

	Republic of Panamá Ministry of Agricultural Development National Directorate of Plant Health Obligations of National Reports CIPF PAN-DNSV-06: Organizational arrangement for phytosanitary protection	Validity : 2018-02-20 Version : 2 Page : 2 de 2 Approved : Nacional Director / Focal Point

NATIONAL DIRECTION OF PLANT HEALTH

LEGAL BASE:

- Ley No. 12 del 25 de enero de 1973.
Por la cual se crea el Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario y se señalan sus funciones y facultades.
- Ley No. 47 del 9 de julio de 1996.
Por la cual se dictan Medidas de Protección Fitosanitarias y se adoptan otras disposiciones. Organización de la Dirección Nacional de Sanidad Vegetal.
- Ley No. 48 de 08 de agosto 2002.
Por la cual se Crea de la Comisión Nacional de Bioseguridad para los Organismos Genéticamente Modificados.
- Ley No. 72 de 26 de diciembre 2001.
Por la cual se aprueba el Protocolo de Cartagena sobre la seguridad de la Biotecnología del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica.
- Decreto Ejecutivo No. 364 de 31 de agosto de 2005.
Por el cual se reorganiza la Estructura Orgánica y Funcional del Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario.

VISION:

A National Direction of Plant Health, who operates sustainably with producers and other entities of the private sector, incorporated in the implementation of actions with an updated legal basis, performing the actions in a efficient and transparent way; thus achieving biosecurity of Panamá agricultural heritage and environmental protection. Similarly, a national system with operating plant information and whose information is internationally recognized. Finally, a Plant Health who supports national production, helping to reduce poverty in rural areas of the country.

MISION:

Contribute to make our agriculture more competitive both internally and externally, through the implementation of Rules and technical-scientific procedures, legal, clear and consonant with international Rules; certifying the phytosanitary situation in the country; Ensuring farmers the rational use of pesticides and fertilizer quality; making reliable and timely diagnosis. Contribute to the development of an agriculture that produces safe food, preserving the environment. Finally protect the national heritage and ensure agricultural exports within the framework of established rules and WTO rules and agreements inherent in the phytosanitary area.

OBJETIVE:

To prevention and control, in an integrated manner, plant protection problems and achieve the phytosanitary quality of plants and plant products in the production process, grading, packing, storage and transportation, as well as prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of plant pests and plant products in the territory of the Republic of Panama, as well as establish the proper use of plant protection inputs.

FUNCTIONS:

- Monitor, diagnose and establish prevention measures, control, eradication of pests and plant quarantine as well as develop campaigns to address phytosanitary emergencies.
- Propose to the Minister the fees for phytosanitary services provided by the Directorate.
- Regulate the registration, control, transportation, handling, application of inputs and phytosanitary equipment, excepting pesticides.
- Regulate, organize and supervise the activities and national phytosanitary services of standardization and regulations, certification bodies, verification units and testing laboratories in the field of plant health, and their accreditation.
- Propose to the Minister the formulation or the adherence to the conventions, agreements and treaties, national and international, which are relevant to the country in accordance to plant health.
- Regulate diagnostic methodologies and pest control to be established, within the scope of its jurisdiction and monitor compliance.
- Regulate quality control of pesticides and fertilizers, as well as maximum residue limits.
- To permanently develop and implement training programs and technical update on plant health.
- To promote and coordinate the plan of action of pest management and monitor the effectiveness of the methodologies used to it.
- To declare free or low pest prevalence areas, according to international plant protection measures, harmonized and scientifically accepted.
- Run the national emergency mechanisms in plant health.
- To attend complaints and impose sanctions for violation of this law.
- Establish measures of phytosanitary inspection and certification of import, export, re-export and transit as well as issue the phytosanitary certificates.

- Establish surveillance and phytosanitary control at laboratories of sexual and asexual reproduction of plants, post-entry quarantine, seed, nursery, greenhouse, plant germplasm, seed production field or other reproductive material.
- Authorize persons, natural or juridical, to certify organic production programs and other similar methods of plant protection; execute phytosanitary diagnostic activities, perform quality analysis of phytosanitary inputs used in agriculture and analysis of residues of these substances; issuing phytosanitary certificates or conducting any other activity required in the field of plant protection.
- Manage the resources of the Directorate in order to maintain quality, retention and performance of the services to be provided.
- Report to international and national agencies of changes in the rules, regulations and procedures in this area.
- Other assigned duties.

