



**Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers**  
**Official Translation Department**

**Agriculture Law**

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**NOTE:**

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



National Center for Archives & Records



## Agriculture Law

### Article 1

In this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

**Law:** Agriculture Law.

**Regulations:** Implementing Regulations of this Law.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture.

**Minister:** Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture.

**SFDA:** Saudi Food and Drug Authority

**Agricultural Sector:** The sector concerned with plant, animal, and living aquatic resources.

**Wildlife Organisms:** Any living or dead organism that is scientifically classified as an animal or plant, with the exception of humans and domesticated and tame organisms.

**Plant Resources:** All types of plants, fruits, crops, agricultural products, and the like, excluding those classified as wildlife organisms.

**Animal Resources:** All types of domesticated and tame animals, such as camels, horses, cows, sheep, birds, bees, and the like, excluding animals classified as wildlife organisms.

**Living Aquatic Resources:** All types of animals and plants that live in water, excluding plants and animals classified as wildlife organisms.

**Agricultural Sector Products:** Raw products of plant resources, excluding feed ready for consumption, as well as raw products of animal resources and living aquatic resources, including wildlife organisms.

**Production Inputs:** Fertilizers, soil conditioners, pesticides, and the like.

**Agricultural Services:** Services related to the agricultural sector, including extension services; marketing; organizing exhibitions, competitions, and events; certifying the safety of agricultural products and practices; quarantine; prevention and treatment; care and sheltering; transportation; and any other related services specified in the Regulations.

**Agricultural Practitioner:** A natural or legal person who engages in any agricultural activity or service.

**Agricultural Registration:** An official document issued by the Ministry that contains data and information related to the agricultural practitioner, the activity or service he engages in, and the location and area of said activity as well as any other relevant data and information.

**License:** A written authorization issued by the Ministry for engaging in an agricultural activity or for providing an agricultural service or certification.

**Agricultural Activity:** Activities related to the agricultural sector, including



farming, breeding, production, or fishing.

**Agricultural Facility:** Any facility related to the agricultural sector, including farms, nurseries, apiaries, product safety certification agencies, shops, warehouses, production projects, fishing ports, public markets, slaughterhouses, quarries, and any other facility specified in the Regulations.

**Veterinary Facility:** Any veterinary-related facility, including hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, laboratories, artificial insemination centers, animal supplies warehouses, and any other facility specified in the Regulations.

**Veterinary Preparations:** Vaccines; serums; medicines; viruses; or live, weakened, or killed microbes that are used in the treatment and protection of animals.

**Clubs:** Entities concerned with any of the agricultural sector resources, such as animal and bird clubs, as well as any other entity specified in the Regulations.

**Public Markets:** Sites where agricultural practitioners are permitted to wholesale agricultural sector products by auction or direct sale; this shall not include retail sale.

**Product Label:** An identification label that includes data and information relating to the source of the agricultural product and number of the agricultural registration or license, and the like.

**Service Provider:** Companies, institutions, societies, or individuals licensed by the Ministry to provide an agricultural service in accordance with this Law and its Regulations.

**Agricultural Certification:** An activity carried out by the Ministry or by an agricultural certification agency to certify that the agricultural sector products or practices conform to the requirements and standards set by the Ministry.

**Agricultural Certification Agency:** An agency licensed by the Ministry that specializes in agricultural certification.

**Certificate:** A document issued by the Ministry, service provider, or agricultural certification agency indicating the extent to which good agricultural practices, as well as agricultural activities, services, and products conform to the requirements and standards set by the Ministry.

**Good Agricultural Practices:** Product quality standards which include pre-sowing processes up to off-farm delivery of products.

**Biosecurity:** A set of preventive measures to be taken in agricultural facilities to limit the transmission of pathogens to or from such facilities.

**Organic Farming:** An agricultural technique that uses natural materials for food production.

**Organic Farming Activity:** The process of producing, manufacturing, marketing, importing, or exporting organic inputs or products.

