

[As INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

to provide for the registration and regulation of chamber of agriculture

WHEREAS it is expedient to ensure appropriate representation of all genders and business sectors at all levels in chamber of agriculture and that they play significant role in developing policy framework for improving business environment and economic growth; and

WHEREAS it is imperative to define the purpose, role, responsibilities and operational framework including code of corporate governance for agriculture trade organisations; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

It is enacted as follows:-

PRELIMINARY

1. **Short title, extent, application and commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called Chamber of Agriculture Act, 2019.
 - (2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.
 - (3) It shall apply to agriculture trade organisations whose objects and business are not confined to a province.
 - (4) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Definitions.** - In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-
 - (a) "Administrator" means an Administrator appointed under this Act;
 - (b)"Articles" mean the articles of association of a chamber of agriculture;
 - (c)"Director-General" means the Director-General of the Chamber of Agriculture appointed by the Federal Government and includes an officer empowered by the Federal Government to perform the functions of the Director-General under this Act;
 - (d)"Executive Committee" means the Board of Directors, the Managing Committee or any other body, by whatever name called, of a registered agriculture trade organisation responsible for the management or conduct of the affairs of such agriculture trade organisation;
 - (e)"Licence" means a licence granted to agriculture trade organization under section 3 of this Act;
 - (f)"Member of the Executive Committee" includes a Director where the Executive Committee is a Board of Directors and the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, President and Vice-President of a agriculture trade organisation licensed under this Act.
 - (g) "member of a agriculture trade organisation" means a firm and includes a proprietorship, an association of persons, a partnership, a company or a multinational corporation, engaged in agriculture trade, industry or services and enrolled as a member of a agriculture trade organisation licensed under this Act;
 - (h) "Memorandum" means the memorandum of association of agriculture trade organisation;
 - (i) "Office bearers" means President, Vice-President, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of agriculture trade organization;

- (j) "Act" means the Companies Act, 2017 (XIX of 2017);
- (k) "Prescribed" means prescribed by the rules made under this Act;
- (l) "Register" means the Register of Companies required to be kept under section 119 of the Act;
- (m) "Registered agriculture trade organisation" means aagriculture trade organisation registered under the Act;
- (n) "Agriculture trade organization" means an organisation which: -
 - (i) is capable of being formed as a limited company within the meaning of the Act;
 - (ii) is formed or intended to be formed with the object of promoting any agriculture trade, industry or service or any combination thereof;
 - (iii) Prohibits payment of any profits to its members; and
 - (iv) Applies its income and profits for achieving its objects.

3. Licensing and registration of agriculture trade organisations. - (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force relating to registration of societies, bodies or associations of persons, no agriculture trade organisation shall be registered under the Act or such other law unless it holds a licence granted by the Federal Government authorizing it to be so registered.

(2) No licence shall be granted for registration under this Act to an agriculture trade organisation unless it is,-

- (a) A Federation of Chambers of agriculture and Industry, organized on all-Pakistan basis, to represent Chambers and Associations:

Provided that a licence for registration as a Chambers of agriculture and Industry shall not be granted to more than one agriculture trade organisation;
- (b) a Chamber of agriculture and Industry organized to represent agriculture trade, industry and services in a Islamabad representing less than the prescribed number of persons shall not be granted licence.
- (c) a Women's Chambe of agriculture and Industry organized to represent the women entrepreneurs engaged in agriculture trade, industry or services and territorial jurisdiction of such a Chamber shall be determined by the Government from time to time by a notification in official gazette but such a Chamber representing less than the prescribed number of women entrepreneurs shall not be granted licence and where the number of women entrepreneurs desiring to form a Chamber is less than the prescribed number, they may join an adjoining Women's Chamber of agriculture and Industry:

Provided that nothing contained in this clause shall debar a woman entrepreneur to become member of a Chamber in clause (b) if such woman entrepreneur otherwise qualifies the criteria of membership of the respective chamber;

- (d) an association with membership on all-Pakistan basis organized to represent a specific agriculture trade, industry or service or any combination thereof: Provided that a licence for registration as an all-Pakistan association shall not be granted to more than one agriculture trade organisation in the same sector: Provided further that whether a specific activity in agriculture trade, industry or service is an independent sector or only a sub-sector shall be determined by the Government, whose decision in this respect shall be final;

