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للمحاماة والاستشارات القانونية و التحكيم

# Bahrain Agricultural Trade & Investment Guide 2023

Prepared by:

The National Initiative for Agricultural Development in  
Collaboration with Dalal Al Zayed Law Firm





## Introduction

The National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) was launched in March 2010 under the generous leadership of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of the King of Bahrain. As President, Her Royal Highness chairs the Consultative Council of distinguished officials from the public sector, chief executive officers of the private sector and representatives of the concerned civil society organizations. The Consultative Council unifies efforts between the various stakeholders in the agricultural sector so as to accomplish the Kingdom's economic, developmental, social & environmental development goals; and to establish an effective agricultural sector that is compliant with the goals of the reform project of His Majesty the King and the Economic Vision 2030.

The National Initiative for Agricultural Development supports the development and growth of the agricultural industry in the Kingdom of Bahrain and coordinates with the public and private sectors to encourage agricultural projects, programs and activities to ensure the continuity and development of the agricultural profession, and the future of public health and food security.

The initiative also focuses on the private sector and encourages corporate investment in the agricultural sector. The private sector can greatly contribute towards economic development and towards achieving food security.

The government of the Kingdom of Bahrain has fostered a comprehensive agricultural investment environment, with clear agricultural investment legislations and policies, and has set procedures and requirements for local and foreign investors. NIAD has taken the initiative to collate this information and has issued the Agricultural Trade and Investment Guide for the Kingdom of Bahrain 2023 which outlines the following:

- General Questions & Answers.
- Information on Agriculture Laws, Legislations and Executive Regulations.
- Directory of Governmental and Official Agencies that Support and Promote Investment and Careers in the Agricultural Sector.

This is the second edition of the guide and has been prepared in cooperation with Her Excellency Attorney Dalal Jasim Al-Zayed. We thank her for her valuable contribution and look forward to working together on keeping the information up to date so as to meet the demands of an ever-growing agricultural economic environment.

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# Chapter One

General Questions & Answers



This chapter includes a series of frequently asked questions that can be useful for local and foreign investors. The answers to these questions are based on laws, legislations and regulations that are published and enforced by governmental and official agencies. These laws and regulations may be subject to change at any time, based on the legislative amendments that may occur.

## 1. e-Government Services

### 1.1. How can I access e-Government Services?

The National e-Government Portal contains multiple services such as requesting appointments, submitting requests or inquiries and completing government procedures such as applying for building permits, paying customs fees and taxes and many other services.

To use the portal, the user must create their own account and receive an “electronic key” or “eKey” that allows a single-entry process for various e-Government services. Please note that many government services have been moved online, and this process is necessary to follow up with many of the applications and licenses discussed later in this guide.

Bahraini citizens and residents can create their own eKey through a short and easy process using their personal number on [www.ekey.bh](http://www.ekey.bh).

The Standard eKey offers a good level of security, requiring the user to enter only the personal number and password to access a limited number of eServices.

Registering for the Advanced eKey ensures the highest level of security and allows access to all eServices including highly confidential eServices requiring the verification of the user’s smart card and biometrics.

To upgrade your eKey account level from the basic to the advanced level, you can visit any of the following offices:

- 1) Information and eGovernment Authority in Isa Town
- 2) Bahrain Investors Center in the Bahrain Financial Harbor
- 3) Social Insurance Organization in the Diplomatic Area

**Note:** GCC citizens who wish to register for the electronic key must contact the National Contact Center on +973 80008001, as the process differs slightly.

## 1.2. What is Sijilat and what services does it offer?

Sijilat is the online Commercial Registration Portal run by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Here, users can make all electronic transactions related to their Commercial Registration (CR), for example:

- Transfer of ownership
- Addition of branches
- Addition of activities
- Renewal of the Commercial Registration
- Search for a Commercial Registration
- Search for a Commercial Agency
- Search for commercial activities
- The commercial registry electronic publication
- Obtain commercial records and licenses
- Membership registration and renewal for the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry

For more information, visit [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh).

## 2. Conditions and Procedures for Requesting and Issuing a Commercial Registration

To start a business in the Kingdom of Bahrain, investors are required to issue a Commercial Registration known locally as a “CR”. A Commercial Registration (CR) certificate is a legal document issued to investors upon registering their establishment in the Kingdom of Bahrain with the Ministry of Industry & Commerce.

The Commercial Registration certificate includes the following information:

- Commercial Registration number and establishment date.
- Name of the legal representative of the establishment.
- Legal form of the establishment.
- Commercial name of the establishment (if provided).
- Registration expiry date.
- Activity/Business License (once the necessary approvals/licenses have been obtained).

### 2.1. Before investing in the Agricultural sector, what resources are available to better understand the market opportunities?

You can review the following websites for more information on potential investment opportunities in the agricultural sector in Bahrain and to get a better understanding of the current landscape:

- Sijilat (Commercial Registration Portal) - to obtain information of all the authorized agricultural activities [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh)
- The Economic Development Board – to identify the investment opportunities in Kingdom of Bahrain [www.bahrainedb.com](http://www.bahrainedb.com)
- The Agricultural Database website – to gather essential information and data on the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain [www.agro.bh](http://www.agro.bh)
- The Government Land Investment Platform website – to view government lands and real estate properties designated for the purpose of investment. [www.investmentland.gov.bh](http://www.investmentland.gov.bh)

### 2.2 What government agencies are concerned with granting approvals and initial licensing for agricultural investments?

This would depend on the type and nature of the activity, however, the main departments involved in granting approvals and initial licensing would generally be:

- Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture – Municipal Affairs Department
- The Supreme Council for Environment – Environmental Licensing Department
- Ministry of Industry and Commerce – Industrial Development Department

For more information, please visit [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh).



### 2.3. What types of commercial companies are authorized in the Kingdom of Bahrain?

Article (2a) of the Commercial Companies Law (Law No 21 of 2001) and its amendments, identify the types of corporate structures as follows:

1. General Partnership company
2. Limited Partnership company
3. Association in Participation
4. Joint Stock Company
5. Limited Partnership by Shares
6. Limited Liability Company
7. Single Person Company
8. Holding Company

For more detailed information on the types of corporate structures and to determine which is most suitable for you, [click here](#).

### 2.4. What are the commercial company types allowed to engage in commercial activities in the agricultural sector?

Practicing the commercial activities in the agricultural sector is permitted for certain legal types of companies as follows:

1. Bahrain Shareholding Company (Public)
2. With Limited Liability Company
3. Branch of a Foreign Company
4. Bahrain Shareholding Company
5. Partnership Company
6. Limited Partnership Company
7. Limited Partnership by Shares
8. Non-Profit Company

To find out the legal liability limits of each of these companies, you can review the [Legal Requirements Relating to Companies](#).

### 2.5. What are the types of Commercial Registration certificates?

There are three types of commercial registration certificates:

- Commercial Registration Certificate **without a license**, which is issued before obtaining approvals/licenses for business activities.

This is the first step in legally registering your company in the Kingdom of Bahrain, allowing investors and entrepreneurs to begin applications for other services and gives them a legal identity. At this stage, you would not be allowed to conduct commercial (profit generating) activities.

- Commercial Registration Certificate **with license**, which is issued after obtaining approvals/licenses to practice commercial activities.

This is the 'complete' CR that allows you to begin commercial activity in full and without restriction.

- Virtual Commercial Registration (Sijili), which gives micro to small individual enterprises and entrepreneurs the legal status to perform specified business activities and to simplify the procedures for the establishment of some businesses. For most prospective agricultural investors, Sijili will not be suitable. Its scope of activity is limited, and it is intended to grant home or very small businesses a legal identity and the right to conduct commercial activity.

As an agricultural investor or entrepreneur, you will be required to obtain a Commercial Registration Certificate with a license for your business activities. For more information, visit [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh).

## **2.6. Can I obtain a Commercial Registration (CR) without the need to visit the Center for Commercial Registration Application Services?**

Yes, CR applications can be completed online, unless there is a specific request or summons from the Ministry of Industry & Commerce (MoIC) to visit or appear in person.

## **2.7. Is it possible to obtain a Virtual Commercial Registration for individual establishment?**

Yes, it is possible to conduct some commercial activities through a virtual store without the need of having a physical office space, however this option is **only available to Bahraini citizens**.

Currently, 42 activities are authorized to be practiced through the virtual registration, several of which may relate to the agricultural sector (including food packaging, packaging cosmetics or herbs, landscape care and maintenance service activities). To obtain a Virtual CR, you must meet the following conditions:

- Applicant must be a Bahraini national.
- Applicant must not be an owner of a different individual establishment or commercial WLL company owned by single shareholder.
- Applicant cannot be a director or representative in the management of any other commercial company (a shareholder in a company is allowed, provided they are not a director or a board member in it, nor authorized signatory).
- Committed to conduct the business only under the form of an individual establishment.
- Provide a permanent correspondence address.

**Noting that:**

- The Sijili Virtual Commercial Registration owner must obtain approvals from all relevant licensing authorities (the list of concerned licensing authorities will depend on the requirements of the selected commercial activity).
- The Sijili Virtual Commercial Registration does not permit the owner to obtain work permits to hire expat workers.

For more information, you can visit [www.moic.gov.bh/en](http://www.moic.gov.bh/en) or download this [document](#) to view the detailed information and permissible activity types. Please keep in mind that this information may be updated from time to time.

## **2.8. What is the procedure to register a Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs)?**

Small and Medium Enterprises can register through the SMEs Registration System. It is an electronic system that allows SMEs to apply for “Small and Medium Enterprises Classification Certificate” issued by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) designating the establishment size. Doing so will enable the owner to access certain privileges made available to Small and Medium Enterprises.

