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Seed Health Regulations

Dr. N. Sathyanarayana

As You sow- So shall You reap





Seed: Master key to Success

A first determinant of the future plant development

- “ Swedish workers are the first to initiate the process of field evaluation of the seed crop
- “ This was primarily to educate the farmers for quality seed production
- “ Found to be very helpful in keeping varieties pure during seed production

Seed Certification: History





- ” 1919: International Crop Improvement Association (ICIA)
- ” 1969: ICIA rechristened as AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies) paving way for modern day Seed Certification

Seed Certification: History

- “ The field evaluation of the seed crop and its certification started with the establishment of **NATIONAL SEED CORPORATION** in 1963.
- “ The legal status was given to seed certification with the enactment of first **INDIAN SEED ACT**, 1966 and formulation of **SEED RULES** in 1969.
- “ In the Seed Act, 1966 ó provision for establishment of official seed Certification Agency by State (Section 5)

History: Indian Scenario



- “ **Maharashtra** was the **first state** to establish an **official seed certification agency during 1970** as the part of the Department of Agriculture
- “ In **1974, Karnataka** was the **first state** to establish the **seed certification agency as an autonomous body**
- “ At present, 22 states in the country have their own seed certification agency established under the seed Act, 1966

History: India

Seed Health aspects in National Regulations

.....An Overview

- ” Seed Act, 1966
- ” Seed Control Order, 1983
- ” Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- ” New Policy on Seed Development, 1988
- ” National Seed Policy, 2002
- ” PQ Order, 2003
- ” Environment Protection Act, 1986



Regulatory Framework

shall, for the purpose of sowing or planting by any person (including himself), export or import or cause to be exported or imported any seed of any notified kind or variety, unless-

- “ it conforms to the minimum limits of germination and purity specified for that seed under clause (a) of section 6; and
- “ its container bears, in the prescribed manner, the mark or label with the correct particulars thereof specified for that seed under clause (b) of section 6.

Restriction on export and import of seeds of notified kinds or varieties

” 18. The Central Govt. may, on the recommendation of the Committee and by notification in the Official Gazette, recognise any seed certification agency established in any foreign country, for the purposes of this Act.

Recognition of seed certification agencies of foreign countries

Provisions Conferred by section 3 of the Essential
Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955)

Seed dealers ó Licence Mandatory

Licence issued by State Governments /
Union Territories

JS (Seed), DAC, MoA, GOI has been
appointed as Controller of Seeds.

Seeds (Control) Order, 1983

- “ (1) An Inspector may with a view to securing compliance with this Order-
 - “ (c) draw samples of seeds meant for sale, export and seeds imported, and send the same in accordance with the procedure laid down in Schedule I, to a laboratory notified under the Seeds Act, 1966 (54 of 1966) to ensure that the sample conforms to standard of quality claimed;

- “ 14. Time limit for analysis
 - “ The laboratory to which a sample has been sent by an Inspector for analysis under this Order shall analyse the said samples and send the analysis report to the concerned Inspector within 60 days from the date of receipt of the sample in the laboratory.

- ” Food Security
- ” Nutritional Requirements
- ” Potential to explore rich germplasm
- ” Quantitative and qualitative requirements

New Seed Policy, 1988

- “ Facilitates liberalization as envisaged in WTO.
- “ Provision for IPRs to stimulate investment in R & D in new plant varieties.
 - “ National Seed Board & National Seed Register
 - “ PV&FPA
- “ The new policy also recognises the role of biotechnology in increasing agricultural production and productivity.
 - “ All import of GM seeds will be through the NBPGR
 - “ The commercialisation of GM seeds will be after two-year trials by the ICAR and after approvals by the GEAC

National seed Policy, 2002

- “ Compulsory registration of varieties based on performance that ensures the quality of seeds.
- “ Accreditation of ICAR centres, SAUs and private organisations to conduct the performance trails.
- “ Maintenance of National Register of varieties.
- “ Provision of self certification (accreditation of organisations for certification).
- “ Accreditation of private seed testing laboratories.
- “ Regulation of export and import of seeds.
- “ Regulation of horticultural nurseries.
- “ Exemption of farmer to save, use, exchange, share or sell their seeds without registration and brand names.
- “ Enhancement of penalty for major and minor infringement.
- “ Provision of compensation to the farmer.
- “ Inclusion of provision to regulate the Genetically Modified crops and ban on terminator seeds

THE SEEDS BILL, 2004

The Seed Bill is proposed to replace the Seed Act, 1966

- “ 6. The Committee may, by notification, specifyó
- “ (a) the minimum limits of germination, genetic and physical purity, and seed health, with respect to any seed of any kind of variety;
- “ (b) the mark or label on the packet or container to indicate that such seed conforms to the minimum limits of germination, genetic and physical purity, and seed health specified under clause (a), and other particulars, such as expected performance of the seed in accordance with the information provided by the producer under section 14 which such mark or label may contain.
- “ 25. No person shall himself, or by any other person on his behalf, carry on the business of selling, keeping for sale, offering to sell, bartering, import or export or otherwise supply any kind of seed of any registered kind or variety unless-
- “ (b) such seed conforms to the minimum limit of germination and genetic, physical purity, maximum seed health specified under clause (a) of section 6;