- (c) a Chamber of Small Agriculture traders organized to represent small businesses and cottage industry: Provided that the size, nature and extent of small businesses and cottage industry and the organizational structure and territorial jurisdiction of such a Chamber shall be prescribed by the Federal Government.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of clause (b) and (d) of sub-section (2), where the membership of a chamber in a district attains the minimum prescribed number for grant of licence to a chamber under this Act, such persons shall be entitled to form and apply for grant of licence as a chamber..
- (4) Application for grant of licence of agriculture trade organisation shall be submitted to the Federal Government in the prescribed Application Form.
- (5) An agriculture trade organisation shall be granted licence on such terms and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.
- (6) Licence shall be granted to an agriculture trade organisation for a period of three years.
- (7) An agriculture trade organisation holding a licence shall be registered under the Act as a company with limited liability without the addition of the word "limited" to its name and on such registration shall enjoy all the privileges of a limited company and be subject to all its obligations except those of- (a) using the word "limited" as any part of its name; (b) publishing its name; and (c) sending lists of members to the registrar.
- (8) The Federal Government may, by notification in the official gazette, grant exemption to any agriculture trade organisation from any provision of this section and such exemption may be for such period and subject to such conditions as may be specified in the notification: Provided that no such exemption shall be granted to a agriculture trade organisation unless the Federal Government is satisfied that it would be in the public interest to do so.

4. Privileges and obligations of agriculture trade organisations. - (1) A licensed and registered agriculture trade organisation shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its own name and, subject to and for the purposes of this Act, may enter into contracts and may acquire, purchase, take, hold and enjoy movable and immovable property of every description and may convey, assign, surrender, yield up, charge, mortgage, demise, re-assign, transfer or otherwise dispose off or deal with, any movable or immovable property or any interest vested in it, upon such terms as it deems fit.

- (2) The liability of members of a licensed and registered agriculture trade organisation shall be limited to their membership subscription.
- (3) No agriculture trade organisation other than a licensed and registered agriculture trade organisation shall use in its name or title the word "Federation" or "Chamber" or "Association":

Provided that nothing in sub-section (3) shall apply to a company, association or body of persons formed for promoting art, science, religion, charity, sports, any profession other than agriculture trade, agriculture, industry, service or any other subject which the Government may, by notification in the official gazette specify in this behalf.

- 5. Renewal of licence.** - (1) A licensed agriculture trade organisation shall require renewal of its licensee every three years.
- (2) Application for renewal of licence shall be made to the Director-General, ninety days prior to the expiry of licence: Provided that the Director-General, on sufficient cause being shown, by an order in writing, may extend the period not exceeding thirty days.

- (3) Annual accounts and performance of agriculture trade organisation shall be audited by a firm of chartered accountants, and the reports thereof shall be submitted to the Director General along with the renewal application.
 - (4) The Director-General, on receipt of the application for renewal of licence, shall endeavour to decide before the expiry of the licence.
- 6. Cancellation of licence and exemption,-** (1) the licence granted to agriculture trade organisation shall be cancelled by the Federal Government where:-
- (a) An agriculture trade organization fails to apply for renewal of the licence granted under section 3 of this Act within the prescribed or extended period allowed by the Director-General;
 - (b) An agriculture trade organization fails to apply for membership of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of agriculture and Industry within one month of grant of licence;
 - (c) An agriculture trade organization fails to get registration under the Act;
 - (d) An agriculture trade organisation is found to be non-existent at the registered address or is non-operational;
 - (e) An agriculture trade organization is not holding elections or operating according to the provisions of the memorandum within the prescribed period;
 - (f) An agriculture trade organization is not complying with the orders and directions of the Federal Government or Director-General issued under this Act or the prescribed rules;
 - (g) An agriculture trade organisation is not discharging statutory obligations as a Limited Company incurred under the Act;
 - (h) An agriculture trade organisation is not discharging statutory obligations under this Act or prescribed rules;
 - (i) An agriculture trade organisation fails to pay the penalties imposed under this Act within the prescribed period;
 - (j) the Federal Government cancels any exemption granted to a agriculture trade organisation under sub section (8) of section 3;
 - (k) An agriculture trade organisation is engaged in activities other than those for which it was established;
 - (l) An agriculture trade organisation has lost its representative character, or its membership remains below the prescribed threshold over a period of two years;
 - (m) the financial or performance audit report of a agriculture trade organisation states that:-
 - (n) the income and profits of the agriculture trade organisation are spent for purposes other than those for which it was established; (ii) the agriculture trade organisation does not remain financially viable.
- (2) Where the Federal Government intends to cancel the licence of agriculture trade organisation, granted under section 3 of this Act, it shall issue a show cause notice to such agriculture trade organisation specifying the grounds for its intention to cancel the licence and provide adequate opportunity of being heard before deciding the matter.
 - (3) The Federal Government shall notify, in the official gazette, cancellation of licence of agriculture trade organization.

