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DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR No. <u>0</u> Series of 2024

## SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO SECTION 5 AND 6 OF DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 2 SERIES OF 2018: GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION/PROCUREMENT OF QUALITY PLANTING MATERIALS OF FRUITS AND PLANTATION CROPS

Since the issuance of Department Circular (DC) No. 2 series of 2018 there has been no new variety registration for Coffee (Excelsa) and Dragon Fruit, and only limited variety registrations on Banana, Citrus (Calamansi), and Coffee (Liberica). Moreover, the grace period granted for the exemption to Banana, Citrus (Calamansi), Dragon Fruit and Coffee (Liberica and Excelsa) on variety registration and plant nursery accreditation has expired on March 8, 2023.

Therefore, to ensure the availability of quality planting materials for government procurement, the exemption provided for in Section 6 of DC No. 2 series of 2018 is hereby amended to extend the grace period for five (5) years from the date of effectivity of this DC, with the exception of the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) and Region I for Citrus (Calamansi). This will enable growers and nursery operators to have sufficient time to characterize/evaluate and register their varieties.

Likewise, Section 5 of the DC, is also amended to include the following conditions on procurement during the extension period:

For Coffee (Excelsa and Liberica):

- a) NSIC Plantation TWG experts shall be allowed to visit the mother trees before harvesting of coffee beans to evaluate and validate the identity of the mother trees
- b) Only nurseries whose mother trees have been evaluated may proceed to propagate planting materials for government procurement purposes

## For Citrus (Calamansi):

The recommended NSIC Registered Variety for CAR and Region I shall be prioritized for procurement following the guidelines of Section 5.

This Department Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and submission of copies to the National Administrative Register, UP Law Center.

Done this 10th day of JANUARY ,2024

Secretary

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY SUSAN L DEL ROSARIO, MBA Chief, Records Division 2 77 Department of Agriculture