For more information, please visit the [SMEs section of the MoIC website](#).

## **2.9. Is there a registration fee for the SMEs Registration System?**

There are no registration fees for the Small and Medium Enterprises Registration System, unless any fees are enforced in the future by the concerned authority.

## **2.10. What are the conditions for obtaining a commercial registration to commence working and investing in the agricultural sector?**

The terms and conditions for obtaining a CR for work in the agricultural sector are the same as any other business activity and are subject to the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Generally, it is required that:

- The applicant must be 18 years or above.
- The applicant must meet the specific requirements outlined in the Commercial Companies Law in accordance with the company type registration requirements and intended commercial activities, as mentioned in [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh).

It is possible for non-Bahrainis to establish a CR for the purposes of agricultural investment. For more information see Section 6 of this guide.

### **2.11. Is it permitted to conduct business or investment in the agricultural sector as a single owner of the company?**

Yes, it is allowed to register for a sole proprietor to work and invest in the agricultural sector, under the regulations and conditions authorized by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and after obtaining the required license and approvals from all concerned parties.

**Note:** The “Individual Establishment” commercial business type can be owned only by Bahrainis, GCC citizen and American citizen.

### **2.12. What kind of support does The National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) provide to prospective investors?**

NIAD can support potential investors in the following ways:

- Introducing project owners to related parties by connecting investors to a wide range of service providers, and clarifying the procedures and services offered in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Providing consultation to initiate agricultural projects.
- Exchanging experiences to facilitate local and international commercial deals.

### **2.13. Can I practice commercial agricultural activities from home?**

Yes, but you must have a valid license to conduct a virtual business from your home from the relevant authorities, which may be subject to periodic change. For more information, you can visit website [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh) and select “Search Activities” in the Public Service section. Run a search for “Landscape Care and Maintenance Service Activities” (international coding 813) for more information. Landscape Care and Maintenance Service Activities the only permissible activity that can be performed from home in the Agricultural Sector.

**Note:** According to GCC Law No. (34) of 2012 regarding the Approval of Seeds and Seedlings Law (Regulation), if a plant nursery is established without a legal license, the violator will be fined up to 500 Bahraini Dinars.

### **2.14. Can I practice agricultural activities from home by joining the (Khatwa) program of the Ministry of Social Development?**

Yes, according to Resolution No. 39 of 2010 regarding organizing home-based business, the Khatwa program provides free legal cover for productive families. The main features of the Khatwa program available to participants are as follows:

- Joining the program is free of charge.
- Obtaining a special identification card as a home-based business, which is renewed annually and without any fees.

- Providing free of charge beginner and advanced vocational training programs for all applicable registered activities.
- Providing marketing services for free.
- Supporting the participation of families in domestic and international exhibitions and competitions and providing all the requirements for participation.
- Supporting product quality development and the creation of new products required by the market through the design and innovation center.
- Developing administrative and marketing skills through the Center for Home-Based Businesses.
- The possibility of obtaining project financing through the Family Microfinance House.
- Benefiting from the voluntary social insurance in the Social Insurance Organization (SIO) which helps secure Khatwa program beneficiaries' pensions.
- Productive families in possession of a home-based business permit are exempted from issuing the origin certificate of the imported goods, provided that the value of the goods does not exceed 500 Bahraini Dinars. These imports are treated as personal goods for import purposes.

For more information you can visit the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs website [www.mlsd.gov.bh](http://www.mlsd.gov.bh).

## **2.15. If I am not a registered farmer, can I still benefit from the 60% government subsidy on agricultural inputs?**

There is no mechanism for granting subsidized agricultural inputs such as greenhouse covers and irrigation pipes to non-farmers who are not in the Ministry of Municipality Affairs & Agriculture's approved list of farmers. Company owners who do not hold a farmer ID are not allowed to benefit from the subsidized agricultural inputs. However, individuals may benefit from subsidized pesticides only if they are utilized for personal use in gardens and private farms and not for commercial purposes.

## **2.16. Are there funding agencies to invest in the agricultural sector?**

There are several financing entities that grant concessional loans at low rates to Bahraini citizens to support small, medium and microfinance projects and productive families, which include:

- **Family Microfinance House**

It is a development organization specializing in microfinance as one of the support methods for low-income individuals, seeking to empower individuals, unleash their potential, and raise their living standards. Entrepreneurs may apply for financing from the bank even if they have a foreign partner, as long as they submit the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting indicating the board's approval to apply for financing from the bank, and on the condition that financing will be granted under the name of the Bahraini partner, not the name of the project. Owners of commercial registration, Sijili or participants in the (Khatwa) program can apply for loans.

To view the support of small and micro project programs, you can visit the website [www.fmh.bh](http://www.fmh.bh).

- **Ebdaa Microfinance Company**

Ebdaa Microfinance Company provides assistance to low-income individuals with an emphasis on women and youth-led projects, in an effort to increase the income of low-income Bahraini citizens and improve their standard of living by transforming their talents and skills into successful projects through the provision of microcredit loans. In the case of a foreign partner, project owners may also request for financing from the bank, provided there is a Bahraini co-guarantor.

For additional information, please visit the website <http://www.ebdaabahrain.com/>.

- **Bahrain Development Bank (BDB)**

There are several agricultural financing opportunities. Individual agricultural financing (granted to a person without a CR) is only available to Bahraini citizens and is subject to BDB's project evaluation processes. If the applicant for agricultural finance is a company owned by a Bahraini and a foreigner, the bank will consider the application according to their internal financing terms and conditions, which will include a credit check and profitability assessment by BDB. Please note that the terms and conditions for all agricultural loans, whether individual or commercial entity, are subject to change at any time.

For more information, you can visit the website: [www.bdb-bh.com](http://www.bdb-bh.com).

**Bahrain Development Bank Agricultural Financing Program:** Bahrain Development Bank has an agricultural financing program at a 0% profit rate of aiming to support agriculture production in Bahrain, available for amounts up to BHD 15,000. Among other requirements, this fund is **only available to Bahraini citizens**, in owned or leased possession of agricultural land, and is for the sole purpose of carrying out agricultural activity.

For more information about this financing program, visit the [Agricultural Loans section on the BDB website](#) [↗](#).

- **Labor Fund (Tamkeen)**

The Labor Fund (Tamkeen) provides financial support for the development of agricultural projects through establishment and individual specific programs.

Tamkeen has two types of support for the Agriculture Sector:

1. Direct support to individuals, companies, events, etc., through Tamkeen Special Projects and Tamkeen Strategic Partnership
2. Enterprise Programs (e.g. Financing and Enterprise Support) and Human Capital Programs (e.g. Training and Wage Support) - these programs are open for all sectors including the agriculture sector.

For more information about these programs and for eligibility criteria, you can visit the website [www.tamkeen.bh](http://www.tamkeen.bh).

For information on funding available to Foreign Investors, please see Section F10 of this document.

### **2.17. As a farmer, am I allowed to initiate an agricultural project and issue a commercial registration on the farm address?**

Municipal approval is required to initiate agricultural projects and establish a commercial registration on a farm or any other address. In the case of agricultural projects, the property must have an agricultural zoning, and be in a 'green belt' classed area. Along with the appropriate municipal and other authorities' approvals, a farm or plant nursery must already be located on the land, and the commercial registration for the prospective company must include Ministry of Industry & Commerce activity (ISIC4 Code 011) "Crop Production and Plant Propagation".

### **2.18. How many workers can be hired by a company in the agricultural sector?**

Issuance of expat work permits and identification of the number of permitted employees are subject to the Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) Law and executive regulations, and the Labor Law for the Private Sector. If the employer feels the number of employees is insufficient, they may request the LMRA to increase their allotted staff number, subject to approval.

### **2.19. What are the administrative fees for permits and licenses related to the commercial registration?**

There is no set amount for administrative fees, as each government agency has special provisions regarding its collection of fees and expenses either by law or according to the regulation decision. These fees are determined according to the submitted application type, fees may be subject to change or update by legislation.

### **2.20. Can the owner's children who work in the company register at the Social Insurance Authority as employees of the company like all other workers?**

No. According to Article 2 of the Labor Law in the Private Sector (Law No. 36 of 2012) and Article 2 of the Social Insurance Law (Law No. 21 of 2022), the owner's children or any family members registered as company employees are not covered by the provisions of the Labor Law, and therefore not able to be registered at the Social Insurance Organization.

### **2.21. Is it permissible for the company to have only one owner?**

Yes, this is permitted by law and falls under the Limited Liability Company form of incorporation. Its provisions and regulations are regulated by the [Commercial Companies Law](#) and the Law's executive regulations. For more information, visit [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh).

[Click here for additional laws and amendments](#).

### **2.22. Is there a maximum number of limited liability business partners?**

There is no maximum number of partners. For more information, visit [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh).

### **2.23. Does the capital of a limited liability company have a minimum share price?**

There is no minimum share price, and it can be of any capital value. For more information on the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism regulations regarding the establishment of limited liability companies, visit [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh).

### **2.24. Is a Memorandum of Association required for a new limited liability company with only one owner?**

If there is just one owner, a declaration of incorporation from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is sufficient, but if there are several owners, the Memorandum of Association must be provided.



## 3. Crops and Agriculture Industries

### 3.1. What plants are not permitted to grow in the Kingdom of Bahrain? Is it legal to cultivate Khat, Marijuana, or Alfalfa in Bahrain?