- (4) Where the licence is cancelled on any ground mentioned in clause (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (k), (l) and (m) of sub-section (1) members of the agriculture trade organisation concerned found responsible by the Federal Government for the grounds of cancellation shall be debarred from sponsoring the proposal for grant of licence or de novo licence to agriculture trade organisation or becoming member of or holding any office of any agriculture trade organisation for a period not exceeding three years.
- (5) Where the licence of agriculture trade organisation has been cancelled under sub-section (1), a member or member of executive committee or employee of such agriculture trade organisation continues to impersonate as member, member of executive committee or employee of the agriculture trade organisation, such person shall be liable to penalties under section 23.

7. Cancellation of registration. - (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Act or any other law for the time being in force the registration of a agriculture trade organisation under the Act shall be deemed to have been cancelled with immediate effect if the licence granted to such agriculture trade organisation has been cancelled by the Federal Government under section 6;

- (2) The registrar shall strike off the register, and publish in the official gazette, the names of all Such agriculture trade organisations whose registration has been cancelled under subsection (1).
- (3) All affairs of agriculture trade organisation whose registration stands cancelled under subsection (1) shall be wound up in a manner as determined by the Federal Government.

8. Grant of licence de novo. - (1) Where licence of agriculture trade organisation is cancelled under section 6 the Federal Government may consider grant of licence de novo after a period of one year from the date of cancellation of licence: Provided that where the licence of an agriculture trade organisation was cancelled under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 6, the Federal Government may consider the grant of licence de novo at an earlier date.

- (2) The agriculture trade organisation seeking licence under sub-section (1) shall be required to make an application in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

9. Membership of agriculture trade organisations. - (1) Chambers and sector-specific associations on all-Pakistan basis, granted licence under this Act shall apply for membership of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of agriculture and Industry within thirty days of grant of licence under this Act.

- (2) Upon an application by agriculture trade organisation under sub-section (1), the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of agriculture and Industry shall enrol such agriculture trade organisation as its member within thirty days and where such an enrolment is not decided within thirty days, the matter shall be referred to the Director-General along with the reasons for not allowing enrolment and the Director-General shall decide the matter within thirty days.
- (3) A chamber or an association which is a member of the Federation of Chambers of agriculture and Industry shall be eligible to vote in the election of office-bearers and committees of the Federation on completion of two years of grant of licence.
- (4) Proprietorships, associations of persons, partnerships, companies or multinational corporations engaged in agriculture trade, industry or services shall be entitled to enrolment as members of chambers and associations on fulfillment of the prescribed conditions.
- (5) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force any person engaged in agriculture trade, industry or service, or any combination thereof, shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of a registered agriculture trade organisation except where such person is otherwise disqualified for any of the reasons as may be prescribed.

- (6) Where a person, qualified to be enrolled as a member of a agriculture trade organisation, is refused enrolment or the enrolment is unduly delayed, on a complaint by the aggrieved person, the Director-General may direct the agriculture trade organisation concerned to enroll such person as a member on fulfillment of the prescribed requirements.
- (7) Members of the Chambers and Associations shall be eligible to vote on completion of two years of their enrolment and payment of all dues.
- (8) Except for the membership and office-bearers provided under this Act or prescribed rules, there shall not be any other position by any nomenclature in agriculture trade organisation.

10. Organisation and tenure of office-bearers and executive committee of agriculture trade organisations. - (1) Notwithstanding anything in any other law for the time being in force the tenure of office-bearers of all agriculture trade organisations shall be one year.

- (2) The organizational structure of agriculture trade organisations including composition and tenure of Executive Committees and the manner of their elections shall be such as prescribed in the rules.

