

**TABLE VI**  
**SPECIFIC SEED STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION IN DIFFERENT CROPS**

| Sl.No | CROP                                           | PURE<br>SEED MIN(%) | INERT<br>MATTER (%) | Maximum Permissible Level |    |                 |    |                 |    | Minimum<br>Permissible Limit<br>(%) |          |    | Germination<br>Count days |    |
|-------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------------------------------|----------|----|---------------------------|----|
|       |                                                |                     |                     | O.C.S<br>Nos/kg           |    | O.D.V<br>Nos/kg |    | O.W.S<br>Nos/kg |    | GERMINATION                         | MOISTURE |    |                           |    |
|       |                                                |                     |                     | F                         | C  | F               | C  | F               | C  |                                     | CB       | VP |                           |    |
| 1     | 2                                              | 3                   | 4                   | 5                         | 6  | 7               | 8  | 9               | 10 | 11                                  | 12       | 13 | 14                        | 15 |
| 1     | Paddy                                          | 98                  | 2                   | 10                        | 20 | 10              | 20 | 10              | 20 | 80                                  | 13       | 8  | 5                         | 14 |
| 2     | Jowar(OPV)                                     | 98                  | 2                   | 5                         | 10 | 10              | 20 | 5               | 10 | 75                                  | 12       | 8  | 4                         | 10 |
|       | Jowar<br>(Hybrids)                             | 98                  | 2                   | 10                        | 20 | -               | -  | 10              | 20 | 75                                  | 12       | 8  |                           |    |
| 3     | Maize                                          |                     |                     |                           |    |                 |    |                 |    |                                     |          |    |                           |    |
|       | Hybrids                                        | 98                  | 2                   | -                         | 10 | -               | 10 | -               | -  | 90                                  | 12       | 9  | -                         | -  |
|       | single Crosses                                 | 98                  | 2                   | 5                         | -  | 5               | -  | -               | -  | 80                                  | 12       | 8  | 4                         | 7  |
|       | Inbreds                                        | 98                  | 2                   | 5                         | -  | -               | -  | -               | -  | 80                                  | 12       | 8  | -                         | -  |
|       | Composists,<br>Open<br>pollinated<br>varieties | 98                  | 2                   | 5                         | 10 | -               | -  | -               | -  | 90                                  | 12       | 8  | -                         | -  |
| 4     | Bajra                                          | 98                  | 2                   | 10                        | 20 | -               | -  | 10              | 20 | 75                                  | 12       | 8  | 3                         | 7  |
| 5     | Redgram                                        | 98                  | 2                   | 5                         | 10 | 10              | 20 | 5               | 10 | 75                                  | 9        | 8  | 4                         | 8  |
| 6     | Greengram                                      | 98                  | 2                   | 5                         | 10 | 10              | 20 | 5               | 10 | 75                                  | 9        | 8  | 5                         | 8  |
| 7     | Blackgram                                      | 98                  | 2                   | 5                         | 10 | 10              | 20 | -               | -  | 75                                  | 9        | 8  | 4                         | 7  |
| 8     | Bengalgram                                     | 98                  | 2                   | -                         | 5  | 5               | 10 | -               | -  | 85                                  | 9        | 8  | 5                         | 8  |
| 9     | Cowpea                                         | 98                  | 2                   | -                         | 10 | 5               | 10 | -               | 10 | 75                                  | 9        | 8  | 5                         | 8  |
| 10    | Castor                                         | 98                  | 2                   | -                         | -  | 5               | 10 | -               | -  | 70                                  | 8        | 5  | 7                         | 14 |
| 11    | Groundnut                                      | 96                  | 4                   | -                         | -  | -               | -  | -               | -  | 70                                  | 9        | 5  | 5                         | 10 |
| 12    | Sunflower                                      | 98                  | 2                   | -                         | -  | -               | -  | 5               | 10 | 70                                  | 9        | 7  | 4                         | 7  |
| 13    | Safflower                                      | 98                  | 2                   | 5                         | 10 | -               | -  | -               | -  | 80                                  | 9        | 7  | 4                         | 14 |
| 14    | Sesamum                                        | 97                  | 3                   | 10                        | 20 | 10              | 20 | 10              | 20 | 80                                  | 9        | 5  | 3                         | 6  |
| 15    | Soybean                                        | 98                  | 2                   | -                         | 10 | 10              | 40 | 5               | 10 | 70                                  | 12       | 7  | 5                         | 8  |
| 16    | Cotton                                         |                     |                     |                           |    |                 |    |                 |    |                                     |          |    |                           |    |
|       | Hybrids                                        | 98                  | 2                   | 5                         | 10 | -               | -  | 5               | 10 | 75                                  | 10       | 6  | 4                         | 10 |
|       | Varieties                                      | 98                  | 2                   | 5                         | 10 | -               | -  | 5               | 10 | 65                                  | 10       | 6  | 4                         | 10 |
| 17    | Jute                                           | 97                  | 3                   | 10                        | 20 | 10              | 20 | 10              | 20 | 80                                  | 9        | 7  | 3                         | 5  |
| 18    | Ragi                                           | 97                  | 3                   | 10                        | 20 | -               | -  | 10              | 20 | 75                                  | 12       | 8  |                           |    |
| 19    | Korra                                          | 97                  | 3                   | 10                        | 20 | -               | -  | 10              | 20 | 75                                  | 12       | 8  |                           |    |
| 20    | Bhendi                                         | 99                  | 1                   | -                         | 5  | 10              | 20 | -               | -  | 65                                  | 10       | 8  | 4                         | 14 |

