

2019

SEED CERTIFICATION

FOR COMMERCIAL BUSINESS

Turn Potential Into Profit



Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA)

Ministry of Industries and Production (MoI&P)

Government of Pakistan

4th Floor Building No. 3, Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex, Egerton Road Lahore

www.smeda.org.pk

Phone: (+92 42) 111 111 456

Introduction to Seed Certification System



Seed certification system is a legal and regulatory mechanism. It is performed by the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department, an attached Department of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. To maintain and make availability of genetically pure seeds of improved varieties, the whole process is done at two main stages.

1. The crop raised for the production of seed is inspected by Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department for genetical purity.
2. The seed samples are drawn after harvest of the crop and analyzed in the laboratory for evaluation on the basis of prescribed seed standard (analytical purity).

In addition to this, pre and post control plots are laid out to ascertain the genetic purity of the seed and seed-borne diseases. In Pakistan, seed certification system has recognized following four categories:

1. Pre-basic seed.
2. Basic Seed.
3. Certified seed.
4. Approved seed

Application:

The process starts with the filing of an application available at the federal seed certification website (Link attached): <http://www.fedalseed.gov.pk/frmDetails.aspx>

After assessment of the application, the certification process begins with the following steps:

Crop Inspection:

The purpose of crop inspection is to determine whether or not the crop is suitable for the production of seed of the standard required. The genetic purity of seed crop is assessed through field crop inspection.

Before carrying out crop inspection, the following preliminaries are verified:

- i) Verification of the source from the labels, seals, bags or receipt of seed purchased.
- ii) Acreage and location of the seed field.
- iii) Cropping history of the field where the seed crop is grown.
- iv) Isolation distance of seed crops from other crops.
- v) Condition and health of the crop to carry out crop inspection properly. Crop must not be very much weedy or damaged.
- vi) Application from grower or seed agency, requesting for crop inspection.

If all the above conditions are found satisfactory then a detailed assessment of the crop is carried out to determine the following factors:

- a) Admix with other cultivars.
- b) Admix with other species.

- c) Presence of weeds particularly obnoxious weed plants.
- d) Presence of seed-borne diseases.

After the crop inspection, the grower or seed company is informed about the decision/recommendations or other measures, necessary to bring the crop up to the prescribed standards. At final inspection, a certificate is issued by the Department on the prescribed form.

Benefits of using Certified Seeds:

There are many reasons to use certified seed. It's the starting point of a successful crop as well as an important risk management tool.

Clean Seed: Certified seed is grown and processed under stringent production requirements with strict limits on weeds and other crop kinds.

Pure Variety: Certified seed uses strictly monitored quality management systems to maximize varietal purity. Other varieties and off-types are guaranteed to be minimized.

Quality Assurance: Inspections in the field and at the processing plant ensure that all quality assurance requirements have been met and documented.

Access to New Opportunities: Many end-users require specific varieties for their products. Using certified seed can open the door to new opportunities and greater sales by providing officially recognized proof of parent seed varietal identity.

Traceability: Food safety and traceability are important considerations in agriculture. The farmer / grower can only be sure of its product if they know its origin. Certified seed is the key to that knowledge and production of this seed is

carefully controlled under a quality assurance system right from the beginning. Using certified seed will allow to capitalize on traceability measures.

New Genetics: Improved traits such as better yield, pest resistance, drought tolerance, herbicide tolerance, and much more are delivered to farmers in certified seed. Years of research and development went into these traits and they can only be reliably accessed through certified seed.

Access to Premium Markets: Certified seed is the only input that can get a farmer more than just higher yields. It is the ticket to premium markets as the crop is disease free, quality assured and of highest yield.

Crop Insurance: In some cases, certified seed allows you to get a better deal on crop insurance premiums. Insurers know that certified seed means a crop with reduced risk.

Checking of Seed Lot during Marketing and Import or Export

To check the sale of deteriorated, inferior and low quality seed, the Federal Seed Certification Department monitors the quality of seed during distribution and marketing.

The Department has established a system of seed testing under the Seed (Truth-in Labeling) Rules, 1991 and also in accordance to the guidance of import policy 1999. Seed samples are drawn from all the seed consignments and tested for their analytical purity and germination. The label placed on the containers is verified. If the seed lot does not match with the information given on the label, the consignment is not allowed to sale as seed in Pakistan.



Agencies Responsible for Variety Development, Evaluation and Maintenance:

| Agencies Involved | Activities |
|--|------------------------------------|
| PARC | Plant exploration and introduction |
| PARC / PCCC | Germ plasm bank |
| PARC, PCCC, PAEC, Provincial Research Institutions and Universities | Variety development |
| PARC, PCCC, Provincial Research Institutions | Crop variety testing and approval |
| National Seed Council through Federal Seed Certification Registration and Department. | Variety registration |
| PARC, PCCC, PAEC, Provincial Research Institutions, Universities and Provincial Seed Councils. | Crop variety testing and approval |
| PCCC, PAEC & Provincial Research Institutes. | Pre-basic seed |
| Seed Corporation/Government Farms | Basic seed production |
| Contracted growers | Certified seed |

Quality control at all stages of seed production and after harvest by the Federal Seed Certification and Registration department (FSC&RD).

Useful Links:

www.smeda.org.pk

www.pfa.gov.pk

www.punjab.gov.pk

www.seedquest.com

www.federalseed.gov.pk

www.alp.gov.pk

www.parc.gov.pk

www.pccc.gov.pk

www.hajisons.pk

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