



NAPRO

National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS REGULATORY OFFICE

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1. FOREWORD

I have the pleasure to present the first Annual Report of the youngest division of the Ministry, the National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office, (NAPRO). The office took over the regulatory functions of:

- (i) the Mauritius Meat Authority
- (ii) the Tea Board, and
- (iii) the Tobacco Board,

and started to operate on the 29th November 2013 with some of the redeployed staff of the Tea Board and the Tobacco Board.

During year 2014, this office considered 1,877 applications and delivered 1,393 licences and 473 clearances. These activities generated about Rs 26.6 million which were credited to the Government Account.

The logo of this office was designed by Mr. Assif Ahmad Taujoo, a student of the Fashion Design and Institute. It has the form of a leaf which is the symbol of agriculture; its symmetrical design is synonymous of stability, fairness and impartiality. The twined branches with national colours are meant to inspire confidence in the office with mission to regulate listed agricultural products in the national interest.

One of the projects being envisaged by this office is the setting-up of a product certification programme under the label "Responsible Agricultural Production".

H. Ramahotar
Officer in Charge

2. OVERVIEW

The National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office Act 2013, under which this office, (NAPRO), has been set-up was proclaimed on the 26th November 2013, Proclamation No. 52 of 2013. The office operates as a division within the Ministry of Agro-Industry & Food Security and ensures conformity of regulated products imported, exported and produced in the country.

2.1 Vision

To regulate the activities related to national products effectively, efficiently and economically.

2.2 Mission

- To license stakeholders for production, availability and disposability of regulated agricultural products
- To ensure that stakeholders of a regulated agricultural product obtain a fair share of the proceeds
- To ensure satisfaction of consumers of regulated agricultural products

2.3 Values

- Customer focus
- Creativity
- Team work
- Integrity

2.4 Mandate

Its mandate, as laid out at Section 4 (2) of the NAPRO Act includes the following:

- To control and regulate the import, export, production and sale of regulated products;
- To control and regulate the preparation, processing, packing and manufacturing of regulated products;
- To regulate the activities and premises in connection with the slaughtering of animals;
- To determine the prices at which tea / tobacco leaves may be sold to a producer of tea / tobacco products.

Section 8 of the NAPRO Act stipulates that no person shall, without a licence:

- (a) operate as a cultivator
- (b) operate as a producer
- (c) kill an animal to obtain meat for sale except on the occasion of a religious ceremony listed under the second schedule.
- (d) construct, operate or maintain a slaughterhouse
- (e) sell, prepare, prepack, process or store meat or meat products
- (f) construct, operate or maintain a place for the preparation, prepacking, processing, storage or sale of meat or meat products
- (g) sell, supply raw hides or skins to tanneries
- (h) operate as a venison dealer or retailer
- (i) sell game venison during the close season

Regulated agricultural products listed under the First Schedule of the Act are:

- (i) Meat and meat products;
- (ii) Tea and tea products;
- (iii) Tobacco and tobacco products.

NAPRO has therefore been conferred with the powers to licence:

- (a) Meat shop operators
- (b) Meat processors
- (c) Slaughterhouse Operators
- (d) Importers of meat & meat products
- (e) Storage of meat & meat products
- (f) Tannery operators
- (g) Venison dealers & retailers
- (h) Tea cultivators, manufacturers, importers & exporters
- (i) Tobacco cultivators, manufacturers, importers & exporters

3. ORGANISATION STRUCTURE (STAFF)

The organisation structure with the specific grades has not yet been established. Nonetheless operations are being performed by officers redeployed from the former Tea Board and Tobacco Board. The office is being directed by an Officer in Charge who is under the administrative control of the Supervising Officer of the Ministry.

The Officers & their specific former grades are listed below:

Name	Former Grades
Mr H. Ramahotar	General Manager, Tobacco Board
Mr R. Jalloo	STO, Tobacco Board
Mrs M. D Nunkoo	TO, Tea Board
Mr D. Jharia	OMA, Tea Board
Ms J. Nunkoo	CS, Tea Board
Mrs K. Bungaleea	MSO, Tea Board
Mr N. S Daharee	Office Attendant/Driver, Tea Board
Mr C. K Ramkorun	Office Attendant/Driver, Tea Board
Mrs M. D Thompson	Warehouse Worker, Tobacco Board

Mr A. Seepargauth, former General Manager of the Tea Board retired on 31 December 2013 and Mr A. Ayrga, former Secretary & Supervising Accountant from the same organisation retired on 17 August 2014.