| Sl.No | CROP                | PURE SEED MIN(%) | INERT MATTER (%) | Maximum Permissible Level |    |              |    |              |    | Minimum Permissible Limit (%) |          |    | Germination Count days |    |
|-------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----|--------------|----|--------------|----|-------------------------------|----------|----|------------------------|----|
|       |                     |                  |                  | O.C.S Nos/kg              |    | O.D.V Nos/kg |    | O.W.S Nos/kg |    | GERMINATION                   | MOISTURE |    |                        |    |
|       |                     |                  |                  | F                         | C  | F            | C  | F            | C  |                               | CB       | VP |                        |    |
| 1     | 2                   | 3                | 4                | 5                         | 6  | 7            | 8  | 9            | 10 | 11                            | 12       | 13 | 14                     | 15 |
| 21    | Bringal             | 98               | 2                | -                         | -  | -            | -  | -            | -  | 70                            | 8        | 6  | 7                      | 10 |
| 22    | Tomato              | 98               | 2                | 5                         | 10 | -            | -  | -            | -  | 70                            | 8        | 6  | 5                      | 10 |
| 23    | Capsicum and chilli | 98               | 2                | 5                         | 10 | -            | -  | 5            | 10 | 60                            | 8        | 6  | 7                      | 14 |
| 24    | ClusterBean         | 98               | 2                | 10                        | 20 | 10           | 20 | -            | -  | 70                            | 9        | 8  | 4                      | 7  |
| 25    | Bottleguard         | 98               | 2                | -                         | -  | -            | -  | -            | -  | 60                            | 7        | 6  | 4                      | 14 |
| 26    | Watermelon          | 98               | 2                | -                         | -  | 5            | 10 | -            | -  | 60                            | 7        | 6  | 5                      | 14 |
| 27    | Forage Sorghum      | 97               | 3                | 5                         | 10 | 10           | 20 | 5            | 10 | 75                            | 12       | 8  | 4                      | 10 |
| 28    | Mesta               | 98               | 2                | 10                        | 20 | -            | -  | -            | -  | 75                            | 10       | 8  | -                      | -  |
| 29    | Dhaincha            | 98               | 2                | 5                         | 10 | -            | -  | 5            | 10 | 75                            | 9        | 8  | 5                      | 7  |
| 30    | Sunhemp             | 98               | 2                | 10                        | 20 | -            | -  | -            | -  | 80                            | 9        | 8  | 4                      | 10 |

F Foundation

C Certified

O.C.S. Other Crop Seeds

O.D.V. Other Distinguishable Varieties

O.W.S. Objectionable Weed Seeds

CB - Cloth Bag,

VP - Vapour Proof container (Polyethene bag gauge of 350-700 microns; Aluminium foil pouch container)

**Note:**

(1)\* In case of Paddy: Seeds infected by Paddy Bunt.