UNIT:

The National Plant Protection depends on the Minister's Office.

DEPARTMENTALIZATION:

For the performance of its functions, The National Directorate of Plant Protection has the following administrative units:

National Directorate

National Sub directorate

- 1. Rules and Regulations Unit.**
- 2. Plant Education Unit.**
- 3. Agrochemicals Department**
 - a) Registration Section.
 - b) Control Section.
- 4. Phytosanitary Certification Department of Agricultural Exports**
 - a) Agricultural Exports.
 - b) Food Safety Section.
 - c) Organic Agriculture.
- 5. Phytosanitary Surveillance Department**
 - a) Pest Risk Analysis Section (ARP) and Phytosanitary Requirements Section.
 - b) Regulated pests Section.
 - c) Nurseries and Internal Mobilization Section.
- 6. Department of Traceability**
- 7. Department of Coordination of Technical Services of Chemical Analysis**
 - a) Laboratory of Quality Control of Pesticides and Fertilizers
 - b) Laboratory for the Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Plants and Vegetable Products
- 8. Department of Coordination of Technical Services of Detection and Phytosanitary Diagnosis**
 - a) National Laboratory and Phytosanitary Reference center (Tapia-Tocumen).
 - b) Regional Phyto-Diagnostics Laboratory (Divisa).
 - c) Regional Phyto-Diagnostics Laboratory (David).

RELATIONS:

The National Direction of Plant Protection maintains relations with all Directorates, National Offices, Regional Offices, national and international organizations and institutions that compose the public agricultural sector.

RULES AND REGULATION UNIT

FUNCTIONS:

- Prepare the annual work program and the budget that corresponds to the activities of phytosanitary norms and regulations..
- Assist in the technical and administrative processes for the preparation and approval of national phytosanitary regulations in accordance with international phytosanitary Rules.
- Ensure and guide actions so that the phytosanitary legislation is based on the principles established in the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and other treaties (NAFTA) and agreements signed by the country.
- Contribute to and carrying out training and outreach to public and private entities, for better understanding and scope of phytosanitary regulations.
- Contribute to the analysis of current phytosanitary regulations in order to determine their conformity.
- To advise the National Plant Health Direction and other technical departments, in relation to the scope and impact on the agricultural economy of our country of phytosanitary Rules adopted internationally and nationally.
- Assist in the review process and analysis of the international phytosanitary legislation, which has been proposed and is being revised at the level of the International Plant Protection Convention.
- Propose to the National Direction of Plant Protection, the development of new phytosanitary regulations that as a nation can be presented at an international level for review.
- Assist in the formulation of relevant documentation, reports, memory aids and other reports as required.
- Structure the corresponding database.
- Other assigned duties.

UNIT:

The Rules and Regulations Unit depends on the National Directorate of Plant Protection.

RELATIONS:

The Rules and Regulations Unit maintains relations with all departments, employees of the National Directorate of Plant Protection, Regional Executive Directions, national and international bodies and institutions that make up the Public and Private Agricultural Sector administrative units.

PLANT EDUCATION UNIT

FUNCTIONS:

- Prepare the annual work program and the budget that corresponds to the activities coordination in terms of education, communication and disclosure; taking into account the technical staff at the regional and national levels, heads of departments, regional coordinators and National Plant Health Director.
- Coordinate and design a training program in the technical fields of the National Directorate of Plant Protection, based on technical needs in order to strengthen and update their knowledge of plant health, such as to ensure better service for the user.
- Coordinate, design, manage and ensure the training material and / or disclosure (posters, brochures, manuals, newsletters and others), to keep producers informed, technical personnel, National and Regional Offices, national and international organizations on the latest developments or events relating to plant health.
- Coordinate training and outreach events with national and international organizations to be celebrated with the National Directorate of Plant Protection.
- Prepare periodic reports on phytosanitary education activities carried out in the Unit at the request of the National Director.
- Organizing the Direction participation in fairs and others.
- To organize and ensure the functioning of the Library of the National Direction of Plant Protection.
- Other related duties as assigned.

UNIT:

The Plant Education Unit depends on the National Directorate of Plant Protection.

RELATIONS:

The Plant Education Unit maintains relations with all departments, employees of the National Directorate of Plant Protection, Regional Executive Directions, national and international bodies and institutions that make up the Public and Private Agricultural Sector administrative units.