11. Amendment, repeal, etc. of articles, memorandum, etc. of agriculture trade organisations. - (1) notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force or in the articles or memorandum, -

- (a) a registered agriculture trade organisation shall not rescind, amend or otherwise modify its articles or memorandum without the prior approval of the Federal Government; and
 - (b) the Federal Government may, whenever it considers expedient to do so, by order in writing, direct any such agriculture trade organisation to rescind, amend or otherwise modify its articles, memorandum, rules, or bye-laws or to make any rule or byelaw, in such manner and within such period as may be specified in the order.
- (2) If any registered agriculture trade organisation fails or neglects to comply with the direction under clause (b) of sub-section (1), the rescission, amendment, modification, or making as provided in the order under clause (b) of sub-section (1) shall be deemed to have been duly done by the agriculture trade organisation in accordance with this Act or its articles or memorandum or in the manner it is otherwise competent to do so.
- 12. The Director-General.** - (1) The Federal Government may, by notification in the official gazette, appoint or empower an officer to perform the functions of Director-General of agriculture trade organisations under this Act.
- (2) The Federal Government may appoint or empower such other officers with such designations as it deems fit for performing under the superintendence and direction of the Director-General, such functions of the Director-General, under this Act as he may, from time to time, authorize them to perform.
 - (3) The Director-General may, by order in writing, -
 - (a) review any function, matter, case or decision of any officer; or
 - (b) Withdraw any function, matter or case from any officer or staff, and deal with such function, matter or case himself either de novo or from the stage it was so withdrawn, or transfer the same to another officer or staff at any stage.

13. Powers and functions of the Director-General. - (1) All acts and proceedings of a registered agriculture trade organisation shall be subject to the control of the Federal Government and, subject to such control the affairs of such agriculture trade organisation shall be managed and conducted in such manner as the Director-General may, from time to time, direct.

(2) The Director-General shall, for the purpose of this Act, have the same powers as are vested in a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedures 1908 (Act V of 1908) in respect of the following matters, namely :-

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
- (b) compelling the production of documents;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavit; and
- (d) issuing commission for the examination of witnesses.

(3) The Director-General shall exercise the powers to —

(a) conduct enquiries into the affairs of agriculture trade organisation as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act;

(b) inspect, with or without prior notice, any office of such agriculture trade organisation including any of its branch or regional, circle, zonal or liaison office, or any record or document found therein;

(c) attend any meeting of the general body or the Executive Committee of such agriculture trade organisation or of any committee or other body set up or appointed to transact any business, or to conduct any affair, of such agriculture trade organisation;

(d) watch and supervise, or cause to be watched and supervised, any election held by, for the purpose of electing persons to the Executive Committee or other body including a region, circle or zone of any such agriculture trade organisation;

(e) act as a final forum of appeals against the decisions of any person, committee or office-bearers of a agriculture trade organisation in matters relating to electoral process before the conduct of election; and

(f) annul the results of any election held by any agriculture trade organisation if he is satisfied -

(i) upon his own knowledge and after such investigation he may think fit to make; or

(ii) upon a report made by a person authorized by him to make investigation for the purpose; or

(iii) upon a complaint filed by an aggrieved person in this behalf within thirty days of the announcement of the results of such election, that the irregularities in the conduct of such election justify such annulment and, by order in writing, direct fresh election to be held within such period as may be specified in the order;

(g) cancel, suspend or modify any resolution adopted or any decision taken, by the general body or the Executive Committee of such agriculture trade organisation if he is satisfied that such resolution or decision is not in conformity with the provisions of the articles or memorandum or any rules or regulations made thereunder, or that the requirements of the provisions of articles or memorandum or any rules or regulations made thereunder have not been complied with while adopting such resolution or taking such decision, or that such resolution or decision is contrary to any rules, regulations, directions or instructions

issued by the Director-General or by the Federal Government to such agriculture trade organisation:

(h) if he considers it necessary for smooth, orderly and efficient functioning of any such agriculture trade organisation -

(i) remove or cause to be removed any number of members of the Executive Committee of such agriculture trade organisation and fill up, or cause to be filled up, the resultant vacancies;

(ii) suspend, or cause to be suspended, for a specified period, any number of members of any such agriculture trade organisation and cancel, or cause to be cancelled, any such suspension or the suspension of any member otherwise than by or at the instance of the Director-General;

(iii) remove, or cause to be removed, from the membership register, the name of any number of members, and reinstate, or cause to be reinstated, in the membership register, any member so removed or removed otherwise than by or at the instance of the Director-General;

(i) give directions to persons or agriculture trade organisations in matters concerning this Act, or any rules or directive made thereunder;

(j) impose and collect penalties and fines under section 24;

(k) such other powers as are provided by this Act.