**Organic Product:** A fresh or processed organic plant or animal product.



## **Article 2**

This Law aims to regulate, manage, protect, develop, and sustain the agricultural sector; contribute to food security and rural and social development; and regulate the agricultural sector activities, including production, importation, and exportation.

## **Article 3**

1. The Ministry shall issue the agricultural registration and licenses, as the case may be, for the following:
  - a) Agricultural activities.
  - b) Agricultural services.
  - c) Agricultural and veterinary facilities.
  - d) Quarantine centers and related services.
2. The Ministry shall issue the agricultural registration and grant approvals and certificates, as the case may be, for the following:
  - a) Importation and exportation of animal resources, living aquatic resources, plant resources, or production inputs.
  - b) Soundness of good agricultural practices and safety of agricultural sector products.
  - c) Agricultural clubs and societies, as well as exhibitions, auctions, competitions, and conferences upon coordination with the relevant agencies and in accordance with the statutory procedures.
3. The activities stated in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article may not be practiced without obtaining an agricultural registration, license, approval, or certificate, as the case may be.
4. The Regulations shall specify the rules and requirements for the issuance of registrations as well as the rules, requirements, and fees for the issuance of the licenses, approvals, and certificates referred to in this Article, as well as waivers thereto.

## **Article 4**

1. An agricultural sector product may not be circulated in the market or offered for sale without obtaining a product label issued by the Ministry or service provider.
2. The Ministry and the SFDA shall set the necessary requirements and standards for agricultural sector products.
3. The Ministry shall coordinate with relevant agencies to prevent the circulation or sale of any agricultural sector product in violation of paragraph (1) of this Article.
4. The Regulations shall specify the agricultural sector products on which a product label shall be placed, and shall determine the requirements and



standards therefor.

### **Article 5**

1. The Ministry or service provider, as the case may be, shall oversee, monitor, and inspect agricultural and veterinary facilities, and shall verify their compliance with this Law and its Regulations by obtaining documents and collecting samples therefrom.
2. The Ministry may coordinate with the competent agencies to take the measures necessary for carrying out the tasks stipulated in paragraph (1) of this Article.

### **Article 6**

The Ministry shall coordinate with the SFDA to:

1. issue the necessary approvals prior to the registration of veterinary preparations relating to animal and living aquatic resources;
2. issue the necessary approvals for the importation and exportation of agricultural sector pesticides;
3. register plant resources pesticides;
4. determine the requirements, rules, and standards for the use of veterinary preparations and pesticides relating to the agricultural sector;
5. regulate, monitor, and inspect the circulation of veterinary preparations in agricultural and veterinary facilities; and
6. regulate, monitor, and inspect the circulation of agricultural pesticides in agricultural facilities and sale outlets of the agricultural sector.

### **Article 7**

The Ministry shall, in coordination with the relevant agencies, determine the methods of treatment and safe disposal of:

1. agricultural waste;
2. veterinary medical waste; and
3. agricultural sector resources, products, or production inputs that are infected or suspected of being infected with diseases, epidemics, or pests.

The Ministry or service provider, as the case may be, may carry out the treatment and safe disposal of the wastes referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article for a fee, as specified in the Regulations.

The Ministry shall, in the event of disposing of any of the agricultural sector resources, products, or production inputs referred to in paragraph (3) of this Article, compensate the owner in accordance with the assessment and disbursement procedures specified in the Regulations.



### **Article 8**

The Minister shall, in the event of a crisis, emergency, disaster, or imminent danger that could harm the agricultural sector, humans, or public health, take the necessary procedures and measures to prevent the exacerbation thereof, in coordination with the relevant agencies.

### **Article 9**

The Ministry shall, in coordination with other entities, develop plans to promote the private sector's participation in agricultural activities and services, and shall provide the necessary information and data, in accordance with the objectives of the national policies and strategies related to the agricultural sector and as specified in the Regulations.

### **Article 10**

Agricultural services shall be provided by the Ministry or service providers in accordance with the provisions, rules, and requirements specified in the Regulations.

### **Article 11**

A service provider shall not assign any of the rights granted thereto under the license or dispose of the license without obtaining the Ministry's approval.