The type of the agricultural crops that are authorized to be cultivated in the Kingdom of Bahrain is subject to the law that concerns the types of crops that are permitted to be cultivated in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The cultivation of Khat or Marijuana is prohibited, and the law punishes anyone who violates this. Cultivation of alfalfa with high water needs is prohibited according to Resolution No. (2) of 2000 with an amendment regarding the prohibition of alfalfa cultivation.

Other forage crops that consume less water may be grown according to what is recommended by the competent authority from the Agriculture Affairs department within the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, and what does not violate the stipulations under Law No. (15) of 2007 concerning Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, especially Article (4) thereof and Resolution No. (39) of 2016 with an amending of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances schedules attached to Law No. (15) of 2007 concerning Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and its modifications.

### 3.2. What conditions and limitations govern the use of pesticides?

The Department of Quarantine and Plant Protection under the Plant Wealth Directorate issues all mandatory pesticide standards and usage regulations. The application of pesticides must meet the required specifications and be approved by the Department of Quarantine and Plant Protection on the following criteria:

1. A pesticide analysis certificate from a specialized laboratory in the Kingdom of Bahrain, another GCC country, or a specialized international laboratory.
2. Approval on proposed pesticide storage from the Department of Civilian Defense.

For more information on the Pesticide Law, please [click here](#).

### 3.3. Is there a cost for the sample analysis service provided by the Agriculture and Marine Resources Agency laboratory?

If the purpose of testing plant samples in the protective laboratory is to diagnose disease, then the examination will be conducted free of charge. If a person wishes to conduct analysis of soil samples for any non-diagnostic purpose in the Agriculture and Marine Resources Agency's Fertilizer and Soil Laboratory, a fee of 10 Bahraini Dinars (BD) will be applicable.

### **3.4. What is the difference between the Agriculture and Marine Resources laboratory and the Ministry of Health laboratory in terms of analyzing imported and locally produced fruits and vegetables?**

The Plant Wealth Directorate, in accordance with the GCC Unified Agricultural Quarantine Law, undertakes analysis of imported agricultural consignments (including vegetables and fruits) at customs ports to ensure that they are free of plant pests. In cases where symptoms of pest infection are noted, samples will be taken from the infected agricultural consignments at the port location to diagnose the infection and identify the pest. The shipment will not be released to maintain overall safety and non-contamination.

The Public Health Laboratories at the Ministry of Health conduct a variety of microbial and chemical tests to check the quality and safety of consignments of local and imported vegetables and fruits to ensure its safety and security for human consumption, in accordance with local, GCC, and international safety standards.

### **3.5. What are the agricultural services provided by the National Agricultural Laboratories Centre in Hoorat A'ali?**

The National Agricultural Laboratories Centre provides soil and water analyses that are necessary for the safety of the agricultural sector and the evaluation of sample quality, including electrical conductivity, pH tests, and estimation of calcium carbonate in soil, total dissolved salts, and pH in water.

This service is offered at a maximum of 10 Bahraini Dinars (BD). In the future, the laboratory intends to increase its list of available analyses.

### **3.6. What are the support industries in the agriculture sector?**

There are numerous industries in the agricultural sector, including but not limited to:

- Food production from agricultural produce.
- Perfumes and medicines industries from aromatic and medicinal herbs.
- Fertilizers and plants nutrient solutions industries.
- Pesticides and other agricultural chemical products industries.

### **3.7. What are the conditions for a prospective investor in the agricultural sector?**

- The applicant must be 18 years or above.
- The ownership percentage by nationality is as follows:

Bahraini	:	allowed up to 100% ownership.
GCC	:	allowed up to 100% ownership.
American	:	allowed up to 100% ownership.

Singaporean, Swiss, Icelandic, Norwegian and Liechtenstein nationals: allowed up to 100% ownership.

More information available on [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh).

To check the activities:

- Click on “Public services” .
- Search in business activities.
- Keyword search: Agriculture
- Search for commercial activities by selecting your option.

### 3.8. What types of agricultural projects require an environmental license?

Development projects in the Kingdom of Bahrain are subject to environmental impact assessment procedures in accordance with the categories outlined in Ministerial Resolution (No. 1) of 1998 concerning the environmental assessment of the project. Two categories of agricultural projects have been designated as requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment prior to obtaining a license. The two categories are:

**Category (22):** Projects and operations that may lead to a significant impact on the soil, such as pollution resulted from the leakage of some harmful elements or compounds from the waste into the soil or the resulting pollution from the excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides.

**Category (23):** Projects and operations that may lead to significant soil degradation or erosion (by water) or being dragged (by air) as the main projects of agriculture and the main engineering projects that may lead to a modification of the natural water flow.

### 3.9. What are the procedures to obtain an Environmental License?

Environmental Licensing procedures for agricultural projects involve:

- Filling an initial environmental impact assessment form for projects (EA-2).
- Registration of the application in the Environmental Licensing Section at the Supreme Council for Environment by e-mail to: [licensing@sce.gov.bh](mailto:licensing@sce.gov.bh), with a letter from the applicant (the project owner).

## 4. Exporting from the Kingdom of Bahrain

### 4.1. Who is responsible for exports regulation? How can they be contacted?

Export Bahrain is the official export platform of the Kingdom of Bahrain. It aims to give better solutions and services to export enterprises to meet their goals, stay up with global market demand, and prepare exporters to compete and succeed in the most challenging markets. For more information, contact:

#### **Export Bahrain**

Bahrain Financial Harbor, Harbor Gate, Fifth Floor, Manama - Kingdom of Bahrain

Phone: +973 1738 3999

Email: [info@export.bh](mailto:info@export.bh)

Website: [www.export.bh](http://www.export.bh)

### 4.2. Is it possible to export agricultural products? Who is the entity responsible for authorizing the production specifications?

Yes, agricultural goods can be exported on the condition of having a valid commercial registration, an export license, and permission from the importing country that specifies the necessary certifications and licenses. The relevant Bahraini certifications and permits are issued by the Plant Wealth Directorate under the Agency for Agriculture and Marine Resources and the Food Control Department at the Ministry of Health and Customs Affairs Department.

### 4.3. What are the fees for obtaining an Agricultural Certificate?

An Agricultural Certificate must be obtained as part of the agricultural quarantine process for agricultural exports or re-exports from the Kingdom of Bahrain. It is issued after an examination of the consignment prior to export and is subject to the following costs:

Service	Fees (BD)	Legal Document
Inspection fees for exported transit or re-exported shipments during the official working hours	10	Ministerial Resolution No. (50) of 2004 regarding inspection fees on agricultural shipments (consignments)
Inspection fees for exported transit or re-exported shipments out the official working hours	20	
Issuance of a plant health certificate (if the result of the shipment analyze conforms to the requirements)	10	Ministerial Resolution No. (82) of 2018 on identifying charge categories for agricultural service fees.
Issuance of a replacement for a lost plant health certificate	5	
Fees for issuing an import permit for plants and plant's products.	10	

## 5. Importing into the Kingdom of Bahrain

### 5.1. What entity is responsible for imports regulation? How can they be contacted?

The Customs Affairs Department in the Ministry of Interior is responsible for regulating imports and exports in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

For more information on import regulations, contact the Customs Affairs Department on the contact information shown in this guide (Chapter 3), or visit the website [www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh](http://www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh).

### 5.2. What are the import regulations for goods or services for the Kingdom of Bahrain?

Bahrain follows the Unified Customs Regulation Law for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries and subsequent executive provisions.

For more information on specific matters, contact the Customs Affairs Department or visit the website [www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh](http://www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh).

### 5.3. Do I need to apply for import licenses?

The facility of “Import” and “Export” is already included within the approved activities for Commercial Registrations that contain “Sale or Trade” as their activity. In case the activity does not contain the “Sale or Trade” facility, the investor can submit an online application to add a separate activity to the existing Commercial Registration.

### 5.4. What are the required documents to import goods?

Documents required to complete import clearance procedures:

- Purchase invoice.
- Bill of lading (except for imports via land ports).

For more detailed information on documentary requirements for the import of agricultural goods, please review the [Unified Customs Regulations of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries](#) and the executive provisions, available on the Custom Affairs Directorate website [www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh](http://www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh).

#### Clearance Procedures:

The authorized person must prepare the import customs declaration at the relevant ports and pay the prescribed customs duties.

**Note:**

- The Customs Affairs Directorate offers a complimentary service for Air Cargo shipments by preparing the customs declaration in the presence of the importer.
- It may sometimes be necessary to inspect and audit the goods to detect anomalies according to risk standards.

**Additional actions:**

After submitting the customs declaration using the eCAS system, the customs clearance procedures will be as follows:

- Pay customs duties at the cashier's office at the customs clearance point
- Submit all documents related to the imported goods to the customs officer at the port.
- Pay the relevant cargo handling fees and identify a delivery date for the goods at the operator's office.
- The port operator will arrange container transport to the identified checkpoint.
- Customs will assess the goods risk and inspection can be carried out accordingly.
- Upon completion of these procedures, the goods will be cleared and allowed to leave the customs point.

The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) is used to classify imported and exported goods. For additional information on import regulations, please read the Unified Customs Regulations for the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the executive provisions on the Customs Affairs website [www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh](http://www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh).

## 5.5. Are there any Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that I should know about?

Yes, the Kingdom of Bahrain benefits from many free trade agreements (FTAs). They are international bilateral agreements that eliminate trade barriers between nations, allowing foreign firms to be treated similarly to domestic firms and benefit from certain privileges.

With the expansion of its free trade agreements, the Kingdom of Bahrain has dramatically expanded its import and export rates, as its imports increased by 48.76% between 2013 and 2018.