AGROCHEMICALS DEPARTMENT

FUNCTIONS:

- Comply and ensure compliance with the established in the Law No. 47 of July 9, 1996, with emphasis on the relation to regulation, rules, registration, quality control, import, distribution, trade, application, use, handling and proper disposal of phytosanitary inputs as well as guidance on their biological effectiveness, which will contribute to environmental protection, health and our plant heritage.
- Propose to the National Direction of Plant Protection the rates or fees for services provided by the Department, in order to be included in the periodic review of the statute regulating the matter. It should take into account their impact on unit costs and products for their competitiveness in the domestic and international markets.
- Develop and submit for approval of the National Direction of Plant Protection, plans, programs, projects, budgets, regulations, manuals, procedures and instructions aimed at implementing the law on phytosanitary inputs. The needs of national and international training of national and regional staff with the aim of providing quality service are included.
- Propose to the National Direction of Plant Protection, signature or accession of the Ministry of Agricultural Development to conventions, agreements, treaties, national and international, related to phytosanitary inputs and environmental protection and health.
- Addressing complaints and denunciations related to the use, handling, application and disposal of plant protection inadequate inputs and propose appropriate sanctions for the violation of legislation on the subject.
- Provide all the information and support that is required promptly to the attention of phytosanitary emergency arising.
- Propose to the National Direction of Plant Health with the support and coordination of the Technical Working Group on Pesticides (GTTP) and the Technical Committee of Pesticides, Technical Matters, additives and fertilizers for use in agriculture (COTEPa), among others, proven scientific - restriction, prohibition, repeal, import, manufacture, assembly, formulation, repackaging, repacking, storage, mixing and use of plant materials for use in agriculture, when justified by technical reasons.
- Coordinate and support actions aimed at checking and monitoring maximum pesticide residue limits established in plant products for human and animal consumption.
- Prepare and submit to the approval of the National Direction of Plant Health the regulations that regulate the certification of phytosanitary inputs as well as processes, methods, facilities, services and related activities, comply with the provisions of Law No. 47, their regulations and other corresponding phytosanitary norms. Control actions are included through the control of formulating companies, packaging companies, distributors, and retail outlets, among others, related to agrochemicals.
- To advise the National Plant Health Directorate, its departments, like the rest of the technical and administrative units of the MIDA, and other ministries, NGOs, general public, government institutions for policy decisions, legislation, activities actions, consultations in the field of agrochemicals and related substances for agricultural use in the country.
- Perform the registration, evaluation and business records of the products used in agriculture in Panama. Similarly, their renewals, marginal notes, certificates of registration and free sale.
- Keep a record of the companies engaged in agricultural activities related to crop protection chemicals and other inputs related to in the country.

- Keep a record and control of signatures, stamps and certificates of suitability of the professionals responsible for records of chemicals and other substances used in agriculture in Panama. This includes only Agricultural Engineers and lawyers.
- Develop and implement training programs for all entities related to the use, manufacture, registration and marketing of phytosanitary inputs commonly used in Panamanian agriculture. To this end it may coordinate its action with other agencies of the MIDA, ministries and other entities, including the private sector.
- Carry out post-registration check, so that compliance with the approved by the respective process is corroborated. Similarly, verify that the information provided to consumers by various means, meets the purpose of proper guidance, be truthful and objective.
- Develop and make available information related to the registration, importation, distribution, marketing, restriction, prohibition, application, use, handling and proper disposal of plant protection inputs.
- Develop and submit for consideration of the National Direction of Plant Protection for review and approval by the Directorate General of Standards and Industrial Technology (DGNTI) of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MITI), related rules agrochemicals, own its competence and ensure compliance.
- Coordinate, evaluate, supervise and maintain a record of the use of phytosanitary supplies in quarantine activities.
- Implement and support other actions and responsibilities as assigned.

UNIT:

The Agrochemicals Department depends on the National Directorate of Plant Protection.

DEPARTMENTALIZATION:

To fulfill its functions, the Department will have these Agrochemicals Sections: Section Records and Control Section. The sampling unit within the control section is included.

RELATIONS:

The Agrochemical Departments maintains relations with all departments, employees of the National Directorate of Plant Protection, Regional Executive Directions, national and international bodies and institutions that make up the Public and Private Agricultural Sector administrative units.