### **Article 12**

The Ministry shall regulate and manage plant resources and develop related natural resources; it shall also supervise, monitor, protect, and maintain such resources, and may, for this purpose, undertake the following:

1. Licensing plant resources activities.
2. Setting the requirements and specifications of plant resources' varieties and types, and the requirements for their registration, licensing, and circulation.
3. Licensing and overseeing shops for the circulation or sale of plant resources' varieties and types.
4. Prohibiting the circulation, cultivation, or transportation of any plant resources' variety or type, as specified in the Regulations.
5. Regulating the activity of good agricultural practices, designating agricultural certification agencies, and determining the requirements for obtaining a license or certificate.
6. Banning or restricting the cultivation of high water-consuming crops, taking into account the comparative advantage of provinces as designated by the Ministry.
7. Temporarily banning cultivation in areas suspected to be affected by pests, epidemics, or contaminants.
8. Conserving, documenting, and developing local breeds.



### Article 13

1. Without prejudice to the powers of other agencies prescribed by law, the Ministry shall regulate and supervise organic farming activities, and shall accredit and license organic certification agencies.
2. A person who seeks to engage in organic farming activities shall obtain a certificate from an organic certification agency.
3. The SFDA shall, in coordination with the Ministry, set:
  - a) requirements and procedures for testing and analyzing organic products;
  - b) requirements for labeling organic products as well as information and data provided by the product label; and
  - c) requirements for the importation and exportation of organic products.
4. No word, phrase, logo, or sticker may be placed on a non-organic product to denote that it is organic.
5. The Regulations shall specify the rules, requirements, and standards for organic farming inputs and products.

### Article 14

The Ministry shall regulate, manage, develop, supervise, monitor, and preserve animal resources, and may, for this purpose, undertake the following:

1. Licensing animal resources activities.
2. Setting biosecurity requirements for projects relating to wildlife organisms and animal resources.
3. Detecting and assessing risks relating to animal resources and protecting such resources from diseases, epidemics, and other risks.
4. Licensing and overseeing shops that sell or circulate types of animal resources.
5. Regulating the importation and exportation of types of living animal resources and issuing quarantine clearances for wildlife organisms.
6. Issuing approvals for the importation and exportation of unprocessed animal resources products.
7. Conserving, documenting, and developing local breeds of animal resources.
8. Conserving and protecting animal resources.
9. Seizing and disposing of abandoned, stray, or endangered animal resources in accordance with applicable statutory procedures.
10. Registering, numbering, and vaccinating all types of animal resources, including wildlife organisms, as specified by the Ministry.
11. Classifying veterinary facilities in accordance with the Regulations.
12. Assessing the efficacy of veterinary vaccines in coordination with the relevant agencies.





### **Article 15**

Government agencies and parties concerned with animal resources or their products or waste shall provide the Ministry with the assistance necessary for carrying out the duties entrusted thereto under this Law, by carrying out the following:

1. Providing the required information and support in accordance with this Law.
2. Applying the procedures and measures related to the protection of animal resources, as specified by the Regulations.
3. Notifying the Ministry of any disease or epidemic that could be transmitted to or from animal resources.
4. Detecting and controlling diseases and their insect vectors and reservoirs or others.
5. Controlling pollution resulting from any disease or epidemic that endangers human or animal health.
6. Carrying out mandatory registration and numbering of animal resources in the Kingdom.

### **Article 16**

1. The Ministry shall monitor diseases and epidemics affecting agricultural sector resources in other countries.
2. The Kingdom's diplomatic missions shall, in accordance with applicable procedures, promptly notify the Ministry of any available information relating to diseases and epidemics affecting agricultural sector resources in their respective countries.

### **Article 17**

The Ministry shall, in coordination with the relevant agencies, regulate, manage, develop, monitor, protect, and invest in living aquatic resources, and shall oversee and regulate fishing, production, and breeding activities and facilities. It may, for such purpose, undertake the following:

1. Designating coastal marine sites that are suitable for constructing aquaculture production and development projects.
2. Regulating aquaculture projects, and devising plans and programs for their development.
3. Regulating, managing, and investing in fishing ports in accordance with the requirements and procedures specified in the Regulations.
4. Assisting fishermen in developing their equipment and encouraging them to form cooperative societies.
5. Determining the activities related to living aquatic resources, as specified in the Regulations.