- The **Greater Arab Free Trade Agreement** signatories include Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- **GCC Free Trade Agreement** grants national treatment to all GCC firms and citizens in any other GCC country.

- The **European Free Trade Agreement** with Bahrain includes all 27 EU member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- The **GCC-Singapore Federal Trade Agreement (GSFTA)** allows GCC goods duty-free access to the Singaporean market.
- Bahrain was the first Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member and third Arab country to enter into an **FTA with the United States**.

For more details about FTAs, you can visit the Bahrain Economic Development Board website: [www.bahrainedb.com](http://www.bahrainedb.com).


### **5.6. Are commercial establishments and companies that practice agricultural activities subject to the payment of any Value-Added Tax?**

The National Bureau for Revenue (established by Royal Decree No 45 in 2018) is responsible for supervising, controlling, and registering individuals and companies subject to the value added tax.

2018 also witnessed the launch of Law No 48 regarding Value-Added Tax (VAT) and its executive regulations that detail provisions applicable to individuals and businesses engaging in any economic activity. Different rules apply depending on whether the individual or company is resident or non-resident in the Kingdom of Bahrain. For more information, see Section 3.1 and 3.2 of the [General Guide of the Added Value](#) .

### **5.7. Can an import permit be procured once the shipment has arrived in Bahrain?**

No, the importer must obtain an import license before shipping consignments from the country of origin.

For more information on obtaining a license to import plants, plant products or other materials subject to agriculture quarantine regulations, [click here](#) .

### **5.8. Is it required to obtain a pesticide analysis certificate for each import of the same pesticide?**

Pesticide analysis certificates issued by the Agriculture and Marine Resources Agency are valid for one year, effective from the date of issuance. Within this period, shipments will be exempt from re-testing requirements if they originate from the same company and country of manufacture.



### **5.9. Is agricultural quarantine applied to consignments immediately upon arrival to the customs port?**

The agricultural quarantine unit analyzes agricultural consignments upon receipt of an analysis request from customs and upon the importer's submission of all required documents to the agricultural quarantine inspector at the customs port.

### **5.10. Are there fees for analyzing the agricultural consignments?**

Yes, the analyzing fee during the official working hours is 5 Bahraini Dinars and the out-of-hours analysis fee is 15 Bahraini Dinars.

**Note:** The fees contained in this document are a guide, and actual amounts may be subject to variation by the administrative authority.

### **5.11. Where are the analyses for the consignments or agricultural shipments performed?**

Shipments are analyzed at the Agriculture Affairs headquarters in Budaiya or any other location that may be specified by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

### **5.12. Which authorities must be consulted with regards to the import and export controls in the Kingdom of Bahrain for seaports (maritime activities)?**

When importing or exporting any products, crops, or materials regulated by any of the below government agencies, it is necessary to seek relevant approvals from whichever agency has jurisdiction, namely:

- Ministry of Interior.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture.
- Ministry of Health.
- The Supreme Council for Environment.

## 6. Foreign Investments

### 6.1. Can a foreign investor invest in the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain?

Yes, a foreign investor can invest in the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The investor can benefit from 100% foreign ownership in most sectors, without the need for a local partner.

See section 2.3 for more details on company formation.

### 6.2. What agricultural sector investment avenues are available in the Kingdom of Bahrain?

There are several investment opportunities, including activities relating to the production, import, or export of the following:

- Agricultural crops
- Agricultural inputs
- Agricultural equipment and machinery
- Meat, dairy and cheese

Innovation outside of these example areas is also welcomed, as long as it does not contradict any laws or provisions of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

### 6.3. What are the advantages of investing in the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain?

The Kingdom of Bahrain has multiple advantages for investors including:

- Ease of doing business
- 100% Foreign ownership
- Duty-Free access to over 22 countries.
- Wide logistics and Free Trade Agreement networks
- State of the art industrial infrastructure
- Attractive incentives offered by Tamkeen (Labour Fund)
- The perfect hub for operations in the Middle East and North Africa
- Most diversified economy in the Arabian Gulf
- Favorable regulatory policies that rank Bahrain as the 1st in the GCC for economic freedom

Bahrain offers many facilities and support for trading business, in addition to a strategic geographic position and strong logistics relationships with other countries in the Middle East and the world.

The agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain is particularly diverse with a lot of potential for development and innovation, making it an attractive investment opportunity for any prospective investor.

#### **6.4. I want to invest in the agricultural sector in Bahrain; who can I contact for additional information?**

The National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) focuses on the conservation, enhancement, and development of the agricultural sector, to contribute to the Kingdom of Bahrain's social, environmental, and economic development. NIAD can assist in relevant matchmaking with potential contacts in the local agricultural market.

#### **6.5. What is the minimum capital investment for agricultural sector activities?**

There is no minimum investment other than what the Ministry of Industry and Commerce may require, such as determining the capital upon business formation based on the business type and activities.

#### **6.6. Is the foreign investor required to pay taxes on the investments?**

Bahrain does not have corporation tax, capital gains tax, income tax or other taxes commonly found in other countries. Value-Added Tax (VAT) was introduced on January 1, 2019 by Law No 48 of 2018, and applies to the domestic consumption, import and export of goods and services in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The base rate of VAT in Bahrain is 10% (as amended by Law No 33 of 2021), although some exemptions on goods, services, and particular business activities that reduce the applicable VAT rate to either 5% or 0%. Additionally, there are some other non-tax fees and levies applied by specialist agencies which a foreign investor may encounter during business activity in Bahrain.

For more information, visit the National Bureau for Revenue website [www.nbr.gov.bh](http://www.nbr.gov.bh).

#### **6.7. Are insurance options available in the Kingdom of Bahrain?**

Yes, a variety of private insurance services are available with licensed local, regional, and global insurance companies operating in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Foreign investors can contact insurance companies directly to acquire more information about the types of insurance offered and packages available depending on their needs.

## 6.8. How can I find a local investment partner?

An investor can seek out potential business partners and enter into any agreement or arrangement with them in any way that suits the parties and their business needs, under the provisions of law. Additionally, The National Initiative for Agricultural Development can help match parties and help the investor find the right contacts in the local agricultural markets.

## 6.9. How can I know if the lands allocated are for agricultural use?

There are two ways to identify the lands that are allocated are for agricultural use:

1. The **Government Land Investment Platform** displays available plots of government owned lands and existing structures with zoning details clearly displayed to help potential investors make the right decision for their business idea. The properties are let through a public auction process facilitated by the Bahrain Tender Board.

For more information, visit the Government Land Investment Platform on [www.investmentland.gov.bh](http://www.investmentland.gov.bh).

2. In case you have the property or deed number of a certain land and want to check if it has been allocated are for agricultural use, the Urban Planning and Development Authority offers a land classification inquiry service that allows visitors to inquire about the classification of any property in the Kingdom of Bahrain by entering the property or deed number. Once the required information is entered, the land classification information is displayed on a map showing the location of the property using a geographical information systems (GIS) program.

Through this service, the following information can be found:

- Land Classification
- Block Number
- Area
- Governorate
- Permissible Built-Up Percentage
- Permitted Floors
- Front Setback
- Rear Setback
- Side Setback

For more information, visit the Urban Planning and Development Authority website [www.upda.gov.bh](http://www.upda.gov.bh).

## 6.10. As a foreign investor in the Kingdom of Bahrain, is there a system of government subsidies or other kinds of technical, financial, and training support for agriculture that I may apply for or benefit from?

Yes, the government and official agencies do provide assistance towards the development of the agricultural sector. The sort of support is determined by their authority and competencies. The application submission is subject to the conditions of these parties.

- **Family Microfinance House**

Entrepreneurs may apply for financing from the bank even if they have a foreign partner, as long as they submit the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting indicating the board's approval to apply for financing from the bank, and the financing will be under the name of the Bahraini partner, not the name of the project.

- **Ebdaa Bank**

In the case of a foreign partner, project owners are entitled to request for financing from the bank, provided that a third Bahraini co-guarantor exists. For additional information, please visit the website [www.ebdaabrain.com](http://www.ebdaabrain.com).

- **Bahrain Development Bank**

There are several agricultural financing opportunities. Individual agricultural financing (granted to a person without a CR) is only available to Bahraini citizens and is subject to BDB's project evaluation processes. If the applicant for agricultural finance is a company owned by a Bahraini and a foreigner, the bank will consider the application according to their internal financing terms and conditions, which will include a credit check and profitability assessment by the Bahrain Development Bank.


**Note:** The terms and conditions for all agricultural loans, whether individual or commercial entity, are subject to change at any time.

For more information, you can visit the website: [www.bdb-bh.com](http://www.bdb-bh.com).

- **Labor Fund (Tamkeen)**

The Labor Fund (Tamkeen) provides financial support for the development of Bahraini agricultural projects through establishment and individual specific programs.

While Tamkeen supports Bahraini individuals only, Bahrain-based enterprises holding an active CR and who are licensed by authorized entities like Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Information & eGovernment Authority, and National Health Regulatory Authority may also benefit from the support provided by Tamkeen.

For more information about Tamkeen's programs and support, please visit the website [www.tamkeen.bh](http://www.tamkeen.bh). You can also view additional information related to the agricultural sector through our sector profile report on [Agriculture – Tamkeen](#) .

## 7. Jurisdiction and Applicable Law

### 7.1. Whom should I contact for additional information about the regulations governing the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain?

All legislations in the Kingdom of Bahrain are available on the Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission's official website [www.lloc.gov.bh](http://www.lloc.gov.bh) and selected, investment related legislations are available on the Economic Development Board [www.bahrainedb.com](http://www.bahrainedb.com). Some, but not all, of those legislations are available in English.