REGISTRATION SECTION

FUNCTIONS:

- Carry out the inscriptions, agro-chemical-ecotoxicological evaluations of applications for commercial records of agrochemicals for use in agriculture in Panama. Similarly, its renewals, marginal annotations, registration certifications and free sale.
- Maintain a registry and control of the signatures, seals and certificates of suitability of the professionals responsible for the records of agrochemicals and other substances of use in agriculture in Panama. This includes agronomists and lawyers only.
- Prepare and execute training actions for all entities related to the registration of phytosanitary supplies for general use in Panamanian agriculture.
- Prepare and make available, information related to the registration, importation, restriction, prohibition, among others, of phytosanitary supplies.
- Exercise the Secretariat of the Technical Working Group on Pesticides (GTTP) and the Technical Commission of Pesticides, Technical Matters, Additives and Fertilizers for use in Agriculture. (COTEPA)
- Participate in the coordination meetings for the regulation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) or others convened.
- Execute and support other actions and responsibilities that are assigned.
- Other related functions that are assigned.

CONTROL SECTION

FUNCTIONS:

- Prepare and enforce the rules on control of phytosanitary inputs.
- Prepare, submit to the approval of the head of the department, supervise, coordinate and ensure compliance with plans, programs, projects, budgets, regulations, procedures manuals and instructions for compliance with current legislation on control of phytosanitary inputs. The national and international training needs of national and regional personnel are included in order to provide a quality service.
- Ensure and certify that the phytosanitary supplies as well as the processes, methods, facilities, services and related activities comply with the provisions of Law No. 47, its regulations and other corresponding phytosanitary norms. Control actions are included through the control of formulating companies, packaging companies, distributors, and retail outlets, among others, related to agrochemicals.

- Perform post-registration verification actions, in order to corroborate the compliance of the approved in the respective process. Similarly, verify that the information provided to the consumer, by the various means, fulfills the purpose of due guidance, be truthful and objective.
- Verify that natural or legal persons that use pesticides in agriculture have adequate mechanisms for the disposal of remnants, waste and packaging.
- Supervise the use of pesticide application equipment.
- Maintain a register of companies engaged in activities related to agrochemicals and other phytosanitary inputs related to agricultural use in the country.
- Address complaints and complaints related to the use, management, application and inadequate disposal of phytosanitary supplies and propose the corresponding sanctions for the violation of current legislation on the subject.
- Verify and control the quality of registered pesticides as well as the maximum residue limits established for plant products for human and animal consumption.
- Develop training actions on issues related to the use, management and adequate disposal of phytosanitary supplies directed to state and private technical personnel, students of agricultural colleges, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, producers, manipulators, applicators and others. For this purpose, it will rely on agreements with companies or private associations such as ANDIA.
- Provide support, monitoring and regulation to all activities developed by banana companies related to the use of agrochemicals.
- Other related functions that are assigned.

AGRO EXPORT PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION DEPARTMENT

FUNCTIONS:

- Develop and enforce phytosanitary regulations relating to exports, food safety and organic farming.
- Develop and enforce respective procedures manuals.
- Issue the corresponding phytosanitary certificates and others that are required, based on the requirements of the import markets.
- Register the entities involved in the export process of both conventional and organic products; such as producers, certifiers, traders, packers and others.
- Contribute to the review and updating of regulations and phytosanitary rules inherent to the export and ensure their equivalence with respect to other international standards.
- Represent the National Direction of Plant Protection in commissions and working meetings related to this issue.
- Implement and enforce export protocols and other agreements to be endorsed by the country in this area.
- Other related duties as assigned.

UNIT:

The Agro Export Certification Department depends on the National Directorate of Plant Protection.

DEPARTMENTALIZATION:

The Agro Export Certification Department, to fulfill its functions, has the following programs:

- Agricultural Exports Section
- Food Safety Section
- Organic Agriculture Section

RELATIONS:

The Agro Export Certification Department maintains relations with all departments, employees of the National Directorate of Plant Protection, Regional Executive Directions, national and international bodies and institutions that make up the Public and Private Agricultural Sector administrative units.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS SECTION

FUNCTIONS

- Elaborate and keep updated the norms for the phytosanitary measures of export of plants and traditional and non-traditional export vegetable products.
- Comply and enforce the regulations and procedures manual for the issuance of the phytosanitary export certificate and monitor and update the phytosanitary export regulations.
- Maintain a registry of the operators of the export process of vegetable product in order to keep an effective control.
- Perform the inspections to issue the proof of treatment of plant products for export where necessary and issue the phytosanitary export certificate
- Control the objectivity and effectiveness of the process for issuing the phytosanitary export certificate.
- Prepare and administer the database on exports that take place in the country.
- Represent the National Directorate of Plant Health in the commissions and work meetings related to this topic.
- Other related functions that are assigned.