### **Article 18**

Foreign fishing or diving vessels may not extract living aquatic resources from the Kingdom's maritime zones without obtaining the Minister's authorization.

### **Article 19**

The General Directorate of Border Guard shall, in collaboration with the Ministry, monitor fishermen as well as fishing equipment and methods; implement relevant directives; detect and record violations committed by fishermen; and set the necessary procedures therefor.

### **Article 20**

1. The Ministry shall regulate quarantine procedures for the agricultural sector and wildlife organisms to prevent the entry or spread of diseases, pests, or epidemics, in accordance with relevant statutory provisions.
2. The Regulations shall determine the measures, precautions, and procedures for the protection of agricultural sector resources, and the prevention of the entry and spread of communicable diseases, pests, and epidemics.
3. The Ministry may establish quarantine centers, as necessary.
4. The Ministry shall regulate the quarantine centers and shall operate them directly or through a service provider, as specified in the Regulations.

### **Article 21**

1. Any person, whether or not he is an employee of the agricultural sector, who detects a communicable disease, pest, or epidemic or suspects the existence thereof shall immediately notify the Ministry.
2. The Ministry shall, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, designate quarantine areas to prevent the spread of diseases, pests, and epidemics. It may, for this purpose, undertake the following:
  - a) Prohibiting the movement of persons, animals, or means of transport, or the transfer of any material from or to the quarantine areas.
  - b) Prohibiting the circulation, transfer, or sale of agricultural sector resources in quarantine areas.
3. The Ministry shall pay compensation for consequences that may arise from taking any preventive or treatment measures, provided that the instructions specified in the Regulations are observed.

### **Article 22**

1. Agricultural sector resources or products that are infected or suspected of being infected by any disease, pest, or epidemic shall not be transferred, circulated, or disposed of without obtaining the Ministry's authorization.
2. The Ministry or service provider, as the case may be, may seize and handle agricultural resources or products that are suspected of being infected, in



accordance with the procedures stipulated in the Regulations and in coordination with the competent agencies.

3. All government agencies and private entities shall notify the relevant agency upon detecting any zoonotic disease, pest, or epidemic that causes direct harm to humans, public health, or the environment.
4. No individual or entity in the Kingdom may send any material or sample relating to animal or living aquatic resources outside the Kingdom for laboratory testing without obtaining the Ministry's authorization.

### **Article 23**

The following acts shall be deemed a violation of this Law:

1. Withholding information and data from the Ministry or inspectors, or providing misleading or inaccurate information.
2. Hindering inspectors from carrying out their duties.
3. Breaching license terms and conditions.

### **Article 24**

1. Inspectors, appointed pursuant to a decision by the Minister, shall jointly or individually detect, record, and investigate violations of any provision of this Law and its Regulations. The Regulations shall determine the work procedures of said inspectors, without prejudice to Article 29 of this Law.
2. Officials and workers on the sites to be inspected shall enable the inspectors to carry out their duties and shall provide the necessary assistance, information, documents, and samples. The inspectors shall present their credentials upon carrying out their duties.
3. Subject to the rights and guarantees stipulated under relevant laws, inspectors may undertake the following:
  - a) Detaining any container or means of transport that violates or is suspected of violating the provisions of this Law or its Regulations.
  - b) Entering and inspecting agricultural and veterinary facilities that are subject to the provisions of this Law; accessing records and information; obtaining copies of required documents; and, if necessary, collecting samples of materials and items found at the facility suspected of committing a violation, provided that a report to this effect is drafted which shall include the data necessary to verify the samples as well as the materials and items from which they are taken. A copy of the records and data of the inspected facility shall be kept in accordance with the Regulations.
  - c) Seize the agricultural sector resources subject of the violation, if established, and handle such resources in accordance with the Regulations.
  - d) Immediately seize, at the expense of the violator, the vehicles and tools



used, or suspected of being used in committing a violation, if such violation is established, and deliver the same to the competent agency, provided the matter is referred to the competent court within seven days to affirm or cancel the seizure, in accordance with the Regulations.

