

# **SUGAR INDUSTRY AUTHORITY**

## **CANE FARMERS' REGISTRATION PROGRAMME**

The Sugar Industry Authority registers cane farmers consistent with its mandate under Part VI (Cane Farmers Registration, Licences and Prices) of the Sugar Industry Control Act. It states, *inter alia*, in subsection 27 (1) “**No manufacturer shall purchase canes from, or accept canes delivered by, a cane farmer and no cane farmer shall sell or deliver canes to a manufacturer, unless the cane farmer is registered in respect of the factory of the manufacturer for the supply of cane thereto.**”

Subsection 28(1) states “**Every cane farmer desirous of supplying sugar canes to a factory, shall apply to the Authority to be registered under the Act in respect of such factory and every such application shall set out:-**

- (a) the factory to which the cane farmer proposes to deliver his/her sugar canes.
- (b) the area of land which the farmer has under cultivation, or the area of land which he /she proposes to cultivate in sugar cane.

**An individual who is desirous of becoming a cane farmer should take the following steps:**

He/she goes to the factory to which he/she proposes to deliver canes and speak with any of the following:

- (a) Factory personnel such as the Cane Farmers' Representative / Manager or Liaison Officer.
- (b) SIRI Area Agronomist or Extension Officer
- (c) AIJCFA Area Officer

This person will advise on how to proceed.

The standard procedure is that a factory representative along with the SIRI agronomist visits the farm with the applicant who provides them with all relevant information, particularly those relating to land tenure. The officers peruse the documents and assess the suitability of the land for cultivating sugar cane. If these are satisfactory the individual fills out an application form (popularly known as a FORM V).

This form shows:

- (a) Name of applicant
- (b) Address of applicant
- © Factory to which he/she wishes to be registered
- (d) Distance of cultivation from factory
- (e) If he/she is supplying cane to any other factory
- (f) If he/she has been previously registered
- (g) If an application was previously made
- (h) Location of cultivation

- (i) Hectarage under cultivation
- (j) If land was previously in canes
- (k) If yes, who is the previous owner
- (l) Hectarage proposed to cultivate in yr. 1, yr. 2
- (m) Quantity of canes to be supplied in yr. 1, yr. 2
- (n) Signature of applicant
- (o) If applicant cannot sign/write then he /she put a mark(X) and this is witnessed on his/her Behalf
- (p) At the bottom of the form the cane farmers' representative recommends that the individual be registered.

When all the above is done, the completed form along with a letter from the factory stating that the factory is willing to accept this individual as a cane farmer, is sent to the SIA for action.

The officer on duty receives the application form in the Registry. It is stamped, dated and reviewed by officers in the Authority. The Statistical and Cane Farmer Registration Officer carries out a number of activities in relation to the application. These include:

- Ensuring that the application form is properly filled out
- Checking if the applicant is already registered.
  - If yes, the factory is informed and the applicant is asked to show his/her Registration Card. If it is lost new one is supplied with the individual's existing number.
  - If no, a number is assigned and a Registration Card is prepared. This card will become the farmer's Registration Certificate.

The card shows:

- The name and address of the farmer
- The name of the factory to which the farmer is registered
- His/her registration number
- The factory address
- The Chairman's/CEO's signature
- The date of registration

All this information is entered into a data base at the SIA. This new registration system was introduced in 2005 and saw all farmers being reregistered and being assigned numbers relating to the factories to which they deliver canes and the time that they were registered.

The officer prepares a Registration Card and multiple copies of the list of farmers who were registered. Copies are sent to the All Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association (AIJCFA) and to the relevant factory with appropriate form letters. A copy is retained by the SIA.

Upon receipt of the documents by the factory the Registration Card is signed by the Liaison Officer or Cane Farmers' Manager or Factory Manager and sent to the farmer. One of the two copies of the form letters sent, is signed and returned to the SIA. The individual is now a full fledged cane farmer with all the rights and privileges offered by the industry.

## SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

There are times when a farmer may be granted dual registration or a transfer. These are circumstances which are discussed and agreed on with the factories that are affected.

**Joint registration** may be granted at the farmer's request.

**Duplicate certificates** are issued if the original certificate is destroyed by fire, flood or other natural disaster.

Farmers who do not deliver canes for two consecutive years are classified as inactive and will need to be returned to the active list in order to commence delivering canes again.

**Note:** Factory numbers, also known as 'man numbers' which are issued by factories, are not SIA registration numbers and will not be utilized by the SIA in processing of loans or any other benefits to cane farmers.

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