FOOD SAFETY SECTION

FUNCTIONS

- Elaborate and keep updated the norms for the good agricultural practices and good practices of manufacturing of fresh products of export.
- Comply and enforce the regulations and procedures manual for good agricultural practices and good manufacturing practices for exported vegetable products.
- Review and update the standards of good agricultural practices and good manufacturing practices.
- Maintain a registry of the operators of the export process of vegetable product according to whether or not they comply with the BPA and BPM norms.
- Represent the National Directorate of Plant Health in the commissions and work meetings related to this topic.
- Other related functions that are assigned.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE SECTION

FUNCTIONS

- Elaborate the norms for the operators of the organic agriculture of the country.
- Supervise compliance with organic farming regulations.
- Maintain a registry of certification bodies, producers, processors, marketers and inspectors of organic agriculture.
- Issue the respective registration certificates.
- Control the objectivity and effectiveness of the certification bodies registered in relation to the operation of the certification system and the quality of each certifier.
- Update and manage the database of organic agriculture and provide information necessary to support the development of the item in the country.
- Periodically review the regulations for organic agriculture in the country and update it if necessary, so that it remains harmonized with internationally accepted regulations.
- Examine and resolve appeals, complaints and challenges of the instances registered in the registry and of others that so require.
- Withdraw the registry to offenders and apply sanctions.
- Notify, if required, the respective or affected instances about any infraction or irregularity found in the control process of the certifiers and the organic operators of the country.
- Process agreements of homologation of the national system of registration and control of organic agriculture before foreign governments.
- Apply and enforce the agreements signed with other governments in terms of control procedures and regulations of organic agriculture.
- Prepare and update the records of substances or inputs used in organic agriculture and the guidelines for regulating them.
- Represent the National Directorate of Plant Health in the commissions and work meetings related to organic agriculture.
- Other related functions that are assigned.

PHYTOSANITARY SURVEILLANCE AND PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

FUNCTIONS:

- Organize a system for the collection, compilation and verification of phytosanitary information dispersed in the institutions of the agricultural sector and educational institutions.
- Carry out surveys of detection, verification or delimitation in order to warn about the presence of pests in the national territory.
- Provide phytosanitary information for use in pest risk analysis, establishment of pest-free areas and preparation of lists of regulated pests.
- Prepare, interpret and distribute periodic reports of phytosanitary information collected at the national level.
- Organize and coordinate the Phytosanitary Emergency System assigned to the National Directorate of Plant Health, as well as the contingency plans to eradicate or control newly introduced regulated pests.
- Carry out pest risk analyzes for regulated articles and develop phytosanitary requirements for importation.
- Establish the official registry, supervise and coordinate the periodic inspections of areas of plant propagation (nurseries, greenhouses, cultivation houses and others) and the phytosanitary certification for its commercialization.
- Assist the National Directorate in the phytosanitary aspects of the bilateral negotiations with the commercial partners.
- Certify the phytosanitary situation of the plants produced in nurseries and regulate the internal mobilization of plants, their products and by-products when they represent a risk for agricultural activity.
- Other related functions that are assigned.

UNIT:

The Phytosanitary Surveillance Department depends on the National Directorate of Plant Protection.

DEPARTAMENTALIZATION:

Phytosanitary Surveillance Department to fulfill its functions has the following programs:

- Pest Risk Analysis Section (ARP) Section and Phytosanitary Requirements,
- Regulated Pest Section.
- Nurseries Section and Internal Mobilization

RELATIONS:

The Phytosanitary Surveillance Department maintains relations with all departments, employees of the National Directorate of Plant Protection, Regional Executive Directions, national and international bodies and institutions that make up the Public and Private Agricultural Sector administrative units.