- e) Immediately close any veterinary facility operating without a valid license.
- 4. Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article, the Minister may assign some inspection and control tasks of an administrative nature to specialized companies pursuant to rules and criteria specified by the Regulations.

## **Article 25**

1. Without prejudice to Article 28 of this Law and any harsher penalty stipulated in any other law, a person who violates any provision of this Law or its Regulations shall be subject to one or more of the following penalties:
  - a) A fine not exceeding 15 million riyals.
  - b) Partial or complete suspension of the license for a period not exceeding one year.
  - c) License revocation.
  - d) Closure of the facility for a period not exceeding one month.
2. The Minister shall issue classification schedules for the violations and their corresponding penalties, provided that they are within the limits stipulated in this Article, taking into account the nature and gravity of each violation as well as any aggravating or mitigating circumstances.

## **Article 26**

1. Without prejudice to paragraph (2) of this Article and Article 31 of this Law, the Ministry shall impose fines not exceeding 100 thousand riyals pursuant to the classification schedules stated in Article 25(2) of this Law. The Ministry may impose a fine for each day the violation continues after notifying the violator of the penalty decision, provided that said fine is calculated from the date specified in the decision.
2. Without prejudice to Article 31 of this Law, a committee, or more, comprising at least three members, shall be formed, provided that one member is specialized in Sharia or law. Said committee shall consider and decide on violations of the provisions of this Law, its Regulations, and the license; impose the penalties stipulated in Article 25 of this Law; and review the objections filed by interested parties regarding fines imposed by the Ministry in accordance with paragraph (1) of this Article.
3. The committee referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article shall be formed pursuant to a decision by the Minister for a renewable term of three years. Said decision shall designate the chairman of the committee, provided that he is specialized in Sharia or law. Committee decisions shall be passed by majority vote and shall be reasoned. The Minister shall approve the penalty



decisions made by the committee for fines exceeding one million riyals, license revocation, or both.

4. Committee decisions may be appealed before the administrative court pursuant to its law.
5. The Regulations shall specify the committee's work procedures and the remuneration of its members.

### **Article 27**

The committee referred to in Article 26 of this Law may:

1. include in the penalty decision a provision obligating the violator to rectify the violation;
2. impose a fine for each day the violation continues after the violator is notified of the committee decision, provided that said fine is calculated from the date specified in the decision;
3. double the fine in the case of a repeat violation. A violation shall be deemed repeated if committed within three years from the date the previous violation is committed;
4. include in the penalty decision a provision to publish the ruling at the expense of the violator in a local newspaper published in the area of his residence, or, if none is available, in the nearest area or through any other appropriate medium, depending on the type, gravity, and effect of the violation, provided that the decision is published after it becomes final upon the lapse of the statutory period for appeal or affirmation of the competent court; and
5. petition the competent court to confiscate seized items subject of the violation.

### **Article 28**

Without prejudice to any harsher penalty stipulated in any other law, any person who commits any of the following acts shall be subject to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years and a fine not exceeding 10 million riyals, or either penalty:

1. Manufacturing or importing prohibited or counterfeit pesticides.
2. Harming animal resources.
3. Importing or admitting prohibited agricultural sector resources without obtaining the Ministry's approval.
4. Hindering inspectors from carrying out their duties.

### **Article 29**

The Public Prosecution shall, pursuant to its Law, investigate the violations referred to in Article 28 of this Law and prosecute the violators before the competent court.



### **Article 30**

Any person who attempts to violate any of the provisions of this Law or its Regulations shall be subject to punishment by not more than half of the prescribed penalty. If such attempt is repeated, said person shall be punished by the penalty prescribed for the violation.