4. REVIEW

4.1 Tobacco & Tobacco Products

4.1.1 Registration of Cultivators

No cultivator was registered for the production of leaf tobacco.

4.1.2 Import of Tobacco Products



Tobacco products are imported for sale on domestic market, duty free outlets and by incoming passengers for own consumption. So as to minimise dwell time, NAPRO authorised, upon application, the transfer of cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos consignments from the port area to bonded warehouses. Inspections are carried out in the bonded warehouse prior to authorising delivery. The number of clearances and quantity authorised are presented in the Table below:

Product	No. of Clearances	Quantity
Cigarettes	210	1,067 Mn units
Cigarillos	21	272,015 units
Cigars	43	1,929.2 Kg
Chewing Tobacco	18	1,649.0 Kg
Smoking Tobacco	7	398 Kg

4.1.3 Importers of tobacco products

10 importers were registered with this office as follows:

Flemingo distribution Ltd
Flemingo Duty Free Mauritius Ltd
Grays INC Ltd
Indigo Marketing Company Ltd
IOI Tobacco Traders Ltd
Ishrat collection Ltd
Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Ltd
Scott & Company Ltd
TNS Tobacco Company Ltd
Yasin Mobile Shop Ltd

4.1.4 Destruction of tobacco products

At the request of importers and/or the Mauritius Revenue Authority, Officers of the Division inspected consignments listed for destruction and authorised the destruction of 1,343,400 cigarettes. They were also present at the time and place of ploughing-in or incineration.

4.2 Tea & Tea Products



4.2.1 Registration of Cultivators

During contractual tea year 2013-14, (1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014), 879 cultivators of which 291 formed part of the 6 Cooperative Credit Societies and 453 métayers were registered for the production of tea leaves. Together, they produced 7,826 Tonnes of green leaves which were delivered to the 3 factories. 672 Hectares were under tea cultivation during the period under review.



The number of cultivators for the crop 2013-2014 was as follows:

Cooperative Societies	Number of cultivators
Amarnath	60
Bois Cherie	73
Caledonia	52
Grand Bois	65
La Flora	6
Nouvelle France	35
	291
Metayers	
Societe de Plantation de Bois Chéri	417
Corson Tea Estate Co Ltd	36
	453
Free Cultivators	
Societe de Plantation de Bois Chéri	1
Corson Tea Estate Co Ltd	329
La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co Ltd	125
Other free cultivators	133
	588

Tea plantations are located in the following areas:

Region	Area (Ha)
Curepipe	11
Forest Side	6
Nouvelle France	234
Union Park	4
La Flora	63
Grand Bois	82
Bois Chéri	272
Total	672

4.2.2 Tea Factories

Three tea factories were in operation namely:

Corson Tea Estate Ltd
 La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
 Société Usinière de Bois Cheri

7,826 tonnes of leaf were received by the factories during the contractual tea year 2013-14 as follows:

Factory	Weight of green leaf (Tonnes)
Corson Tea Estate Ltd	1,731
La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	3,130
Société Usinière de Bois Cheri	2,965
Total	7,826

Together they manufactured 1,525 tonnes of black tea produced mainly for the domestic market.

4.2.3 Importation of Tea

90 clearances were issued for the import of tea and tea products as shown below:

Product	Quantity (Kg)
Black Tea for blending purposes	20,045
Green Tea (bulk)	7,390
Other Tea Products	12,530

4.2.4 Export Clearances

During the year, 117 export clearances were issued for the export of 65,221 Kg tea products.

4.2.5 Price of Tea

In accordance with Section 34 of the NAPRO Act, this office determined:

(a) the rates for the First Partial Payment (FPP) and Second Partial Payment (SPP) of the final price payable to a cultivator or to a metayer for green leaves delivered during contractual year 2013-2014. The rates are as follows:

Factory		FPP (Rs/Kg)	SPP (Rs/Kg)
Société Usinière de Bois Cheri	Cultivators	2.00	4.33
Société des Plantations de Bois Cheri	Metayers	1.50	3.19
La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	Cultivators	2.00	4.32
Corson Tea Estate Ltd	Cultivators	2.00	4.63
	Metayers	1.50	3.78

(b) the Minimum Interim Price (MIP) per Kg of green leaves to be paid monthly by a producer to a cultivator and by a cultivator to a metayer during contractual tea year 2014-2015 as follows:

	MIP (Rs/Kg)
Producer to Cultivator	7.80
Cultivator to metayer	7.25

4.2.6 Meat & Meat Products

Meat means the carcass, offal or other edible parts of animals but does not include the edible parts of a bird, fish, hare or rabbit. Meat product means any product derived from the processing of meat.