F: 0.10% (By number)

C: 0.50% (By number)

(2)\* In case of Jowar & Bajra: Ergot Sclerotia seed entirely or partially

F: 0.02% (By number)

C: 0.04% (By number)

**SEED TESTING LABORATORIES (STLs) OF APSSCA :** Currently two notified Seed Testing Laboratories (STLs) are functioning under the control of APSSCA in district headquarters of Kadapa and Guntur for conducting seed testing as per the procedures laid down in Hand Book of Seed Testing, Dept of Agril. & Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi July, 1993 and crop's specific seed standards as given in IMSCS 2013. Seed Testing Laboratory, Guntur is the member laboratory (INML 4200) of International Seed Testing Association (Switzerland) from 2018 onwards. For getting ISTA accreditation STL, Guntur has participated in the Proficiency tests invariably for the samples sent by the ISTA headquarters, Switzerland. Both the STLs are supported with latest equipment's to meet the ISTA and also NABL Accreditation. The International Rules for Seed Testing 2024 edition is now available online. ISTA Rules 2024 can be accessed via link: <https://www.seedtest.org/en/publications/international-rules-seed-testing.html>

**TABLE -VII**  
**LIST OF IMPORTANT CROP DISEASES UNDER SEED CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME**

| CROP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | COMMON NAME              | CAUSAL ORGANISM                                                 | MAX.TOLERANCE LIMIT(%) |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          |                                                                 | F.S.                   | C.S. |
| PADDY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Paddy Bunt               | <i>Neovossia horrida</i>                                        | 0.1                    | 0.5  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          |                                                                 | (seed stage)           |      |
| BAJRA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | *Green ear/ downy mildew | <i>Sclerospora graminicola</i><br><i>Claviceps microcephala</i> | 0.05                   | 0.1  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          |                                                                 | 0.2                    | 0.4  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          |                                                                 | (Field/seed stage)     |      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | **Grain Smut             | <i>Tolyposporium penicillariae</i>                              | 0.05                   | 0.1  |
| * At the final inspection before harvest can also be certified if diseased-ear heads are removed and at reinspection not more than maximum, permissible limit.                                                                                                                                                          |                          |                                                                 |                        |      |
| ** More than max, permissible limit can be certified if seed is treated with an approved organo-mercurial fungicide not earlier than a month prior its sowing.                                                                                                                                                          |                          |                                                                 |                        |      |
| SORGHUM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | *Kernel smut/ grain smut | <i>Sphacelotheca sorghi</i>                                     | 0.05                   | 0.01 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | *Head smut               | <i>S.reliana</i>                                                | 0.05                   | 0.1  |
| * At final inspection can also be certified if diseased-ear heads are removed by burning and re-inspected sugary disease ( <i>Sphacelia sorghi</i> ) fields should be thoroughly rouged to remove disease infected plants. Seed fields shall not be rejected on account of the presence of sugary ergot infected heads. |                          |                                                                 |                        |      |
| <b>Pulse Seed:</b><br>Cluster bean/<br>Cowpea/Dolichos<br>bean/French bean                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Bacterial Blight         | <i>Xanthomonas spp.</i>                                         | 0.10                   | 0.20 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Anthrachnose             | <i>Collectotrichum spp</i>                                      |                        |      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Ascochyta                | <i>Ascochyta spp</i>                                            |                        |      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Mosaic                   | <i>Macrosiphum pisi</i>                                         |                        |      |
| <b>Vegetable Seeds (Field level)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Garden pea               | Pea Mosaic PMV                                                  | 0.50                   | 1.00 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Bhendi                   | Yellow Mosaic YVMC                                              | 0.10                   | 1.00 |
| (Affected plants to be removed prior the fruit stage)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                          |                                                                 |                        |      |
| <b>Vegetable Seeds (Fruit Stage)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                          |                                                                 |                        |      |
| Brinjal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Phomopsis blight         | <i>Phomopsis vexans</i>                                         | 0.10                   | 0.50 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          | Little Leaf Virus (mycoplasma)                                  | 0.05                   | 0.20 |
| Capsicum/chillies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Leaf blight              | <i>Alternaria solani</i>                                        | 0.1                    | 0.50 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Anthrachnose             | <i>Colletotrichum capsici</i>                                   | 0.10                   | 0.50 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Virus                    | Virus                                                           | 0.05                   | 0.20 |
| Tomato                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Early blight             | <i>Alternaria solani</i>                                        | 0.10                   | 0.50 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Leaf Spot                | <i>Stemphylium solani</i>                                       | 0.10                   | 0.50 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | * Mosaic                 | TMV (Tobacco Mosaic)                                            | 0.10                   | 0.50 |
| * At final inspection - Virus affected plants must be removed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                          |                                                                 |                        |      |

## PACKING, TAGGING, SEALING AND ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE

On receipt of seed analysis report and the result of the Grow Out Test (G.O.T.) wherever carried out and if seed lot meets the prescribed standards, the Certification Authority shall ensure packing, tagging, sealing and issuance of certificate expeditiously. An authorized Seed Certification Officer shall endorse the signature on each certification tag and shall affix rubber stamp indicating Officials Name and Designation (i.e., Blue for Certified Class and White for Foundation Class) and the container is sealed and then release order in (Form No. II) is issued for entire lot for marketing. Advance tagging may be permitted at the discretion of the Certification Authority with proper safe guards.

