No. 3891
Date: June 7, 1989 3:13 p.m.
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Secretary of State
By: [signature]
Assistant Secretary of State

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
Department of Agriculture
AGRICULTURAL PROMOTION ADMINISTRATION
Santurce, Puerto Rico

NORMS GOVERNING THE COFFEE RUST CONTROL AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

During last February it was discovered in Puerto Rico the presence of the disease known as coffee rust. This disease is caused by a fungus **(Hemileia vastatrix)**, which may cause great harm to coffee bushes, if the necessary phitosanitary prevention and control measures are not taken.

The disease may be identified by the presence of dusty round spots, light yellow on the back of the leaves of coffee trees, which gradually increase in size. These spots under the leaves are covered by an orange or yellow dust known as spores. On the leaves surface appear light yellow spots. The disease cause the falling of leaves which reduces considerably its capacity to produce an economical harvest.

Due to the harm this disease may cause to the Coffee Industry of Puerto Rico, these Norms and Procedures to Governing the Coffee Rust Control and Prevention Program are promulgated, in accordance with Act. No. 28 of June 5, 1985, by virtue of which was created the Agricultural Promotion Administration.

The act previously mentioned, empowers the Secretary of Agriculture to among other things, impulse and promote activities which propitiate the stability and permanency of the farmer in the explotation of his farm, through the granting of subsidies and incentives that tend to the development and improvement of agricultural enterprises and agricultural business in general.

In accordance with the purposes of the aforementioned Act, and with the purpose of controlling and preventing the attack of the rust in the coffee plantations of the country, the emergency activities hereinafter indicated are established.

SECTION II - DEFINITIONS

1.	Secretary	- Means the Secretary of Agriculture of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
2.	Administration	- Means the Agricultural Promotion Administration (APA).
3.	Director	- Means the Executive Director of the Agricultural Promotion Administration.
4.	Institute	- Means the Institute for the Development of the Coffee Industry in Puerto Rico.

SECTION III - ACTIVITIES AND ECONOMIC AID OFFERED

1. It shall be offered, free of charge to the coffee farmer and through a purchase order, the fungicides and additives necessary for the treatment of the plantations, as recommended by the technicians of the Coffee Institute of the Department of Agriculture.

An economic aid consisting of the payment of up to fifty (50%) percent of the cost of the sprinkling equipment and the protection equipment for the applicator shall be offered. In the case of motorized equipment for the back, the economic aid to be paid shall be of $200.00 per motorized bomb and up to $125.00 for the protection equipment during application. In the cases of motorized equipments of greater capacity, the economic aid shall consist of up to 50% of the total cost up to a maximum of one thousand ($1,000.00) dollars per unit per farmer. Other sprinkling equipment recommended by the Institute may receive an aid equivalent to 50% of the total cost up to a maximum of $50.00. Sprinkling equipment may be obtained from the Agricultural Services Administration or other store or agricultural entity selected by the farmer. In all cases is included the corresponding economic aid for the acquisition of the protection equipment for the applicator of fungicides.

SECTION III - REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM THE PROGRAM

1. Be farmer, owner, leaser or usufructuary of a farm dedicated to the planting, cultivation, production and harvesting of coffee.

2. The coffee plantation be affected by the rust or possess the farmer a certification from the technical personnel authorized by the Coffee Institute of the Department of Agriculture indicating that there are coffee plantations infested by the fungus causing the rust.

3. In cases of coffee plantations which have not been identified and certified as infested by the coffee rust, these shall be eligible to participate in the sprinkling program under the preventive phase of the same.

SECTION IV - GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The period to file applications shall be extended during all year 1988-89 and subsequent years or until the Secretary finishes the program. The Secretary may amend the date to file applications in a partial or total form, in accordance with the development of the program. New dates fixed for these purposes shall be announced locally or in a general way and through the means of communication more convenient for the farmer.

2. The filing of an application to participate in the program does not represent necessarily a compromise to approve the same. The approval shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the program and availability of funds.

3. To participate in the program in its rust control phase it shall be a requirement to have an official certification to the effects that the coffee plantation is infested by the disease. This shall not be so in cases of coffee farmers who apply to participate in the prevention phase of the program. In both cases there shall be the technical recommendation of the agronomist or agricultural technician authorized by the Coffee Institute.

4. The program shall consist of two phases:

a. Control Phase - for coffee plantation infested with the disease.

b. Prevention Phase - for coffee plantations in production where the rust has not been found.

In the control phase the necessary fungicides and additives shall be provided for the treatment of plantation affected with the rust, as certified by the technical personnel authorized by the Coffee Institute. Purchase orders for fungicides to be applied in the control of coffee to make up to four (4) applications, "per cuerda", per year shall be issued.

During the preventive phase the fungicides and additives necessary for the preventive treatment of coffee plantations shall be provided, up to a maximum of one application per year based on copper.

5. During the control phase it shall be necessary to file an application, and a purchase order for pesticides and additives shall be issued, for each one of the applications to be made during the year. This order shall be for the total of "cuerda" recommended by the authorized technicians.

6. Partial purchase orders or for part of the farm to be treated shall not be prepared.

7. Every coffee farmer participating in the program shall realize all technical recommendations indicated by the authorized personnel of the Institute, so as the personnel in charge of the preparation, handling, application and use of equipment for the aspersion process, control and prevention to combat coffee rust.

8. The aspersion shall not proceed, neither in its control or preventive phase, of those marginal coffee plantations, which to the judgment of the field agronomists or authorized technician of the Institute are not cultivated satisfactorily.

9. The Secretary may amend these Norms when so considers necessary and convenient to attain the purposes of the Program and agricultural development with the purpose of obtaining the best use of the fiscal resources available.

10. An agronomist or technician authorized by the Coffee Institute shall provide the necessary information to the officials of the Administration about the condition of each coffee plantation, which shall constitute the basis for the granting of the purchase order for the fungicides and equipment to each applicant and eligible farmer.

SECTION V - LEGAL AUTHORITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

This Regulation is promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, in accordance with the faculties vested in him by Act No. 28 of June 5, 1985. The same shall take effect thirty (30) days after filing in the Office of the Secretary of State, the original and four copies of its Spanish and English texts pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 170 of August 1, 1988, but a certification from the Honorable Governor of Puerto Rico shall be requested to start without the delay of its previous filing and publication.

Approved in San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 17th of March, 1989.

Felipe N. Rodríguez
Acting Secretary of Agriculture