**Note:** see Chapter Two of this guide for a list of the most important legislation related to the agricultural sector in Bahrain.

### 7.2. In the event of a disagreement between the parties, which entity has the jurisdiction power?

These disputes are subject to the provisions of the Articles of Association and what is applicable in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In the event of a dispute arising in Bahrain, the jurisdiction is the courts and judicial system of the Kingdom of Bahrain unless otherwise specified by contract or other constitutional documents.

### 7.3. What dispute resolution methods are available to a foreign investor?

The general origin is the validity and application of the national legislation in force in the Kingdom of Bahrain on the civil and commercial disputes that may arise in the territory of the Kingdom of Bahrain under the centers and legal relations between the disputing parties and are to be considered before the Bahraini judiciary in accordance with the stipulations under the Civil and Commercial Pleading Law No. (12) of 1971 and its amendments, especially Article (5), (22) of the law, unless there are reasons and support for the application of a specific foreign law or the selection of international trade law and its customs depending on the nature of the contract and contracting. It is also required that there is no impediment to the application of foreign law stipulated under Bahraini law in a manner that does not conflict with public order and on condition that the disputed parties must provide the applicable foreign law provisions or the judge is permitted, when not providing them, to consider Bahraini law as the applicable foreign law and he shall be judged accordingly, and this is what is stipulated in Law No. (6) of 2015 regarding conflict of laws in civil and commercial matters of a foreign person, and here it is the applicable national law.

In this chapter, the most important legislation in force Related to work, trade, investment in the agricultural sector and the provisions and rules regulating it In the Kingdom of Bahrain has been put, which includes (laws - executive regulations - decisions) associated with the link to view the provisions contained therein, please visit the official website of the Legislature and legal opinion, and it is always possible through the authority's website to view all legislations issued and valid in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Among the organizations that the parties may select in writing as an arbitration or mediation are (the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution - GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre - a free individual arbitrator or more of those registered in the list of arbitrators and mediators at the competent authority).

# Chapter Two

Legislations in the Kingdom of Bahrain





This chapter outlines important legislation (including laws, executive regulations and resolutions) related to work, trade and investment in the agricultural sector. It also contains the provisions and rules regulating the sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Direct links have been provided to access the laws in their entirety. For further information and to review all legislations issued and enforced in the Kingdom of Bahrain, please visit the Legislative and Legal Opinion Commission's official website [www.lloc.gov.bh](http://www.lloc.gov.bh).

## The Most Important Laws Related to Work, Trade and Investment in the Agricultural Sector.

### GCC Laws

1. Law No. (5) of 2003 approving the agricultural quarantine system (law) in the GCC [🔗](#).
2. Law No. (37) of 2005 approving the pesticide system (law) for GCC [🔗](#).
3. Law No. (38) of 2005 approving the fertilizers and agriculture soil improvers system (law) in the GCC [🔗](#).
4. Law No. (34) of 2012 approving the seeds and seedlings system (law) in GCC [🔗](#).
5. Decree-Law No. (47) of 2018 ratifying the Unified Agreement for the Added Value Tax in GCC [🔗](#).

### Bahrain Laws

1. Law No. (15) of 2007 concerning Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances [🔗](#).
2. Law No. (14) of 2012 approving accession to the Rotterdam Convention related to applying the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides common in international trade [🔗](#).
3. Law No. (36) of 2012 promulgating the Labor Law in the Civil Sector [🔗](#).
4. Decree-Law No. (47) of 2012 establishing and organizing the Environment Supreme Council [🔗](#).
5. Law No. (34) of 2018 promulgating the Public Health Law [🔗](#).
6. The Commercial Companies Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 2001 and its amendments [🔗](#).
7. Decree-Law No. (28) of 2020 amending some provisions of the Commercial Companies Law issued by the Decree-Law No. (21) of 2001 [🔗](#).
8. Law No. (33) of 2021 amending some provisions of the Added Value Tax Law issued by Decree-Law No. (48) of 2018 [🔗](#).

## **The Most Important Executive Regulations Related to Work, Trade and Investment in the Agricultural Sector.**

1. The Executive Regulations of the Commercial Companies Law issued by Decree No. (21) of 2001 and its amendments related to Work, Trade, and Investment in the Agricultural Sector [↗](#).
2. Resolution of the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture No. (89) of 2006 issuing the executive regulations for the pesticides and agricultural soil improvers system (law) in GCC issued by Law No. (38) of 2005 [↗](#).
3. Resolution No. (12) of 2018 Issuing the Executive Regulations of the Added Value Tax Law issued by Decree-Law No. (48) of 2018 [↗](#).

## **The Most Important Decisions related to Work, Trade and Investment in the Agricultural Sector.**

1. Resolution of the Minister of Trade and Agriculture No. (25) of 1980 regarding the ban on the export of seeds, seedlings, plants, vegetables, fruits, and all other local agricultural crops [↗](#).
2. Resolution of the Minister of Works and Agriculture No. (2) of 2000 amending some provisions of Resolution No. (7) of the year 1997 on the ban of growing alfalfa [↗](#).
3. Resolution of the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture No. (4) of 2003 regarding the conditions for importing Organic fertilizers and agricultural soil or any alternative to agricultural soil in which plants grow [↗](#).
4. Resolution of the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture No. (5) of 2003 regarding the formation of the Agricultural Quarantine Committee and its competences [↗](#).
5. Resolution of the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture No. (1) of 2004 regarding the import of agricultural shipments (consignments) [↗](#).
6. Resolution of the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture No. (2) of 2004 regarding the export or re-export agricultural shipments (consignments) [↗](#).
7. Resolution of the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture No. (3) of 2004 regarding the import of accompanying plants with natural soil [↗](#).
8. Resolution of the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture No. (50) of 2004 regarding inspection fees on Agricultural shipments (consignments) [↗](#).
9. Resolution of the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture No. (88) of 2006 issuing the executive regulations for the Pesticides System (Law) in GCC issued by Law No. (37) of 2005 [↗](#).

10. Resolution of the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture No. (110) of 2006 to form the Pesticides Registration Committee [🔗](#).
11. Resolution of the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture No. (7) of 2007 regarding the amendment of Resolution No. (5) of 2003 of the Agricultural Quarantine Committee formation and its competences [🔗](#).
12. Resolution No. (39) of 2016 amending the attached schedules of narcotics and psychotropic substances By Law No. (15) of 2007 regarding narcotics and psychotropic substances and its amendments [🔗](#).
13. Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Resolution No. (62) of 2017 regarding collecting revenues from the sale of agricultural seedlings produced in the central nurseries in the municipality's affairs [🔗](#).
14. Resolution of the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning No. (17) of 2020 to cancel Resolution No. (123) of 2017 determining the categories of fees for agricultural services [🔗](#).
15. Resolution No. (3) of 2020 amending some provisions of Resolution No. (43) of 2018 regarding the government entities supplies exempted and subject to the added value [🔗](#).
16. Resolution No. (33) of 2020 determining the fees for issuing tax certificates and licenses for representatives and tax agents and filing tax objections [🔗](#).
17. Resolution of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism No. (18) of 2021 regarding the approval of Gulf specifications standards for the food and agricultural products sector as national standards [🔗](#).
18. Resolution of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism No. (22) of 2021 regarding temporary permission to import food products, goods, and health items [🔗](#).

# Chapter 3

Governmental and Official  
Organizations Related to Work,  
Trade and Investment in the  
Agricultural Sector



This chapter includes a directory of all the governmental and official organizations that are concerned with work, trade and investment in the agricultural sector. A brief description of each organization's relevant activities and their contact details have been listed in order to provide an overview of the existing organizations that can facilitate, support and guide local and foreign investor in the agricultural sector.

## 1. The National Initiative for Agricultural Development

The initiative works to unify efforts between the various stakeholders in the agricultural sector with the aim of encouraging investment in the sector and increasing its productivity and sustainability using modern technology in the Agricultural production sector and following the right agricultural practices that ensure sustainability and quality. It also works to overcome obstacles hindering the growth of the agricultural sector and to train workers to be able to keep pace with global development in this field.

### Contact Numbers:

- International Relations Department:	+973 17171607
- Business Development Department:	+973 17171608
- Public Relations and Marketing Department:	+973 17171603
- Office:	+973 17171620
Fax:	+973 17003652

### Address:

Office - 184, Platinum Tower Building – 190, Road – 2803, Block - 428  
Seef District, Kingdom of Bahrain  
Email: [info@niadbh.com](mailto:info@niadbh.com)  
Website: [www.niadbh.com](http://www.niadbh.com)

## 2. Ministry of Interior

### 1. Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs

It is the authority responsible for issuing and renewing passports, issuing and extending visitor visas and issuing residence renewal.

Passport Department: +973 17532198  
Visa and Residence Administration: +973 17535325  
Website: [www.npra.gov.bh](http://www.npra.gov.bh)

### 2. Customs Affairs Department

The Customs Affairs Department is responsible for imposing customs tariffs on exports and imports, controlling entry and exit of goods at land, sea and air borders, inspection of arrivals upon their entry to Bahrain and the application of agricultural quarantine procedures on agricultural consignments coming to the Kingdom of Bahrain at all customs ports.

Phone: +973 17389999  
WhatsApp: +973 17389999  
Email: [customerservice@customs.gov.bh](mailto:customerservice@customs.gov.bh)  
Website: [www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh](http://www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh)

### 3. General Directorate of Civil Defense

The General Directorate of Civil Defense of the Ministry of Interior introduces and enforces safety requirements. They assure the availability of fire prevention and protection requirements and alarm & extinguishing means in the establishments.