### REFUSAL FOR CERTIFICATION

The Certification Authority shall have authority to refuse certification of any seed production field or any seed lot that does not confirm to the minimum standards prescribed for that particular crop either for field or for seed or for both. Any refusal will be subject to an appeal made to the Appellate Authority constituted, within 30 days of rejection. Under section-11(1) of the Seed Act 1966.

**Appellate Authority:** The Special Chief Secretary to Government, Agriculture & Co-operation Dept., Govt. of A.P. & Chairman to APSSCA, constitutes the Members of Appellate Authority.

All appeals against the decision of the Seed Certification Authority shall be made to the Convenor of the Appellate Authority, under Section - 9 to 10 of the Seed Act, 1966. Every memorandum of Appeal shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by following requirements

a) A copy of the decision of the Certification Authority against which it has been preferred and shall set forth concisely and under distinct heads, the grounds of objection to such decision without any argument or narrative.

b) A bank draft for Rs.120/- (Rupee One Hundred and twenty Only) in favour of "The Member-Secretary Andhra Pradesh State Seed Certification Authority - Guntur", towards fee to be credited to the funds of the Authority.

### VALIDATION

Validation is the process designed to verify the conformity of Certified Seed lots to the standards of Certification on expiry of the period upto which the initial certification or previous validation of the lot is valid upto. The validity period shall be nine months from the date of test at the time of initial certification. The validity period could be further extended for 6 months provided on re-testing seed conforms to the prescribed standards in respect of physical purity, germination and insect damage. A seed lot will be eligible for extension of the validity period as long as it conforms to the prescribed standards. In this regard, time to time guidelines issued by the Govt. of India will be applicable.

The Seed producer who intends to get certified seed for further validation shall approach concerned Divisional Senior Seed Certification Officer along with necessary details and requisite fee.

### SEED STANDARDS FOR INSECT DAMAGE

A seed lot under certification shall not have apparent or visible evidence of damage by insects for both Foundation and Certified Seed classes in excess of 1.0% for the seeds of Maize and Legumes and 0.50% for seeds other than Maize and Legumes unless prescribed.

### DOWNGRADING OF SEED CLASS

If a seed field or a seed lot registered but is not found meeting prescribed standards for the class for which it has been registered but conforms to the prescribed standards to the immediate lower class, the Certification Authority may accept such seed fields/seed lots for certification to immediate lower class provided request has been made to this effect by the seed producer. However, downgrading of the seed class shall not be applicable in case of Hybrids & their Parents. Downgrading of seed class is not permitted for the crops for which foundation lots subjected to GOT test.

### RE-CLEANING, RE-SAMPLING & RE-TESTING

When a seed lot does not meet the prescribed seed standards, Certification Authority on the request of seed producer may permit Re-cleaning, Re-sampling and Re-testing duly collecting the necessary charges. The re-cleaning, re-sampling and re-testing shall be permitted only once.

Table showing the permissible level of Re-sampling for Sub-Standard Seed lots by SSCO's & CSCO's.

| Sl. No. | Crop       | Minimum Germination % | SSCO permitted range | CSCO permitted range |
|---------|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1       | Paddy      | 80                    | 68                   | 51                   |
| 2       | Jowar      | 75                    | 64                   | 48                   |
| 3       | Bajra      | 75                    | 64                   | 48                   |
| 4       | Greengram  | 75                    | 64                   | 48                   |
| 5       | Blackgram  | 75                    | 64                   | 48                   |
| 6       | Bengalgram | 85                    | 72                   | 54                   |
| 7       | Groundnut  | 70                    | 60                   | 45                   |
| 8       | Soyabean   | 70                    | 60                   | 45                   |
| 9       | Jute       | 80                    | 68                   | 51                   |

### REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE

If the Certification Authority is satisfied, either on a reference made to it in this behalf or otherwise that

a) The certificate granted by it under section 9 (3) of the Seed Act has been obtained by misrepresentation as to an essential fact, or

b) The holder of the certificate has, without reasonable cause, failed to comply with the conditions subject to which the certificate has been granted or has contravened any of the provisions of the Seed Act or the rules made there under then, without prejudice to any other penalty to which the holder of the certificate may be liable under the Act, the Certification Authority may, after giving the holder of the certificate an opportunity of showing cause revoke the certificate under the provision of Section 10 of the Act.

