

CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION OR RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION AS GROWERS OF VIRGINIA TOBACCO AND CURER OF VIRGINIA TOBACCO (Rule 33-A & 34-A) FOR 2014-15 CROP SEASON IN ANDHRA PRADESH

A. Eligible Categories

- i. All growers registered with the Board in 2013-14 season will be considered for renewal of registration in 2014-15 season subject to the following conditions.**
 - a) The Grower applicant shall possess suitable lands for growing Virginia tobacco on his own or taken on lease in the existing areas of tobacco cultivation.
 - b) The Grower applicant shall possess a fit curing facility (barn) on his own or taken on lease, registered with Board during 2013-14 season and eligible for registration for the current year.
 - c) The Grower applicant shall also possess allied structures for storage and grading of FCV tobacco.
 - d) The Grower applicant shall be following crop rotation and Good Agricultural Practices in cultivation of FCV tobacco.
 - e) The Grower applicant should not have violated any of the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act; Rules; Regulations; terms and conditions of certification of registration or licence; directions issued and stipulations laid down by the Board during the previous crop seasons.
 - f) The grower shall submit an undertaking in the prescribed proforma that he will abide by the conditions/ stipulations laid down by the Board in granting the renewal of registration.
- ii. No new growers will be permitted to take up FCV tobacco cultivation and no new areas will be allowed for FCV tobacco cultivation.**
- iii. The following grower applicants (new growers), though they are not registered during 2013-14 season may be considered for grant of registration for 2014-15 season subject to submission of valid legal documents:** (Duly notarized partition deed/sale deed/management deed/ gift deed as is applicable).
 - a) New owners of the licensed barns who acquired ownership on account of partition/ transfer of joint family property.
 - b) Legal heirs of deceased registered growers who got the registered barn transferred on to their names.
 - c) New growers who acquired ownership of an licensed barn by purchase / gift.

- d) Lessee growers applying with a support of licensed barn taken on lease supported by lease document subject to local laws
- e) Owners of registered fit licensed barns leased out during 2013-14 or earlier and want to get registered as grower of tobacco on his name this year.
- iv. **Horizontal expansion of FCV tobacco cultivation is not allowed. Registered growers planting in excess areas over and above the area authorized will be treated 'unauthorized cultivation' and action shall be initiated.**

B. Eligible pending categories

The following categories of grower applicants may be considered for accord of registration or renewal of registration subject to their becoming eligible after rectification of defects/ fulfillment of lapses (clearance of dues/ repairing the barns/ payment of penalties/ submission of requisite documents as the case may be) within stipulated time i.e. **on or before 31.12.2014.**

- a) Growers/Barns (fit)/Barn owners having **outstanding dues** in respect of input loans, other loans arranged by Tobacco Board during 2013-14 season or in the past three years block period.
- b) The grower applicants applied with support of barns **licensed in 2013-14 season and unfit** during enumeration of barns in 2014-15.
- c) The grower applicants applied with support of fit barn which are involved in ownership disputes in the **past 3 years block period.**
- d) Grower applicants (applied with support of fit barn) who have to pay penalties in the previous years, **stipulated under various categories** like not sold cases; saline tobacco production; break in registration etc.
- e) Grower applicants (applied with support of eligible barn) who have **not submitted the requisite documents** for transfer of registration.
- f) Grower applicants having **licensed fit barn** as per latest enumeration and having break-in-registration for 3 years or less than 3 years (i.e., 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14) and became eligible for registration after rectification of defects/fulfilling the criteria as above.

The Committee stipulated that all the above categories of applicants shall fulfill the criteria for considering their registration for 2014-15 crop season **on or before 31.12.2014.**

C. Ineligible categories

The following categories of grower applicants are **not eligible for according registration** or renewal of registration (**ineligible categories**)

- a) Grower applicants applied **without support of licensed barns** (curing facility).
- b) Grower applicants applied with support of **collapsed barns or unfit barns** (which became unfit before 2013-14).
- c) Grower applicants applied with support of **unauthorized barns / barns ineligible** for registration as per the criteria fixed for licensing of operation of barn.
- d) **Registered growers owning an unauthorised barn or constructing a barn without obtaining license from the Board in violation of Tobacco Board Act and Rules.**
- e) Grower applicants seeking licence for construction of new barns.
- f) Grower applicants making applications for cultivation of tobacco in the known saline lands / irrigated wet lands /low lying lands / New areas /Forest areas or Agency areas.
- g) **Grower applicants who are registered growers in 2013-14 crop season and submitted Form-II & III returns in proof of cultivation and curing of tobacco but not sold tobacco on the auction platforms.** Barns owned by such growers also shall not be considered for registration if taken on lease or purchased by other growers.
- h) **Grower applicants who are registered growers in 2013-14 crop season but have sold 50% of the quota or less for two years consecutively (i.e. 2012-13 and 2013-14) as against the full quota produced by them as declared in Form-III returns.**
- i) The grower applicants who filed their applications for registration/ renewal of registration after stipulated last date.
- j) Grower applicants who obtained registration in earlier years by submitting false information/ false returns.
- k) Growers indulged in activities which are in violation of Tobacco Board Act, Rules & Regulations and in unlawful activities/malpractices at the auction platforms such as misbehavior, obstructing Board Staff in discharge of their duties, obstruction of auction proceedings, nesting of tobacco etc.
- l) Grower applicants who applied with support of barns which are not registered with Board for more than 3 years (i.e., 2013-14, 2012-13, and 2011-12).
- m) Grower applicants who are hiring child labour for cultivation operations.
- n) **Growers whose tobaccos contain pesticide residues beyond the Guidance Residue Levels (GRLs) fixed by CORESTA. (from 2014-15 onwards)**

- o) Grower applicants whose bales are rejected for sale during last season for containing NTRMs above permissible levels.
- p) Growers who sold saline tobacco in excess of 20% of total quantity sold during the past two years.
- q) **Growers in Central Black Soil Region and Bhadrachalam areas.**