Phone: +973 17239300  
Fax: +973 17251703  
Website: [www.gdcd.gov.bh](http://www.gdcd.gov.bh)

### 4. Coast Guard General Administration

Coast Guard General Administration works to provide a safe maritime environment and to maintain law and order within the territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Phone: +973 17700000  
Fax: +973 1770 4296

### 3. Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf (Notary Directorate)

The Notary Directorate at the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs conducts documentation transactions and ratification of real estate and non-real estate documents.

Phone: +973 17318998  
 Email: [info@moj.gov.bh](mailto:info@moj.gov.bh)  
 Website: [www.moj.gov.bh/ar](http://www.moj.gov.bh/ar)

### 4. Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture prepares policies and regulations for municipal services and oversees the work of the Municipalities in providing services to individuals and institutions in the country in addition to developing and maintaining public areas. The ministry also oversees the management and growth of the plant and animal sectors, fisheries and water resources in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Phone: +973 17981 000  
 Email: [prinfo@mun.gov.bh](mailto:prinfo@mun.gov.bh)  
 Website: [www.mun.gov.bh/portal](http://www.mun.gov.bh/portal)

#### 1. Municipalities Affairs

Municipality services are provided through the Municipal Comprehensive Center through which the investor and/or consultant can get all the information that will enable them to start their investment or development project, as well as obtaining a building permit that includes approval of all parties involved in the project in a short period of time and with easy and simplified administrative procedures.

Phone: +973 17981000

#### 2. Agriculture Affairs and Marine Resources

It is the party responsible for examining plant samples, issuing licenses for importing consignments or agricultural pesticides, examination and application of the plant quarantine procedure on consignments received at the shipping ports, issuing the agricultural certificate for the purposes of exporting or re-exporting plants, plant products or any other materials subject to plant quarantine regulations, drilling of water wells, construction of agricultural drains and drains maintenance works. It also

provides training and awareness programs for those interested in agricultural affairs. Additionally, they are the body concerned with preserving the livestock sector, as it controls imports and exports to and from the Kingdom of Bahrain related to animal consignments and their products, in addition to the control and follow-up of the epidemiological situation of livestock inside the animal production farms, as well as It is concerned with controlling and preventing the spread of animal diseases through quarries and veterinary laboratories and the application of regulations and laws related to livestock. It also monitors the veterinary facilities and animal care, regulates the practice of veterinary medical professions, provides advice and technical advice, awareness and education for all livestock breeders.

Phone: +973 17987000

Phone: +973 17987312

### 3. Agricultural Health Directorate

The Agricultural Health Directorate provides pesticide and plant protection services such as the examination of plant specimens and accepts requests for testing and treatment of palm infected with red palm weevil. The department also provides Agricultural Quarantine Services such as examinations and application of agricultural quarantine procedures on agricultural consignments in shipping ports.

Phone: +973 17987213 / +973 17987219 / +973 17987200

#### Important links:

- [Examination and application of agricultural quarantine procedures on agricultural consignments in shipping ports](#)
- [Examination of plant specimen](#)
- [Obtaining a license to import agricultural and public health pesticides](#)
- [Request for examination and application of agricultural quarantine procedures on the imported agricultural consignments at the shipping ports](#)
- [Applying for a license to import plants, plant products or other materials subject to plant quarantine](#)
- [Obtaining an agricultural certificate for the purposes of exporting or re-exporting plants, plant products or any other materials subject to plant quarantine regulations exported abroad](#)
- [Construction of agricultural drains & structures](#)
- [Request to drain water into the agricultural drainage network](#)
- [Maintenance work for agricultural drainage](#)
- [Request for repair and operation of pump stations](#)
- [Ground Water Use Permit / Change of Water Use](#)
- [Request to drill water wells](#)



## 5. Urban Planning and Development Authority

The Urban Planning and Development Authority implements the general policy of urban planning and sustainable urban development by providing many services, including land division and merging, planning, classification and preparing structural and detailed blueprints and mapping projects in various regions of the Kingdom in order to achieve sustainable urban development.

Hotline: +973 80008001  
 Phone: +973 17682888  
 Website: [www.upda.gov.bh](http://www.upda.gov.bh)

## 6. Ministry of Health

### Food Control Department

The Food Control Department conducts inspection campaigns on restaurants, food preparation and selling shops and warehouses to ensure that shop owners and employees comply with sanitary inspection requirements and controls and examination of food to ensure its suitability for human consumption.

Hotline: +973 39427743  
 Website: [www.moh.gov.bh](http://www.moh.gov.bh)

## 7. Ministry of Industry and Commerce

### 1. Registration Office:

Issuing Commercial Registration (CR) for companies and individual establishments and providing all information and clarifications about the procedures, laws and requirements for obtaining the commercial registration, in addition to evaluation and creation of commercial activities.

Phone: +973 17111200

### 2. Companies Control Office:

The Companies Control Office receives annual financial reports for various types of companies registered in the Kingdom of Bahrain, follows up on its financial and legal conditions, reviews requests for auditors' registration and their registration in the auditors' register and monitors the auditing offices to ensure that the application of accounting standards is properly accredited.

Phone: +973 17111333  
 Fax: +973 17550836

### 3. Inspection and Metrology Administration Office:

Monitoring products to ensure their compliance with their technical requirements and regulations and conducting periodic inspection of shops in the field of measurement and calibration to verify the measurement devices correctness related to weight and measurement.

Phone: + 973 17574 909  
 Fax: +973 17530730  
 Email: [bsmd@moic.gov.bh](mailto:bsmd@moic.gov.bh)

### 4. Inspection Management Office:

This office is in charge of: Preparing and implementing plans, programs and projects necessary to implement the industrial and commercial inspections to ensure the compliance of the various establishments with the laws, ministerial decisions, the related regulations and requirements; monitoring all markets and outlets in the Kingdom of Bahrain; dealing with illegal commercial practices; carrying out field and electronic inspection; dealing with related complaints of commercial and industrial practices received from consumers, relevant government departments or related agencies and taking the necessary action in this regard.

Phone: + 973 17574 877  
 Email: [Inspection@moic.gov.bh](mailto:Inspection@moic.gov.bh)

### 5. Small and Medium Enterprise Development Office:

This office is in charge of: planning and setting mechanisms and policies for the development of the Small and Medium Enterprise sector; supporting entrepreneurs; providing advisory and administrative support for SMEs; licensing business activity and issuing a certificate for classifying small and medium enterprises.

Phone: + 973 17568034  
 Fax: + 973 17581504  
 Email: [smedevelopment@moic.com.bh](mailto:smedevelopment@moic.com.bh)

### 6. Industrial Development Administration Office:

This office is in charge of: industrial registration and issuance of a license to establish an industrial project; adding an industrial activity; adding an industrial licensing branch; expanding the factory or performing any transactions related to industrial licensing.

Phone: + 973 17568045  
 Fax: +973 17581538  
 National Call Center: +973 80008001

To apply for a Commercial Registration (CR) or to inquire about a trade name, visit [www.sijilat.bh](http://www.sijilat.bh).

## 8. Supreme Council for Environment

### 1. Environmental Protection and Control Department:

The Environmental Protection and Control Department receives export notifications for pesticides and responds to them in coordination with the concerned persons in the Department of Plant Resources at the Agency for Agriculture and Marine Resources in a manner that does not contradict with the Pesticides (System) Law and its executive regulations in the GCC and Law No. 38 of 2005 with the approval of the system of (Fertilizers and Soil Improvers for Agriculture Law in the GCC Countries) and the international agreements related to these pesticides management that the Kingdom of Bahrain has joined.

Phone: +973 17920213 / +973 17386612

### 2. Biodiversity Management:

This department provides the service of issuing licenses and certificates for importing, exporting and re-exporting plants and animals' species threatened with extinction.

Phone: +973 17386582 / +973 17910863

### 3. Environmental Evaluation and Permits Management:

It is the department concerned with assessing the environmental impact and granting environmental licenses for agricultural projects.

Phone: +973 17386653

### 4. Environmental Licensing Office:

The primary objective of the Supreme Council for Environment is to safeguard the environment against any potential harm that may arise from industrial ventures. To achieve this goal, the Council grants environmental licenses to facilities, imposing upon the applicant a set of legal obligations and regulations which aid in the attainment of this objective.

Phone: +973 17386993

## 9. Social Insurance Organization

Social Insurance Organization (SIO) is the official authority responsible for providing social insurance services to all individuals covered by Pension Civil Law and Social Insurance Law in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Call Center and Services: +973 17000707

Website: [www.sio.gov.bh](http://www.sio.gov.bh)

## 10. Labor Fund (Tamkeen)

Tamkeen is concerned with enabling projects to enter the Bahraini market, providing financial support for establishments subject to Tamkeen programs; encouraging establishments to employ Bahrainis and providing opportunities for Bahraini individuals to improve their skills and increase their competitiveness locally and internationally.

Call Center and Services: +973 17383333  
Fax : +973 17382716  
Email: [support@tamkeen.bh](mailto:support@tamkeen.bh)  
Website: [www.tamkeen.bh](http://www.tamkeen.bh)

## 11. Economic Development Board

The Economic Development Board provides commercial investment opportunities and gives advice in the investment field.