Seed Health aspects

- “ 27. (1) The Committee may in consultation with the State Government and the State Seed Committee, accredit ó
- “ (a) organizations to carry out certification, on the fulfilment of such criteria, as may be prescribed, or
 - “ (b) individuals or seed producing organisations to carry out self- certification, in such manner as may be prescribed.
- “ (2) The accredited individuals and seed producing organisations shall be subject to such inspection and control of the Committee, the concerned State Government and State Seed Certification Agency, as may be prescribed.
- “ (3) The accreditation may be withdrawn by the Committee, for reasons to be recorded in writing and after giving to the concerned organization or individual, as the case may be, a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

Accreditation of Seed Certification Agencies

” 30. The Central Government may, on the recommendation of the Committee and by notification, recognise any seed certification agency established in any foreign country, for the purposes of this Act

Recognition of seed certification agencies in foreign countries.

of seeds-

- “ (a) shall be subject to the provisions of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003, or any corresponding order made under section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914;
- “ (b) shall conform to minimum limits of germination, genetic and physical purity, and seed health as prescribed under section 6; and
- “ (c) shall be subject to registration as may be granted on the basis of information furnished by the importer on the results of multi-locational trials for such period as may be prescribed to establish the performance

Import of seeds

” 37. The Central Government may, on the advice of the Committee, restrict, by notification, the export of seeds of any kind or variety if it is deemed that such export may adversely affect the food security of the country, or if it is felt that the reasonable requirements of the public will not be met, or on such other grounds as may be prescribed.

Export of seeds

- ” Conducting Pest Risk Analysis
- ” Regulating Quarantine Pests & RNQPs
- ” Post Entry Quarantine for Seed sprouts

PQ Order, 2003

“ Rule 13 (iii). Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro organisms, Genetically-engineered organisms or Cells.

Environment Protection Act, 1968



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What is missing ?

Need for Seed health parameters (Important for Biosecurity & Market Access thereby impact on Imports and Exports)

- “ Infrastructure and expertise in Seed Testing
 - “ Absence of Nodal Expert Centre for identifying the pests & protocols for detection & identification
 - “ Need for monitoring the seed health status in domestic trade
 - “ Need to create Accredited labs of public & private sector for seed health testing (to support domestic seed health regulations & promote export)
 - “ Need to create more Internationally recognized Accredited labs for seed health testing in India í í ISTA, OECDí etc
-

- “ National Treatment: Lack of Domestic seed health standards/protocols (Protection of domestic consumers & also justification for import regulations) *truthful label issues*)
 - “ Regulation pertaining to RNQPs & Domestic Quarantine pests
 - “ Mechanism for Dispute Settlement (Third Party Judgments)
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THANK YOU

Approval of NBA is required obtain any biological resource occurring in India or knowledge associated thereto for research or for commercial utilization or for bio-survey and bio-utilisation. Section 3 (1)

“ The persons who shall be required to take approval of NBA are: Section 3 (2)

- (a) a person who is not a citizen of India;
- (b) a citizen of India; who is a non-resident
- (c) a body corporate, association or organization not incorporated or registered in India; or incorporated or registered in India under any law for the time being



Biodiversity Act, 2002

- “ Presently, India enjoys the status of a provisional member of the OECD for GLP.
- “ India is an Observer to the OECD’s Working Group on GLP and also a member of the OECD Test Guidelines Programme.

OECD.....*India*



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International Organizations

í í í *Seed Health*

- “ Founded in 1924, with the aim to develop and publish standard procedures in the field of seed testing
- “ Member laboratories in over 70 countries/distinct economies worldwide.
- “ ISTA members work together to achieve their vision of *'Uniformity in seed quality evaluation worldwide'*.
- “ Association produces internationally agreed rules for
 - “ seed sampling and testing,
 - “ accredits laboratories,
 - “ promotes research,
 - “ provides international seed analysis certificates and training, and
 - “ disseminates knowledge in seed science and technology.

INTERNATIONAL SEED TESTING ASSOCIATION – ISTA

Seed Testing Standards

- ” Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd.
- ” Indo-American Hybrid Seeds (India) Pvt Ltd
- ” **Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Ltd.**
- ” Namdhari Seeds Pvt. Ltd.

ISTA Accredited Labs in India

- “ The OECD Seed Schemes provide an international framework for the certification of seed
- “ Aim to facilitate seed trade by reducing technical barriers, improving transparency and lowering transactions costs.
- “ Encourage the use of seed of consistently high quality in participating countries í í ..currently 58 Members
- “ Seed Schemes authorise the use of labels and certificates for seed produced and processed for international trade according to agreed principles such as
 - “ applied only to those varieties that are officially recognised as distinct and having an acceptable value in at least one participating country.
 - “ certified seed must be related directly through one or more generations to authentic Basic Seed of a variety.
 - “ Satisfactory conditions for the production and processing of Basic and Certified Seed must be ensured and verified by field inspection and post-control tests.
- “ An OECD list of varieties eligible for seed certification is regularly published and available online and in hard copy.
- “ For a country to use the OECD labels, it is required to register the species and varieties in the OECD list of varieties. The list contains most internationally traded varieties, and it has grown progressively over the last 30 years. í í ..currently 49 899 varieties & 200 species listed.

OECD Seed Schemes.....1958
