

FARMERS REGISTRATION BILL, 2017.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Sections:

1. Establishment
2. Purpose of the Act
3. General Farm Organization
4. Registration of Farms
5. Annual Fees
6. Information Verification
7. Composition of Appeal Committee
8. Appeals
9. Application of Freedom of Information Act
10. Audit
11. Regulations
12. Interpretation
13. Short Title



1 the regulations and meet any additional criteria prescribed by the regulations.

2 (3) For the purpose of this Act, Ministry of Agriculture is recognized
3 as a General Farm Organization unless this recognition is revoked by the
4 Appeal Committee.

5 (2) A Commodity Group, Marketing Board or Issue-Specific Group is
6 not a general organization for the purpose of this Act

7 PART 4 - REGISTRATION

Registration
of Farms

8 4.-(1) The Minister shall appoint a person employed in the
9 department to be the Registrar of Farms.

10 (2) The Registrar of Farms shall:

11 (a) Receive applications for registration pursuant to this Act;

12 (b) Prescribe the methods and forms to be used for the purpose of
13 registration in respect of sub-section 2 (a) of this Act;

14 (c) Receive and process fees collected pursuant to this Act as part of
15 the registration process;

16 (d) Administer and oversee the registration process and data collected
17 pursuant to this Act;

18 (e) Determine whether an organization meets the criteria for a general
19 farm organization;

20 (f) Where the organization meets the criteria referred to in sub-section
21 2. (a), by order designate the organization as a general farm organization for the
22 purpose of this Act; and

23 (g) Perform such other functions as are assigned to the Registrar by
24 the Minister.

25 (3) Where the Minister approves, the Registrar of Farms may delegate
26 the Registrar's duties under sub-section 2 of this section.

Annual Fees

27 5.-(1) Upon payment of the annual fee prescribed by the regulations, a
28 farm business may register with the Registrar on an annual basis in accordance
29 with the prescribed regulations.

30 (2) With the approval of the Registrar, a farm operation that is not a

1 farm business may upon payment of the annual fee prescribed by the
2 regulation, register with the Registrar on an annual basis in accordance with
3 the prescribed regulations.

4 (3) Subject to the prescribed regulations, the fees referred to in sub-
5 section (1) and (2) of this section, shall be used in support of general farm
6 organizations.

7 (4) Upon payments of annual fees referred to in sub-sections (1)
8 and (2) of this section, the Registrar shall forward the fee and the name,
9 address, telephone number and registration number of the farm business or
10 farm operation that paid the fee to the appropriate general farm organization.

11 (5) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, a farm
12 business or a farm operation may at the time of payment of the annual fee
13 state that they do not want to be member of a general farm organization.

14 (6) Where a farm business or a farm operation makes a statement
15 referred to in sub-section (5) of this section, the Registrar shall not forward
16 the information referred to in subsection (4) to a general farm organization.

17 6.-(1) For the purpose of verifying information submitted to the
18 Registrar pursuant to this section, the Registrar or a person authorized by the
19 Registrar shall:

Information
Verification

20 (a) at all reasonable times, inspect, examine, check or audit the
21 books, records and inventory of a farm business or a farm operation;

22 (b) enter upon and inspect any land, place or premises owned or
23 occupied by a farm business or farm operation.

24 (2) For the purpose of verifying information submitted to a general
25 farm organization pursuant to this section, The Registrar, or a person
26 authorized by the Registrar, shall:

27 (a) at all reasonable times, inspect, examine, check or audit the
28 books, records and inventory of a general farm organization; or

29 (b) enter upon and inspect any land, place or premises owned or
30 occupied by a general farm organization.

1 PART 5 - APPEALS

Composition
of Appeal
Committee

2 7.-(1) There shall be an Appeal Committee consisting of:
3 (a) One person who is an employee of the department appointed by
4 the Minister;
5 (b) One other person appointed by the Minister.
6 (c) One registered farm-business operator appointed by each general
7 farm organization; and

8 (2) The members of the Appeal Committee shall be appointed for a
9 term not to exceed three years as the Minister determines.

10 (3) The person appointed to the Appeal Committee pursuant to sub-
11 section (1) (a) of this section shall be the Chair of the Appeal Committee.

12 (4) The members of the Appeal Committee, other than the member
13 pursuant to sub-section (1) (a) of this section, may be paid such reasonable
14 travelling and such other fees and allowances as the Minister shall determine.

Appeals

15 8.-(1) Any person directly affected by a decision made pursuant to this
16 Act may, within sixty days of the decision appeal to the Appeal Committee.

17 (2) The Appeal Committee may vary or confirm a decision made
18 pursuant to this Act.

19 PART 6 - APPLICATION OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

20 9.-(1) For greater certainty, the Freedom of Information Act applies to
21 information submitted to the Registrar pursuant to section 8 of this Act.

22 (2) For greater certainty, any personal information provided to a
23 general farm organization pursuant to sub-section 8(4) of this Act shall be kept
24 confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person, except as may be
25 necessary for the performance of the general farm organization's duties under
26 section 8 of this Act.

27 PART 7 - AUDIT BY AUDITOR GENERAL

28 10. The registration process under this Act is subject to audit by the
29 Auditor General of the Federation or such other person as may be authorize by
30 the Auditor General of the Federation.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

PART 8 - REGULATIONS

11.-(1) The Minister shall supervise, manage and make regulations generally for the purpose of this Act.

(2) The Minister shall make regulations:

(a) Regarding the registration process;

(b) The registration process shall be subject to section 4 (2)(a) of this Act; Prescribing the criteria for a general farm organization;

(c) Prescribing any fees to be paid;

(d) Defining any term used but not defined in this Act; Respecting such matters or things as may be considered necessary for carrying out effectively the intent and purpose of this Act.

(3). The regulatory exercise by the Minister shall be within the meaning and context of the Regulations Act.

PART 9 - INTERPRETATION

12. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Appeal Committee" means the Appeal Committee established pursuant to this Act;

(b) "Department" means the Ministry of Agriculture;

(c) "Farmers" means all those who engages in all sorts of farming including planting of crops, rearing animals and fishing etc. (d) "Minister" means the Minister of Agriculture;

(e) "Registrar" means the Registrar of Farms appointed pursuant to this Act.

PART 10 - SHORT TITLE

13. This Bill may be cited as Farmers Registration Bill, 2017.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This bill seeks to professionalize farming in Nigeria and diversify the economy with a view to boost food production and economic activities. The bill defines who is a Nigerian Farmer. It provides a means through which Nigerian Farmers are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture which will be useful for easier identification and for purposes of giving incentives to farmers.