4.2.7 Meat Shops



The NAPRO Act stipulates that no person shall sell fresh meat except from the premises in respect of which a licence has been issued.

During the year, 101 licences were issued to meat shop operators for sale of beef, mutton, goat, venison and pork meat.

4.2.8 Meat Processors

Three licences were issued for processing of pork meat during the period under review.

4.2.9 Slaughterhouse

Slaughterhouse means premises or any other place used to slaughter or kills an animal to obtain meat for sale. Section 9 of the NAPRO Act specifies that no person shall slaughter an animal or cause an animal to be slaughtered at a place other than at the abattoir or in a slaughterhouse approved by NAPRO. Hence any person who intends to operate a slaughterhouse needs to apply to NAPRO for a licence.

One slaughterhouse with 3 separate slaughter halls was registered.

4.2.10 Venison Dealers

The NAPRO Act requires venison dealers and retailers to be licenced by NAPRO and in addition no person shall operate as a Venison Dealer or Venison Retailer or sell Game Venison during the close season without a licence.

Section 14 of the Act further stipulates that no Venison Dealer shall, except with approval of NAPRO, sell venison to any person other than to a Venison Retailer. No Venison Retailer shall buy venison except from a Venison Dealer. No person shall without lawful authority have in his possession game venison during the close season and where he is a Venison Dealer or Retailer, have venison at any place other than his place of business or a place approved by NAPRO. It is an offence therefore to deal in venison without a valid licence and to be in possession of venison which has been killed or is thought to have been killed illegally.

For the year 2014 the number of operators licensed were:

Number	Purpose
36	Game venison dealers
3	Venison dealer's close season
10	Venison dealer
21	Venison retailer

4.3 Other activities

Other activities of the division included the reporting on sites for which applications were received for land conversion. Reports on 14 sites were submitted to the section concerned.

4.3.1 Revenue

The operations of the Division generates revenue and in the course of year 2014, some Rs 26,686,486 were received as application, clearance and licence fees.

NAPRO Act 2013, First Schedule (Regulation 3) PART I - LICENCE FEES

	No of licences	Application fees (Rs)	Licence fees (Rs)
Tea nursery licence	-	-	-
Tea seed garden licence	-	-	-
Cultivation of green leaf licence	1,201	-	44,076
Tea blending plant licence	6	1,200	31,040
Tea factory licence	3	600	15,000
Tea packing plant licence	6	1,200	30,000
Licence for meat shop	101	20,200	10,100
Game venison dealer	36	7,200	10,800
Venison dealer's close season	3	600	600
Venison dealer	10	2,000	5,000
Venison retailer	21	4,200	10,500
Slaughterhouse operator	1	200	1,000
Producer of meat products	3	600	3,000
Duplicate of any licence	2	-	20
TOTAL	1,393	38,000	161,136

NAPRO Act 2013, First Schedule (Regulation 3) PART II - CLEARANCE FEES

		Application fees (Rs)	Clearance fees (Rs)
1	Application fees for imports	297,000	-
2	Importation of -		
(a)	Cigarettes		21,359,760
(b)	Cigarillos		5,940
(c)	Leaf tobacco, including cut-rag		-
(d)	Smoking tobacco		20,000
(e)	Cigars		99,600
(f)	Other tobacco products		181,390
(g)	Black tea products for blending purposes		401,220
(h)	Green tea products in pk of 125g or above		307,040
(i)	Black tea products, green tea products & other tea products not exceeding 2kgs and intended for-		
	(i) for own consumption		-
	(ii) for gift, or		-
	(iii) to be used as sample		-
(j)	Other tea products		3,758,400
(k)	Meat and meat products		-
3	Export of tea products		57,000
4	Duplicate of any clearance		-
	Total	297,000	26,190,350

5 FUTURE PLANS & OBJECTIVES

In the short term, this office aims at strengthening its programmes to ensure that its operations are carried out efficiently, effectively and economically. For the medium and long term this office is considering the setting-up of a product certification programme which will include a "Responsible Agricultural Production" label.