardening centre indicating clearly the poly house/green house area (primary) and shade net area (secondary) and any other essential facilities.
- iii. Each application should be accompanied by prescribed registration fee of Rs. 500/- for recognition, payable by a crossed demand draft drawn on scheduled bank in favour of “Biotech Consortium India Ltd” payable at New Delhi.
- iv. If the application is complete in all respects and the applicant complies with all mandatory requirements, a site visit to applicant hardening centre by a member of accreditation panel will be organized to assess the hardening centre facilities to ensure compliance with mandatory requirements for recognition under NCS-TCP.
- v. The site visit of one member of accreditation panel is organized when the applicant complies with all mandatory requirements.
- vi. The applicant will be required to pay prescribed fee of Rs. 1500/- by a crossed demand draft drawn in favour of “Biotech Consortium India Ltd” payable at New Delhi towards inspection and report preparation at the time of scheduling the site visit.

- vii. The assessment report along with recommendations of accreditation expert will be examined by the Project Management Evaluation Committee constituted under the NCS-TCP, which will take final decision in the matter
- viii. If any non-conformities are observed with the mandatory parameters in the “Self Assessment Report”, the applicant would be requested to take corrective action(s) for the same. On receipt of compliance report from the applicant, the expert member of Accreditation Panel will be requested for the verification either through documentation or “on site” verification, which will cover the area of entire operation of hardening center(s) and not limiting to the nonconformities observed in the previous visit.
- ix. In case of no corrective actions are implemented as verified during the verification process, the application will be treated as cancelled and the applicant would be required to reapply for recognition of hardening center(s) of recognized tissue culture production facility.
- x. If the applicant meets all the mandatory requirements prescribed in the self assessment form, as verified by the accreditation panel expert and finally approved by the P MEC, a Certificate of Recognition will be granted in prescribed format to the applicant hardening center of Recognized Tissue Culture Production Facility”. The certificate of recognition granted will be valid for a period of **two years** subject to the validity period of recognition of main tissue culture production facility. In case of validity of recognition of main tissue culture production facility expires earlier, the validity of recognition of hardening centre will be deemed to expire.
- xi. Each applicant will be required to pay a fee of Rs.2000/- by a crossed demand draft drawn in favour of ““Biotech Consortium India Ltd” payable at New Delhi towards “processing and certification” at the time of issue of certificate of recognition.

Application Procedure Renewal of Recognized Hardening Centre:

- i. The applicant will submit the NCS-TCP Form- 3A for renewal of Recognition of Hardening Center(s) to the NCS-TCP Management Cell along with registration renewal fee of Rs.250/- (Rupees two hundred and fifty only) through demand draft in favor of Biotech Consortium

India Limited, New Delhi payable at New Delhi at least 2 months prior to the date of expiry of the certificate of recognition.

- ii. The rest of procedure for renewal of recognition of hardening centre will be same as the application procedure for recognition.
- iii. Formats for Application, Self Assessment Report for Recognition of hardening centers of recognized tissue culture production facilities are available at NCS-TCP website.