

# **SUGAR BOARD OF TANZANIA**

## **GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO SUGARCANE HUSBANDRY AS PER SUGAR ACT 2001 AND SUGAR REGULATIONS 2005**

### **1. GOOD SUGARCANE HUSBANDRY**

Regulation 10 – (1) (2) provides that every sugarcane grower shall carry out sugarcane farming activities in the most efficient manner, complying with good agricultural and management practices as given to him by the appointed agricultural advisory services officers.

#### **1.1 Practices**

The grower is required to maintain his sugarcane cultivation in a manner which will procure satisfactory cane yields by adhering to following agronomic practices:

- a) Proper tillage to ensure a good seed bed free from volunteers and weeds. The tillage depth, number of tillage and seedbed configuration shall be as may be advised by an authorized advisory services officer, depending on soil type and condition.
- b) Plant only clean seed cane which is free from pest and diseases, of an approved variety, and obtained from an authorized seed supplier.
- c) The planting shall be made at such time(s) of the year as advised by advisory services officers and the planting techniques shall be in accordance with approved techniques advised by advisory services officers.

- d) Where after germination there are gaps greater than fifty centimetres, the gaps must be filled as early as possible, but not later than 4 weeks after germination.
- e) Apply such fertilizers, at such rates and time(s) as is recommended by the advisory services officers.
- f) Maintain the sugarcane field free from weeds for the whole crop cycle. Where weed control is by application of chemicals (herbicides), use only such herbicides, at such rate and applied in such manner and time, as advised by advisory services officers.
- g) Make regular inspection of the cane crop for pests and diseases, removing infected plants and disposing the same in a manner advised by the officers.
- h) Not to use any ripener without consent of the miller and use such ripener if so approved, as advised by the officers.
- i) The grower association operations manager shall burn cane for harvesting only in consultation with the miller after ensuring that the grower have taken appropriate measures to contain the fire within the growers' field. The grower shall at all times maintain clean fire breaks between and around his field. The fire breaks shall be minimum 4 metres wide between one field and the other.
- j) Ensure the cane is properly cut, at ground level only.
- k) Topping/threshing any trash and cut off cane not higher than cane's natural breaking point. Where the grower is doubt of the cut off point, he shall consult the officers.
- l) Pile up the cane in such manner as will facilitate efficient loading and minimum soil and trash contamination when loading. The grower shall strictly follow direction given by the advisory officers.

m) Undertake stubble shaving not later than one week after harvesting.

## 1.2 Administrative procedures

- The cane growers advisory services officer appointed by any of:- the Government, the Sugar Board, the Miller or Growers Association shall generally be responsible for advising growers on good husbandry practices. Where a grower refuses, neglects or otherwise does not practice good husbandry practice or practice as advised, the officer shall issue the grower a written notice stating the breach in good cane husbandry practice committed. A copy of such notice shall be submitted to the Chairman of the local committee at the mill comprising of miller and grower representative.

The committee may take any measure it considers appropriate which it believes will lead to the grower rectifying the breach. Where the committee considers the breach(es) to be significant or the breach is persistent and is likely to eventually jeopardize sustainable cane production and supply to the mill, the committee shall report to the Sugar Board with recommendation for Board's intervention under the Sugar Industry Regulations as the Board might consider fit.

- The Board may appoint an inspector to inspect the field and any records relating to the field and on the basis of the inspection's finding the Board shall institute either of the following actions:
  - Serve the grower with a warning / notice of default / violation of registration conditions under the Sugar Industry Regulations and avail him further opportunity to rectify the faulty, or,
  - Proceed to institute the process to deregistration of the cane grower in which event the grower shall not, under the law be allowed to cultivate and or sale sugar cane to the mill or,

- File a case in the court against the grower for breaching provisions of the Sugar Industry Regulations made under the Sugar Industry Act, seeking for orders to compel the grower to rectify the breach, fine the grower or for such/ other as the court might deem appropriate.
- Apply to the crop protection unit of the Ministry for orders to destroy the crop.

**NB: Shaded sections shows aspects of guidelines recommended for regulation**