Call Center: +973 17589999  
Website: <http://www.bahrainedb.com/en>

## 12. Labor Market Regulatory Authority

The Labor Market Regulatory Authority is responsible for issuing work permits for foreign workers in coordination with concerned authorities, such as Nationality Affairs, Passports and Residence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Information Authority, eGovernment and the Social Insurance Organization. It is also responsible for monitoring medical tests for foreign workers in coordination with the relevant authorities, as well as collecting all fees related to work permits and licenses issued in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Call Center: +973 17388888  
Customer Service Center: +973 17506055  
Expatriate Labor Services Center: +973 17103103  
Fax: +973 17552643  
Email: [lmra@lmra.gov.bh](mailto:lmra@lmra.gov.bh)  
Website: [www.lmra.gov.bh](http://www.lmra.gov.bh)

## 13. Information and eGovernment Authority

It is the authority responsible for issuing identity cards, card update services, the issuance of unit / facility number service and address certificate issuance service. You can contact the Government Services Contact Center: +973 80008001 to speak to a representative directly.

The main branch of the Information and eGovernment Authority will assess requests and direct them to the concerned branch within the Information and E-government Authority or to any other concerned authority.

Phone: +973 17878000 / +973 17377777  
Fax: +973 17388338  
Website: [www.iga.gov.bh](http://www.iga.gov.bh)

## 14. The National Bureau for Revenue

The National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) is responsible for the registration of entities and individuals subject to VAT and Excise, as well as the following:

- Validating the return filings of the entities and the related assessment.
- Collecting the VAT and Excise dues.
- Releasing refunds to the entities.
- Auditing and processing of any appeal.
- Monitoring and enforcement of compliance.

For inquiries about VAT issues:

Local Hotline: +973 80008001  
International Hotline: +973 77777333  
Email: [vat@nbr.gov.bh](mailto:vat@nbr.gov.bh)  
Website: [www.nbr.gov.bh](http://www.nbr.gov.bh)

## 15. Export Bahrain

Export Bahrain is the Kingdom's first dedicated platform and the national export development and internationalization support arm of Bahrain that was launched under the purview of the SME Development Board as part of a national effort to support SME business expansion and international growth.

Export Bahrain's key mission is to promote, nurture and accelerate the growth of local businesses, products and services made in the Kingdom of Bahrain and enable exporters to take on more challenging, high-growth export markets.

Phone: +973 1738 3999  
Email: [info@export.bh](mailto:info@export.bh)  
Website: [www.export.bh](http://www.export.bh)

# Appendix

Samples of CR Activities in the field of Agriculture



Ministry / Directorate	License / Approval Requirements	Approval Type
Municipality Affairs	<a href="#">Site Approval for Administrative and support activities</a>	Post

#### Business Activity

ISIC4 Code	813
Business Activity Name	Landscape care and maintenance service activities
Description	<p>This activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Planting, care and maintenance of:</li> <li>- Parks and gardens for:</li> <li>- Private and public housing</li> <li>- Public and semi-public buildings (schools, hospitals, administrative buildings, church buildings etc.)</li> <li>- Municipal grounds (parks, green areas, cemeteries etc.)</li> <li>- Highway greenery (roads, train lines and tramlines, waterways, ports)</li> <li>- Industrial and commercial buildings</li> <li>- Greenery for:</li> <li>- Buildings (roof gardens, façade greenery, indoor gardens)</li> <li>- sports grounds (e.g. football fields, golf courses etc.), play grounds, lawns for sunbathing and other recreational parks</li> <li>- stationary and flowing water (basins, alternating wet areas, ponds, swimming pools, ditches, watercourses, plant sewage systems)</li> <li>- Plants for protection against noise, wind, erosion, visibility and dazzling</li> </ul> <p>This activity also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Maintenance of land in order to keep it in good ecological condition</li> </ul> <p>This activity excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commercial production and planting for commercial production of plants, trees</li> <li>- Tree nurseries (except forest tree nurseries)</li> <li>- Maintenance of land to keep it in good condition for agricultural use</li> <li>- Construction activities for landscaping purposes</li> <li>- landscape design and architecture activities</li> <li>- Operation of botanical gardens</li> </ul>
Activity Status	Not Restricted

#### Business Requirements

<b>Conditions</b>			
Age : 18 and above Bahraini Ownership : Allowed up to 100% GCC Nationals Ownership : Allowed up to 100% American Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Icelander, Liechtensteiner, Norwegian, Swiss Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Foreign ownership allowed, but must include a Bahraini shareholder : Yes Allowed for Individual Commercial Registration (ICR) : Yes Allowed for Company Commercial Registration (CCR) : Yes Allowed for Sijilli : Yes			
<b>Allowed for Specific Types of Company Commercial Registration</b>			
Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Public)	Yes	Allowed for With Limited Liability Company	Yes
Allowed for Branch of a Foreign Company	Yes	Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Closed)	Yes
Allowed for Partnership Company	Yes	Allowed for Simple Commandite Company	Yes
Allowed for Commandite By Shares Company	Yes	Allowed for Protected Cell Company	No
Allowed for Investment Limited Partnerships	No	Allowed for Non Profit Company	Yes

**SIJILAT 2.0**  **سجلات 2.0**  
**COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION PORTAL** **نظام السجلات التجارية**

Ministry / Directorate	License / Approval Requirements	Approval Type
Municipality Affairs	<a href="#">Site Approval for Administrative and support activities</a>	Post

**Business Activity**

ISIC4 Code	46201
Business Activity Name	Sale/Trade of agricultural raw materials
Description	This activity includes the wholesale and/or retail of: - grains and seeds - oleaginous fruits - flowers and plants - wholesale of agricultural material, waste, residues and by-products used for animal feed
Activity Status	Not Restricted

**Business Requirements**

<b>Conditions</b>			
Age : 18 and above Bahraini Ownership : Allowed up to 100% GCC Nationals Ownership : Allowed up to 100% American Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Foreign ownership allowed, but must include a Bahraini shareholder : Yes Allowed for Individual Commercial Registration (ICR) : Yes Allowed for Company Commercial Registration (CCR) : Yes			
<b>Allowed for Specific Types of Company Commercial Registration</b>			
Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Public)	Yes	Allowed for With Limited Liability Company	Yes
Allowed for Branch of a Foreign Company	Yes	Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Closed)	Yes
Allowed for Partnership Company	Yes	Allowed for Simple Commandite Company	Yes
Allowed for Commandite By Shares Company	Yes	Allowed for Protected Cell Company	No
Allowed for Investment Limited Partnerships	No	Allowed for Non Profit Company	Yes

**Required Step of Licenses and Approvals**

Ministry / Directorate	License / Approval Requirements	Approval Type
Agricultural Engineering and Resources Directorate	<a href="#">Notification Only For Activity Sale/Trade of agricultural raw materials</a>	Notification Only
Municipality Affairs	<a href="#">Site Approval for Sale/Trade of animals</a>	Post



**Business Activity**

ISIC4 Code	46692
Business Activity Name	Sale/Trading in fertilizers, Soil Conditioners and Pesticides
Description	This activity includes wholesale and/or retail sale of fertilizers and agrochemical products
Activity Status	Not Restricted

**Business Requirements**

<b>Conditions</b>			
Age : 18 and above			
Bahraini Ownership : Allowed up to 100%			
GCC Nationals Ownership : Allowed up to 100%			
American Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100%			
Foreign ownership allowed, but must include a Bahraini shareholder : Yes			
Allowed for Individual Commercial Registration (ICR) : Yes			
Allowed for Company Commercial Registration (CCR) : Yes			
<b>Allowed for Specific Types of Company Commercial Registration</b>			
Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Public)	Yes	Allowed for With Limited Liability Company	Yes
Allowed for Branch of a Foreign Company	Yes	Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Closed)	Yes
Allowed for Partnership Company	Yes	Allowed for Simple Commandite Company	Yes
Allowed for Commandite By Shares Company	Yes	Allowed for Protected Cell Company	No
Allowed for Investment Limited Partnerships	No	Allowed for Non Profit Company	Yes

**Required Step of Licenses and Approvals**

Ministry / Directorate	License / Approval Requirements	Approval Type
General Directorate Of Criminal Investigation	<a href="#">Approval by General Directorate of Criminal Investigation</a>	Pre
Municipality Affairs	<a href="#">Site Approval for Trading related activities</a>	Post
Agricultural Health Directorate	<a href="#">Approval of the activity of Sale/Trading in fertilizers, soil conditioners, and pesticides</a>	Post

**Business Activity**

<b>ISIC4 Code</b>	4653
<b>Business Activity Name</b>	Sale/Trade of agricultural machinery, equipment and supplies
<b>Description</b>	<p>This activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- wholesale and/or retail of agricultural machinery and equipment:</li> <li>- ploughs, manure spreaders, seeders</li> <li>- harvesters</li> <li>- threshers</li> <li>- milking machines</li> <li>- poultry-keeping machines, bee-keeping machines</li> <li>- tractors used in agriculture and forestry- lawn mowers</li> </ul> <p>Notes: The owners are responsible for ensuring that the products are stored appropriately as per municipality regulations.</p>
<b>Activity Status</b>	Not Restricted

**Business Requirements**

<b>Conditions</b>			
Age : 18 and above Bahraini Ownership : Allowed up to 100% GCC Nationals Ownership : Allowed up to 100% American Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Foreign ownership allowed, but must include a Bahraini shareholder : Yes Allowed for Individual Commercial Registration (ICR) : Yes Allowed for Company Commercial Registration (CCR) : Yes			
<b>Allowed for Specific Types of Company Commercial Registration</b>			
Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Public)	Yes	Allowed for With Limited Liability Company	Yes
Allowed for Branch of a Foreign Company	Yes	Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Closed)	Yes
Allowed for Partnership Company	Yes	Allowed for Simple Commandite Company	Yes
Allowed for Commandite By Shares Company	Yes	Allowed for Protected Cell Company	No
Allowed for Investment Limited Partnerships	No	Allowed for Non Profit Company	Yes