PEST RISK ANALYSIS SECTION (PRA) AND PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS

FUNCTIONS

- Keep the list of regulated pests in Panama updated.
- Prepare pest risk analysis (ARPs) for products and by-products of vegetable origin for introduction or transit through the country.
- Prepare report of results on the studies that are carried out in terms of pest risk analysis for pests of quarantine interest.
- Collect scientific information to respond to the ARPs made by other countries of national plant products as support for exports.
- Attend and process the applications corresponding to phytosanitary requirements for the importation of products and by-products of vegetable origin.
- Prepare and communicate the phytosanitary requirements for the import of products and by-products of plant origin according to the ARPs or the changes in the phytosanitary situation of the exporting countries.
- Follow up the process of communication and exchange of information with the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) and the different Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs).
- Maintain updated specialized records and databases, which are available internationally.
- Conduct consultation and coordination meetings with the National Pest Risk Analysis Commission (Ministerial Resolution No. ALP-053-ADM-97 of August 6, 1997).
- Review and attend technical consultations related to national and international phytosanitary norms.
- Formulate proposals for national standards and regulations related to the application of phytosanitary measures.
- Participate in technical meetings at national and international level, in which topics related to the implementation of pest risk analysis and application of phytosanitary measures are discussed.
- Prepare and prepare recommendations pertinent to external quarantine regulations, mainly regulations for the introduction of plant material (pest risk analysis, (Pre-inspection at source and additional declarations).
- Establish mechanisms for the exchange of technical and scientific information with educational institutions, research centers and expert professionals as part of the general surveillance.
- Other related functions that are assigned.

REGULATED PESTS SECTIONS

FUNCTIONS

- Prepare and carry out training programs aimed at national and regional technical staff.
- Prepare informative material for the training of the technical staff of the regional plant health coordinators and extension agents of the agencies.
- Maintain a national phytosanitary map with the zoning of the relevant pests or of greater economic importance.
- Support with resources the surveillance actions in the field of pests recently introduced to the country.
- Carry out supervisions and visits to areas where phytosanitary problems have been reported.
- Evaluate scientifically the situation of a pest in the country, including its distribution, based on previous records and relevant reports.
- Prepare the legal measures for the official control of pests to establish the phytosanitary measures of their containment.
- Maintain contacts with international cooperation institutions to keep up to date with changes in phytosanitary regulations and measures worldwide.
- Other related functions that are assigned.

NURSERIES AND INTERNAL MOBILIZATION SECTION

FUNCTIONS

- Direct and guide the execution of the work plans of the work programs that are the responsibility of the execution and that are executed in the regional directorates, involving the extension service, the regional coordinators of plant health, agriculture and seed, in addition to other sections of other departments of the Directorate.
- Execute, at the regional level, the phytosanitary policy related to the Section and which is guided by the department's head and the Directorate.
- Prepare and execute training and dissemination actions with the support of specialized extension and training units aimed at technicians, companies, cooperatives, associations.
- Elaborate the norms, regulations, requirements and procedures that as a legal basis guide the execution of the work plans and the activities of the programs of the section, at all levels. Coordination with the Department of Phytosanitary Diagnostics is important.

- Coordinate with other departmental units and serve as a counterpart with ONGs/OGs in the planning and execution of work plans and activities related to the section that are compatible with the work and functions performed. It is necessary to involve the private sector in it.
- Collaborate with other units of the management, especially quarantine and surveillance to the execution of activities in the analysis of information and other sections.
- Support the sampling of citrus plants, for the certification of nurseries and vegetative material.
- Register and certify the nurseries established at the national level, with the information received from the regional nurseries and the results of the laboratory analyzes.
- Supervise in conjunction with the Plant Health Coordinator, the use of yellow ribbons for the sale of citrus seedlings.
- Supervise in conjunction with the Executive Directorate of Agricultural Quarantine, the movement of propagation materials, in the control posts.
- Disseminate radio messages to producers, allusive to the use of certified material.
- Reproduce and distribute headbands, mobilization licenses, phytosanitary certification at the request of the regional coordinators, for certification of citrus seedlings requested by the producers or nurserymen.
- Recommend phytosanitary actions in citrus nurseries, based on the results of the laboratory analysis of the National Direction of Plant Health.
- Other related functions that are assigned to you

