



Seed certification and different classes of seed

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Seed certification is a legally sanctioned system for the quality control of seed during seed multiplication and production. As per Indian Seed Act seed certification is voluntary and it is not compulsory. The seed that is sold in the market is of two types certified seed or truthfully labeled seed. The seed, which is being certified by seed certification agency, is called as certified seed. The certification agency is a separate organization meant for certifying the quality of the seed and it has nothing to do with seed production. The seed certification agency maintains certain strict standards before issuing the certification tag or label. Whereas truthfully labeled seed is one which is being produced and marketed by the producing company by maintaining the labeling standards. The farmer or the user of the seed does not know the pedigree of the truthfully labeled seed and he has to rely on the seed producing company. Whereas the certified

seed has to maintain both field and seed standards and if the seed lot meets both the field and seed standards then only the certification tag or label is issued.

Purpose of seed certification : The purpose of seed certification is to maintain and make available to the public, through certification, high quality seeds and propagating materials of notified kind and varieties so grown and distributed as to ensure genetic identity and genetic purity. Seed certification is also designed to achieve prescribed standards.

Certification agency: Certification shall be conducted by the Certification Agency notified under Section 8 of the Seeds Act, 1966.

Certified seed producer: Certified seed producer means a person/organization who grows or distributes certified

seed in accordance with the procedures and standards of the certification.

Eligibility requirements for certification of crop varieties: Seed of only those varieties which are notified under Section 5 of the Seeds Act, 1966 shall be eligible for certification. Breeder seed is exempted from certification. Foundation and certified class seeds come under certification.

Breeder seed is produced by the plant breeder which is inspected by a monitoring team consisting of the breeder, representative of seed certification agency (DDA), representative of NSC (Deputy Manager) and nominee of crop co-ordinator. The crops shall be inspected at appropriate stage.

Classes and sources of seed : The object of the seed certification is to maintain and make available to the public through certification high quality propagating material of notified

kind / varieties so grown and distributed as to ensure genetic identity and genetic purity. The certified standards in force are Indian Minimum seed certification standards and seed certification procedures form together for the seed certification regulations. Seeds of only those varieties which are notified under section under Section 5 of the seeds act shall be eligible for certification.

- Breeder seed
- Foundation seed
- Certified seed

Breeder seed:

- Breeder seed is a seed directly controlled by the breeder.
- Breeder seed should be genetically so pure as to guarantee that in the subsequent generation.



– Breeder seed could not come under the preview of seed certification as it is not meant for public sale.

– Breeder seed should be packed and supplied with breeder's golden yellow tag as per the guideline given in Indian minimum seed certification standards. It is also the fact that no standard for breeder seed have been prescribed.

Foundation seed :

– Foundation class of seed and certified class of seed are to be certified by the certification Agencies as per the Indian minimum seed certification standards.

– Foundation seed should be packed and supplied with white tag.

– Section 8 of the seeds Act provide state government or the Central Government consultation with State Government may be notification in official gazette, established certification agencies for the state to carry out the functions entrusted to certification agency by or under this Act (Part IV, clause 6, part VI clause 14 of Seeds Rule).

Certified seed:

– Seed act section 9 provides any person desires of producing certified seed shall register his name with concerned seed certification agency duly remitting the prescribed fee in form No.1 for grant of certificate. Certificate could be granted in form No.11 after meeting the requirement of certification agency prescribed under Part VII clause 15,16 and 17 of seed rule.

– It should have the minimum genetically purity of 99%

– Certified seed may be the progeny of foundation seed or certified seed , provided this reproduction does not exceed two generations beyond foundation seed and

provided that if certification agency determines the genetic and physical purity, if not be significantly altered.

– Certified seed should be packed and supplied with azure blue tag.

– In case of highly self pollinated crops certification of one further generation may be permitted.

– Certified seed produced from certified seed, shall be eligible for further seed increase under certification, except in case of highly self pollinated crops, where certification of one further generation may be permitted.

– Certification tags issued once for certified seed not eligible for further seed increase under certification.

– For paddy and wheat, certified seed produced from certified seed is eligible for certification by NSC upto two generations from foundation seed

Phases of seed certification:

Certification shall be completed in six broad phases listed as under:

– Receipt and scrutiny of application

– Verification of seed source, class and other requirements of the seed used for raising the seed crop;

– Field inspections to verify conformity to the prescribed field standards;

– Supervision at post-harvest stages including processing and packing;

– Seed sampling and analysis, including genetic purity test and/or seed health test, if any, in order to verify conformity to the prescribed standards; and

– Grant of certificate and certification tags, tagging and sealing.

Received : 15.01.2022

Revised : 28.01.2022

Accepted : 17.02.2022



RNI : UPENG/2006/16373 ISSN : 0973-1547

Accredited By NAAS : NAAS Rating : 4.15

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PLANT SCIENCES

An International Research Journal

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