14. Powers to enter and search the premises. - (1) The Director-General or any officer authorized in this behalf may, for the purpose of making any investigation, enter any premises, where the Director-General or such authorized officer, as the case may be, has reasons to believe that any article, books of account, computer hardware or software, data recording devices, or other document relating to the subject matter of investigation may be found, and may -

(a) search such premises and inspect any article, books of account, computer hardware or software, data recording devices, or other document;

(b) take extracts or copies of such articles, books of account, or any software data;

(c) impound or seal such books of account, computer hardware or software, data recording devices, or other documents; and

(d) make inventory of such articles, books of account, computer hardware or software, data recording devices, or other documents found in such premises.

(2) All searches made under sub-section (1) shall be carried out, mutatis mutandis, in accordance with the provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898).

15. Supersession of Executive Committee, office-bearers and appointment of Administrator. -

(1) Where the Federal Government is of the opinion that the affairs of a registered agriculture trade organisation are not being properly managed and that the interests of agriculture trade, industry or service so require, it may, by order in writing, suspend or supersede the Executive Committee of such agriculture trade organisation for such period, not exceeding two years, as may be specified in the order; Provided that no such order shall be made unless the Executive Committee, intended to be suspended or superseded, has been given a notice in writing of, and afforded an opportunity to make a representation against, the intended supersession.

(2) Where,-

- (a) an Executive Committee is superseded under sub-section (1);
- (b) in the opinion of the Federal Government, it is not possible for any reason to reconstitute the Executive Committee at the due time of such reconstitution, or
- (c) the Executive Committee is debarred by an order of any Court, from discharging its functions, the Federal Government may appoint, for such period, not exceeding two years, as it may think fit, an Administrator to take over the functions of such Committee and to manage the conduct and affairs of the agriculture trade organisation:

Provided that when the period of supersession is terminated or the Executive Committee is reconstituted or the order of the Court is vacated before the expiry of the period for which the Administrator shall have been appointed, the Federal Government may direct the Administrator to relinquish the functions taken over by him in favour of the Executive Committee.

(3) Upon the appointment of an Administrator under clause (a) or clause (b) of subsection (2), the members of the Executive Committee shall be deemed to have vacated their respective offices.

16. Administrator to act under the control of Director-General.— (1) The Administrator shall manage and conduct the affairs of the agriculture trade organisation under the supervision and control of the Director-General and in accordance with the rules, if any, made in this behalf by the Federal Government and, until such rules are made, in accordance with such directions as the Director-General may, from time to time, give.

(2) The rules and directions referred to in sub-section (1) may provide for -

- (a) The appointment of an Advisory Committee consisting of persons selected from the members of the agriculture trade organisation to assist the Administrator in the discharge of his functions;
- (b) Holding of elections for the purpose of reconstitution of the Executive Committee at any time considered appropriate before the expiry of the term of appointment of the Administrator;
- (c) Compliance with the provisions of the Act to the extent applicable to the agriculture trade organisation except those relating to the laying of the income and expenditure account and reading of the auditor's report in general meeting
- (d) withholding, during the period of supersession of the Executive Committee, of the general meeting of the agriculture trade organisation other than the meeting to hold elections for reconstituting the Executive Committee;
- (e) conduct of any business, during the period the general meeting remains withheld, which requires the approval or assent of the members at a general meeting;
- (f) The pay, allowances, remuneration and other privileges, of the Administrator and the members of the advisory committee; and
- (g) Such other matters as are necessary for efficient management of the affairs of the agriculture trade organisation.

(3) Any expenditure incurred in connection with the management of agriculture trade organization by the Administrator including pay, allowances and remuneration of the Administrator and the members of the Advisory Committee shall be met as expenses, and be a charge on the income, of

the agriculture trade organisation: Provided that the Federal Government may allow remuneration, honorarium to and re-imbursement of actual expenses incurred by the Administrator in connection with performance of his functions to be met from the Agriculture trade Organisations Fund.

17. Restriction on suits against chamber of agriculture. - Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force or in the articles or memorandum of a registered agriculture trade organisation, no suit or other legal proceedings relating to affairs of a agriculture trade organization shall be instituted or commenced in any court except high court.

18. Compulsory membership of chamber of agriculture. - (1) notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force or in the articles or memorandum of association of any agriculture trade organization or other company or in any agreement or other instrument, the Federal Government may, -

(a) subject to any rules made in this behalf, by order in writing, direct any firm, company or other concern engaged in any agriculture trade, agriculture, industry or service to be a member of registered agriculture trade organization specified in the order; or

(b) if it considers expedient in the interest of agriculture trade, agriculture, industry, or service, by notification in the official gazette, direct all such firms, companies or concerns or any class thereof engaged in agriculture trade, agriculture, industry or service, as may be specified in the notification subject to exception if any, to be members of the registered agriculture trade organization or organizations specified in this behalf in such notification.