TRACEABILITY DEPARTMENT

FUNCTIONS

- Maintain an updated official phytosanitary information system on technology, control and monitoring during the development of the crops included in the phytosanitary traceability program.
- Support the National Directorate of Plant Health, as appropriate, in the fulfillment of its responsibilities within the area of its competence.
- Maintain close coordination with the different administrative units that make up the corresponding National Directorate and other external sources of information related to traceability.
- Establish and monitor compliance with the operational technical guidelines on which the implementation of the Vegetable Health Traceability Program should be based.
- Establish, register and operate the Single Agricultural Registry (RUA) from which information related to agricultural operations will be obtained.
- Apply and register the use of an official identification system as a tool to increase the effectiveness of the management of outbreaks of disease and / or pests and incidents related to the sanitary safety of foods of plant origin.
- Register and control the movements of plants or vegetables, strengthening the surveillance, control and eradication of diseases and pests in crops.
- Register and control the means of transport used for the movement of plants, or vegetables, destined between sanitary zones, fairs and processing plants that allow obtaining information on the origin and destination of the plants, items and seeds, as well as compliance with standards and regulations on humane treatment and biosecurity measures.
- Prepare and execute a training and dissemination plan on phytosanitary traceability for technicians working in the traceability program.
- Provide information and prepare the technical reports required by the National Plant Health Directorate, as the case may be, for the issuance of certifications.
- Other related functions that are assigned.

DEPENDENCE:

The Department of Phytosanitary Surveillance depends on the National Directorate of Plant Health.

RELATIONS:

The Standards and Regulations Unit maintains relations with all the Departments, administrative units dependent on the National Plant Health Directorate, Regional Executive Offices, National and International Organizations and institutions that make up the Public and Private Agricultural Sector.

DEPARTMENT OF COORDINATION OF TECHNICAL SERVICES OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

FUNCTIONS:

- Coordinate and manage scientifically and technically the Control and Quality Assurance and the Laboratory of Pesticides and Fertilizers and the Laboratory for Pesticide Residue Analysis.
- Develop and submit for approval by the National Directorate of Plant Protection, plans, programs, projects, budgets, regulations, manuals, procedures and instructions aimed at implementing the legislation on pesticides and plant quality. The needs of national and international training of national and regional staff, with the aim of providing quality service, are included.
- To promote and develop the assurance the analytical quality of the tests through investments in the last technology and/or new generation technology to ensure the security benefits, credibility, verification and sustainability of results, according to established standards and General mandatory, safety, labor protection and risk mitigation.
- Make requisitions or requests to purchase services and supplies that require the Laboratory of Pesticides and Fertilizers and the Laboratory for Pesticide Residue Analysis.
- Coordinate the preventive maintenance for the calibration and optimization of the analytical instrumentation of the laboratories.
- Implement and support other actions and responsibilities as assigned.

UNIT:

The Coordination of Technical Services of Chemical Analysis depends on the National Directorate of Plant Protection.

DEPARTMENTALIZATION:

To fulfill its duties, The Coordination Technical Services of Chemical Analysis will feature these laboratories:

- Laboratory of Quality Control of Pesticides and Fertilizers
- Laboratory for the Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Plants and Vegetable Products

RELATIONS:

The Coordination of Technical Services of Chemical Analysis may maintain relations with all technical-administrative units that compose the National Directorate of Plant Protection, National Directorates and Regional Executive of the Ministry of Agriculture as with the other institutions of the Public and Private Sector Agricultural and non-agricultural sector.

LABORATORY OF QUALITY CONTROL OF PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS

FUNCTIONS

- Perform quality control of chemical pesticide formulations, with guaranteed results, to improve the capacity of producers in the current market, minimizing the risk of possible contamination of the formulas, for plant, environmental and human protection.
- Determine the content of formulations containing phenolic, uranic, triazine and pyridyl herbicides, fungicides EBDCs, organophosphorus insecticides and carbamates and other pesticides.
- Other related functions that are assigned to you

LABORATORY FOR THE ANALYSIS OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN PLANTS AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTS

FUNCTIONS

- Control the safety of crops and plant products related to chemical pesticide residues, guaranteeing results, improving the competence of Panamanian producers in the international market, minimizing the risk of possible contamination of agricultural products, and protecting the plant and environmental heritage and the health of the human being.
- Analysis of pesticide residues by conventional techniques (Gas-Liquid Chromatography, High Efficiency Liquid Chromatography, Post Column derivatization, Gel Permeation Chromatography, UV-Visible Molecular Absorption Spectrophotometry):
 - Analysis of organochlorine pesticide residues in plants and plant products.
 - Analysis of organophosphorus pesticide residues in plants and plant products.
 - Analysis of carbamate pesticide residues in plants and plant products.
 - Analysis of nitrogen waste in plants and plant products.
 - Analysis of pesticide residues in crops of export crops.
 - Training in pesticide residue analysis techniques in plant matrix.
 - Training in sampling techniques of plants and plant products.
- Other related functions that are assigned to you