**Required Step of Licenses and Approvals**

Ministry / Directorate	License / Approval Requirements	Approval Type
Municipality Affairs	<a href="#">Site Approval for Trading related activities</a>	Post

**Business Activity**

ISIC4 Code	011
Business Activity Name	Crop Production and Plant Propagation
Description	Includes the growing of all types of crop, as well as the production of all vegetative planting materials including cuttings, suckers and seedlings for direct plant propagation or to create plant grafting stock into which selected scion is grafted for eventual planting to produce crops. This Activity also includes post-harvest crop activities and seed processing for propagation.
Activity Status	Not Restricted

**Business Requirements**

<b>Conditions</b>			
Age : 18 and above Bahraini Ownership : Allowed up to 100% GCC Nationals Ownership : Allowed up to 100% American Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Singaporean Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Icelander, Liechtensteiner, Norwegian, Swiss Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Foreign ownership : Allowed up to 100% Allowed for Individual Commercial Registration (ICR) : Yes Allowed for Company Commercial Registration (CCR) : Yes			
<b>Allowed for Specific Types of Company Commercial Registration</b>			
Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Public)	Yes	Allowed for With Limited Liability Company	Yes
Allowed for Branch of a Foreign Company	Yes	Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Closed)	Yes
Allowed for Partnership Company	Yes	Allowed for Simple Commandite Company	Yes
Allowed for Commandite By Shares Company	Yes	Allowed for Protected Cell Company	No
Allowed for Investment Limited Partnerships	No	Allowed for Non Profit Company	Yes

**Required Step of Licenses and Approvals**

Ministry / Directorate	License / Approval Requirements	Approval Type
Municipality Affairs	<a href="#">Site Approval for Crop Production and Plant Propagation</a>	Post
Agricultural Health Directorate	<a href="#">Approval of the activity of Crop Production and Plant Propagation Activities</a>	Post

**Business Activity**

ISIC4 Code	749032
Business Activity Name	Agriculture related consultancy
Description	This activity includes agriculture related consultancy services
Activity Status	Not Restricted

**Business Requirements**

**Conditions**

Age : 18 and above  
 Bahraini Ownership : Allowed up to 100%  
 GCC Nationals Ownership : Allowed up to 100%  
 American Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100%  
 Singaporean Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100%  
 Icelander, Liechtensteiner, Norwegian, Swiss Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100%  
 Foreign ownership : Allowed up to 100%  
 Allowed for Individual Commercial Registration (ICR) : Yes  
 Allowed for Company Commercial Registration (CCR) : Yes

**Allowed for Specific Types of Company Commercial Registration**

Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Public)	Yes	Allowed for With Limited Liability Company	Yes
Allowed for Branch of a Foreign Company	Yes	Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Closed)	Yes
Allowed for Partnership Company	Yes	Allowed for Simple Commandite Company	Yes
Allowed for Commandite By Shares Company	Yes	Allowed for Protected Cell Company	No
Allowed for Investment Limited Partnerships	No	Allowed for Non Profit Company	Yes

**Required Step of Licenses and Approvals**

Ministry / Directorate	License / Approval Requirements	Approval Type
Municipality Affairs	<a href="#">Site Approval for Administrative and support service activities</a>	Post

**Business Activity**

ISIC4 Code	721
Business Activity Name	Research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering
Description	This activity includes research and experimental development on natural science and engineering, such as: - research and development on natural sciences - research and development on engineering and technology - research and development on medical sciences - research and development on biotechnology - research and development on agricultural sciences - interdisciplinary research and development, predominantly on natural sciences and engineering
Activity Status	Not Restricted

**Business Requirements**

<b>Conditions</b>			
Age : 18 and above Bahraini Ownership : Allowed up to 100% GCC Nationals Ownership : Allowed up to 100% American Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Singaporean Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Icelandic, Liechtensteiner, Norwegian, Swiss Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Foreign ownership : Allowed up to 100% Allowed for Individual Commercial Registration (ICR) : Yes Allowed for Company Commercial Registration (CCR) : Yes			
<b>Allowed for Specific Types of Company Commercial Registration</b>			
Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Public)	Yes	Allowed for With Limited Liability Company	Yes
Allowed for Branch of a Foreign Company	Yes	Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Closed)	Yes
Allowed for Partnership Company	Yes	Allowed for Simple Commandite Company	Yes
Allowed for Commandite By Shares Company	Yes	Allowed for Protected Cell Company	No
Allowed for Investment Limited Partnerships	No	Allowed for Non Profit Company	Yes

**Required Step of Licenses and Approvals**

Ministry / Directorate	License / Approval Requirements	Approval Type
Municipality Affairs	<a href="#">Site Approval for Administrative and support service activities</a>	Post

**Business Activity**

<b>ISIC4 Code</b>	2021
<b>Business Activity Name</b>	Manufacture of pesticides and other agrochemical products
<b>Description</b>	<p>This activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- manufacture of insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, herbicides</li> <li>- manufacture of anti-sprouting products, plant growth regulators</li> <li>- manufacture of disinfectants (for agricultural and other use)</li> <li>- manufacture of other agrochemical products</li> </ul> <p>This activity excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- manufacture of fertilizers and nitrogen compounds, see 2012</li> </ul>
<b>Activity Status</b>	Not Restricted

**Business Requirements**

<b>Conditions</b>			
<p>Age : 18 and above                  Bahraini Ownership : Allowed up to 100%                  GCC Nationals Ownership : Allowed up to 100%                  American Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100%                  Singaporean Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100%                  Icelandic, Liechtensteiner, Norwegian, Swiss Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100%                  Foreign ownership : Allowed up to 100%                  Allowed for Individual Commercial Registration (ICR) : Yes                  Allowed for Company Commercial Registration (CCR) : Yes</p>			
<b>Allowed for Specific Types of Company Commercial Registration</b>			
Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Public)	Yes	Allowed for With Limited Liability Company	Yes
Allowed for Branch of a Foreign Company	Yes	Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Closed)	Yes
Allowed for Partnership Company	Yes	Allowed for Simple Commandite Company	Yes
Allowed for Commandite By Shares Company	Yes	Allowed for Protected Cell Company	No
Allowed for Investment Limited Partnerships	No	Allowed for Non Profit Company	Yes

**Required Step of Licenses and Approvals**

Ministry / Directorate	License / Approval Requirements	Approval Type
Directorate Of Industrial Developments	<a href="#">Approval by Directorate of Industrial Developments(Pre)</a>	Pre
Supreme Council for Environment	<a href="#">Environmental Approval for Manufacture of pesticides and other agrochemical products activity</a>	Post
Municipality Affairs	<a href="#">Site Approval for manufacturing activities (Type C)</a>	Post
Directorate Of Industrial Developments	<a href="#">Notification Only</a>	Final Site Inspection

**Business Activity**

ISIC4 Code	0161
Business Activity Name	Support activities for crop production
Description	<p>This activity includes agricultural activities on a fee or contract basis such as: preparation of fields, establishing a crop, treatment of crops, crop spraying, trimming of fruit trees and vines, harvesting, pest control in connection with agriculture, operation of agricultural irrigation equipment</p> <p>This activity also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provision of agricultural machinery with operators and crew</li> <li>- maintenance of land to keep it in good condition for agricultural use</li> </ul>
Activity Status	Not Restricted

**Business Requirements**

<b>Conditions</b>			
Age : 18 and above Bahraini Ownership : Allowed up to 100% GCC Nationals Ownership : Allowed up to 100% American Nationals ownership : Allowed up to 100% Foreign ownership allowed, but must include a Bahraini shareholder : Yes Allowed for Individual Commercial Registration (ICR) : Yes Allowed for Company Commercial Registration (CCR) : Yes			
<b>Allowed for Specific Types of Company Commercial Registration</b>			
Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Public)	Yes	Allowed for With Limited Liability Company	Yes
Allowed for Branch of a Foreign Company	Yes	Allowed for Bahrain Shareholding Company (Closed)	Yes
Allowed for Partnership Company	Yes	Allowed for Simple Commandite Company	Yes
Allowed for Commandite By Shares Company	Yes	Allowed for Protected Cell Company	No
Allowed for Investment Limited Partnerships	No	Allowed for Non Profit Company	Yes

**Required Step of Licenses and Approvals**

Ministry / Directorate	License / Approval Requirements	Approval Type
Agricultural Health Directorate	<a href="#">Approval of the activity of Support activities for crop production</a>	Post
Municipality Affairs	<a href="#">Site Approval for Support Activities for crop production</a>	Post
Agricultural Health Directorate	<a href="#">Approval of the activity of Support activities for crop production</a>	Final Site Inspection

## Conclusion

This guide aims to provide support and assistance to prospective investors, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders in the agricultural sector. We were keen to include a large spectrum of answers to frequently asked questions, data and other information included in the guide, basing this off of in-force legislation and the approved and declared information from the relevant authorities. We hope that it will serve as your reference when seeking information about the legal structure and workings of the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The National Initiative for Agricultural Development has done its best to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate and up to date at the time of publishing, but always be sure to double check with the concerned authority before making business arrangements, as some provisions may have been amended or modified. The intention is that this guide will be updated periodically.

NIAD's efforts in publishing this guide is to support the Kingdom of Bahrain's efforts and progress in this vital sector through the national establishments and authorities. The Kingdom of Bahrain is always keen on setting appropriate and advanced legislation to support and attract agricultural investment and innovation in the agricultural sector. We will continue to support the country, the government, and you, the investor in whatever way we can, wishing you all the best in your endeavors.



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