(2) Upon the issue of an order or notification under sub-section the registered agriculture trade organization concerned shall admit as its member any firm, company or concern to be its member by such order or notification.

19. Restriction on membership. - (1) No person shall be a member of more than such number of chamber of agriculture as the Federal Government may, by notification in the official gazette, specify in this behalf. (2) A person convicted for any offence under this Act shall not hold, or be eligible for holding, any office in a registered agriculture trade organization unless a period of five years has elapsed.

20. Appeal. - (1) Any person or agriculture trade organization aggrieved by any decision or order of the administrator may, within fourteen days of communication of such decision or order, prefer appeal to the Director-General.

(2) Any person or agriculture trade organization aggrieved by any decision or order of the Director-General may, within fourteen days of communication of such decision or order, prefer appeal to the Federal Government whose decision, subject to sub-section (4), shall be final.

(3) On appeal under sub-section the Director-General or, as the case may be, the Federal Government may suspend the operation or execution of the decision or order appealed against until the disposal of such appeal.

(4) Any person aggrieved by the final order or decision of the Federal Government involving a question of law may, within thirty days of such order or decision, prefer appeal to the High Court.

21. Delegation of powers. - (1) The Federal Government may, by notification in the official gazette, direct that all or any of its powers under this Act shall, in relation to such matters or subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, also be exercisable by the Director-General. (2) The Director-

General may, by order in writing, authorize the Administrator or any other officer to exercise and perform any of his powers and functions under this Act.

22. Federal Government may carry out the functions of the Director-General. - Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act, the Federal Government may, by notification in the official gazette, direct that the powers and functions of the Director-General shall, under such circumstances, or in such cases, as may be specified in the notification, be exercised and performed by the Federal Government and upon such notification reference to the Director-General in the relevant provisions of this Act shall be construed as reference to the Federal Government and such provisions shall have effect accordingly.

23. Power to levy fee etc. - The Federal Government may levy and charge prescribed processing fee for grant of license or renewal of license to agriculture tradeorganization, and for examining the performance reports, audited accounts, and other documents submitted to the Federal Government or the Director-General.

24. Penalty. - Where a person contravenes any provision of this Act or any rule or order made, or any direction or instruction given thereunder, or obstructs any officer or person acting under or in pursuance of any such provision, rule, order, direction, or instruction, shall be liable to penalty which may extend to one hundred thousand rupees.

25. Contravention by companies, etc. - Where a person contravening or failing to comply with, any provision of this Act or any rule, order or direction made or issued thereunder is a company or other body corporate, every managing director, director, manager, secretary or other officer or agent thereof shall, unless he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised due diligence to prevent its commission, shall be liable to the penalty as provided for such contravention or failure.

26. Chamber of agriculture Fund. - (1) There shall be established a fund to be known as the Chamber of agriculture Fund which shall consist of, -

- (a) Grants made by the Federal Governments;
- (b) Fees and penalties collected by the Director-General; and
- (c) Contributions from local and foreign donors or agencies.

- (2) The Federal Government shall make rules and regulations for utilizing and incurring expenditures from the Fund.
- (3) For the purpose of maintaining the Fund the Federal Government may open and maintain accounts at such scheduled banks as it may from time to time determine.

27. Presumption as to orders. - Where an order purports to have been made or signed by an authority or person in exercise of any power conferred by or under this Act, a Court shall presume that such order was so made by that authority or person.

28. Mode of recovery. - Any sum imposed as penalty under this Act shall be recoverable as an arrear of land revenue.

29. Indemnity. - No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is, in good faith, done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rule or order made or any direction given thereunder.

30. Power to make rules. - The Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

31. Act to override other laws. - The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law, for the time being in force.

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

As the Pakistan is the agriculture based country and its economic conditions are mostly dependent on the agriculture. The field of agriculture contributes a major share in the economics of the state. Annual budget of the Pakistan always has major contribution from the remittances based on agriculture exports. But unfortunately there is no platform in the country which shall precede the registration of the agricultural farms or the individuals who has adopted agriculture as a profession. Hence it is the dire need of the time to provide a platform to all the stake holders for the redressel of their grievance's as well as for the their representation to the Government functionaries so that the Government will be in the position to facilitate and provide the opportunities for the improvement's as well as for the welfare of the agriculturist's.

Sd/-

Mr. Riaz Fatyana
Member-in-Charge