**DEPARTMENT OF COORDINATION OF TECHNICAL SERVICES OF DETECTION AND
PHYTOSANITARY DIAGNOSIS**

FUNCTIONS:

- Implement diagnostic techniques and protocols for the identification of causal agents of damage to plant organisms (plants) through procedures and methods of sampling and processing of the affected plant material, soil, insects and other vectors of transmission of pathogenic agents analysis.
- Create and organize all Plant reference collections that are required to reference, corroborate and support the detection and diagnosis of opinions issued by the laboratories of the National Phytosanitary Diagnostic Laboratory.
- Establish technical standards for operating areas and ensuring conditions in greenhouses and "bioassay" to test the pathogenicity of an isolate obtained from samples arrive at the laboratory via Quarantine stations or samples obtained in the Regional Executive addresses.
- Establish mechanisms technician - administrative for coordinating and supervising the national laboratory system phytosanitary diagnostics nationally and inter-agency coordination with other laboratories inside and outside the industry, and support activities to the diagnostic investigation.
- Develop and monitor the Annual Work Plan (PAT) and the programming budget (operating and investment) of the Coordination of Technical Services in Plant Detection in close coordination with the planning and programming unit of the National Directorate.
- Analyze, review and support in coordination with the Departments of the Directorate action plans prepared in case of an emergency plant, through the appropriate sections of each department.
- Guide and review strategies for control and prevention of epidemic plagues (endemic or exotic) that are made in sections of the Departments of the Directorate.
- Advise on any phytosanitary emergency, in conjunction with the Departments of Management.
- Coordinate with the Directorate and the Departments, national and international programs for diagnosis, surveillance, prevention and control.
- Participate in the analysis phase and consolidation of the information captured in the database periodically, provided by the different sections at the national level, while maintaining information exchange with national and international entities.
- Participate and collaborate in the area of competence in the programs of the Regional Offices and other dependencies of the National Directorate of Plant Protection.
- Provide timely the most recent phytosanitary data to National (Research, Transfer) and International (Bilateral Agreements, Plant Protection Organizations, Trade Agreements, etc.) levels, around the Taxonomy and Pest and Disease Diagnosis of emerging economic importance or not emerging.
- Review, consolidate and ensure compliance with the standards and phytosanitary requirements, as well as the required procedures related to plant protection in the country.
- Contribute to the development and ensure compliance with the relevant laws of both the Technical Services Coordination detection and diagnosis and the National Directorate of Plant Protection.
- Review, analyze, approve and submit profiles and projects relating to actions carried out by the Coordination of Technical Services in Plant Detection and Diagnosis and analytical areas that comprise it.
- Collaborate in the elaboration of the rules of procedure for accreditation of natural or legal persons that provide plant protection in particular in coordination with the Departments of Management.

- Other duties as assigned by the National Directorate.

UNIT:

The Coordination of Technical Services of Detection and Phytosanitary Diagnosis depend on the National Directorate of Plant Protection.

DEPARTMENTALIZATION:

To fulfill its duties, The Coordination of Technical Services of Detection and Phytosanitary Diagnosis will feature these laboratories and the following technical areas:

- **National Laboratory and Phytosanitary Reference center (Tapia-Tocumen).**
 - Laboratory Coordination
 - Sample Reception Area
 - Bacteriology Analytical Area
 - Mycology Analytical Area
 - Virology Analytical Area
 - Entomology Analytical Area
 - Nematology Analytical Area
 - Malacology Analytical Area
 - Molecular Biology Support Area
 - Auxiliary and supporting areas (Greenhouse washing and sterilization)
- **Regional Phyto-Diagnostics Laboratory (Divisa).**
 - Plant Patology Analytical Area
 - Entomology Analytical Area
 - Mycology Analytical Area
 - Bacteriology Analytical Area
 - Nematology Analytical Area
- **Regional Phyto-Diagnostics Laboratory (David).**
 - Mycology Analytical Area
 - Virology Analytical Area
 - Entomology Analytical Area
 - Nematology Analytical Area

RELATIONS:

The Coordination of Technical Services of Detection and Phytosanitary Diagnosis may maintain relations with all technical-administrative units that compose the National Directorate of Plant Protection, National Directorates and Regional Executive of the Ministry of Agriculture as with the other institutions of the Public and Private Sector Agricultural and non-agricultural sector.