### **Article 31**

The competent court shall review the violations referred to in Article 28 of this Law and impose the penalties stipulated therein, and may carry out the following:

1. Issuing a ruling to confiscate the seized items subject of the violation.
2. Including in the penalty decision a provision to impose a fine for each day the violation continues after the violator is notified of the penalty decision, provided that said fine is calculated from the date specified by the judgment.
3. Doubling the penalty imposed against the violator in the event of a repeat violation.
4. Including in the penalty decision a provision to publish its summary at the expense of the violator in a local newspaper published in the area of his residence, or, if none is available, in the nearest area or through any other appropriate medium, depending on the type, gravity, and effect of the violation, provided that the decision is published after it becomes final.

### **Article 32**

The Minister, or his designee, may, as a precautionary measure, wholly or partially suspend any activity upon detecting a violation requiring urgent action to avoid any harm to the agricultural sector, and refer the violation to the competent court or to the committee stipulated in Article 26(2) of this Law, as the case may be, within five days from the date of suspension. The court or the committee, as the case may be, shall, within a period not exceeding 10 days from the date of referral, decide whether or not to uphold the suspension. The Regulations shall specify the necessary procedures.

### **Article 33**

The Minister shall grant a financial reward not exceeding 50 thousand riyals to any person, other than the inspectors, who assists in the detection of any violation of the provisions of this Law and its Regulations. The rules for granting such reward shall be determined pursuant to a decision by the Minister.

### **Article 34**

The provisions of this Law shall not prejudice the provisions of any other law issued within the framework of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, or the Kingdom's obligations under relevant international agreements to which it is party.



### **Article 35**

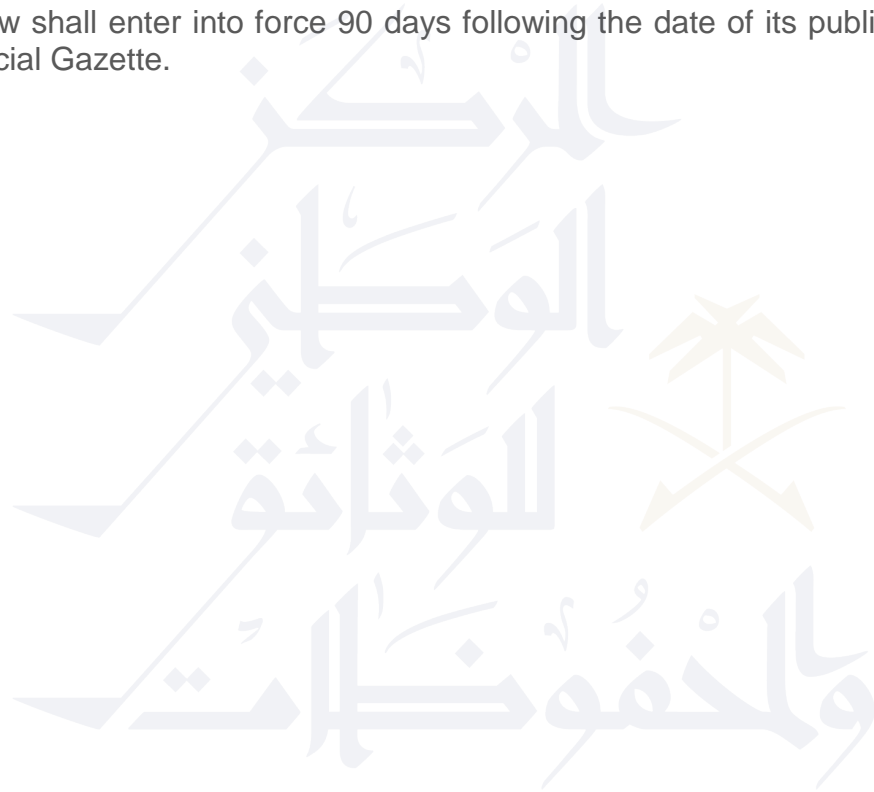
The Minister may delegate some of the duties entrusted to him under this Law to any of the public agencies reporting to the Ministry or the Minister.

### **Article 36**

The Minister shall issue the Regulations within 90 days from the date of publication of this Law in the Official Gazette. The Regulations shall enter into force on the date this Law enters into force.

### **Article 37**

This Law shall enter into force 90 days following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.



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