### ACID DELINTING

Acid delinting of Cotton Seed is an important operation to prevent seed borne diseases and ensure good germination. Acid delinting is to be made with concentrated Acid (Sulphuric acid and Hydrochloric acid)@ 100 ml/kg seed. The acid treatment should not be for more than 2 minutes after which thorough washing with water twice or thrice and with lime water once should be followed for 30 minutes. The delinted seed after drying can be treated with captan 75% dust - 250g/ql. seed as dry dressing or thiram 75WDP@100g/ql. seed, as slurry dressing.

### RETENTION OF CERTIFICATION RECORDS:

The Certification Authority shall preserve all the documents including the guard samples pertaining to certification of each seed lot for one year from the date of grant/ extension of the certificate and two years in respect of rejected seed crops or lots from the date of communication of rejection unless and otherwise required for longer period.

## **LEGAL STATUS OF CERTIFICATION SYSTEM :**

Under “Seeds Act 1966” Seed Certification has become a legally sanctioned system of quality control of seed during Production/ Multiplication and distribution stage and relates to:

|                                 |                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Section-8:                      | Refers establishment of Seed Certification Agency at State level to discharge the function of certification.                    |
| Section-8(A):                   | Refers to establishment of Central Seed Certification Board primarily to render advisory on scientific and operational matters. |
| Section-9:                      | Refers to grant of Certificate by the Certification Agency as prescribed to a Seed lot offered for Certification.               |
| Section-10:                     | Refers to revocation of Certificate issued, on breach of trust or non accomplishment of procedure prescribed.                   |
| Section-11:                     | Refers to appeals by Growers against the decision(s) of the Seed Certification Agency to an Appellate Authority.                |
| Part-IV of the seed rules 1968: | Refers to functions of Seed Certification Agency to regulate seed quality.                                                      |

## **INTRODUCTION OF SEED ACT**

The Government of India enacted the Seed Act in 1966 and the Seed Rules under the Act are framed in 1968.

The Seeds Act 1966 and the Seed Rules 1968 with the amendments carried out from time to time are in existence and in force as on today.

## **DECLARING THE SEED AS ESSENTIAL COMMODITY**

The Government of India on 24th February, 1983 have declared the seeds of food crops, fruits and vegetables, cotton seeds, seeds of cattle, fodder and jute seeds as essential commodities under section 2 of Essential Commodity Act 1955 (10 of 1955) and a seeds (control) order was issued in December 1983. This Control Order provide to control and regulate the production, supply and distribution of seeds by effective check on the activities of the dealers and producers of seed.

The salient features of the Seeds Act 1966, Seeds Rules 1968, Seeds (control) order 1983 and Seed Bill, 2004 are as follows:

### **THE SEED ACT, 1966**

#### **SEED VARIETIES NOTIFICATION**

The crop varieties with required characteristics and adaptability are notified by the State and Central Government after consultation with the committee for the purpose to regulate the quality of seed under section (5) of Seeds Act, 1966 and process is called notification of kinds and varieties of seeds.

#### **SEED CERTIFICATION**

Seed certification aims to maintain and make available to the farmers through process of certification, high quality seeds and propagating materials of notified kind and varieties to ensure genetic identity and physical purity.

A.P.S.S.C.A. is established and registered in 1977 under Section-8 of Seeds Act, 1966.

The Seeds Act 1966 is mainly applicable to the notified kind of variety in relation to any seed under section 5. It is basically regulatory in nature and mainly to ensure that seeds of notified varieties offered for sale conformed to certain minimum limits of purity and germination.

The Act provides the instructions to Central Seed Committee to advise Central Government on all matters arising out of the administration of this Act.

SEEDS ACT, 1966 contains 25 sections, broadly classified into Sanctioning Legislation and Control Legislation.

There are '16' definitions available under section '2' useful for proper interpretation of the various provisions of the Act.

The provisions of the Act were implemented in the country after supplementation with '39' Rules of Seeds Rules, 1968 in the year 1969.

The sanctioning legislation deals with administration, establishment of committees, sub-committees and other institutions viz., Boards and Seed Testing Laboratories.

### **THE SALIENT FEATURES OF SEEDS ACT, 1966**

- Constitution of various committees to advise the Government of India and State Government to carry out the purposes of the Act.
- Establishment of Central and State Seed Testing Laboratories.
- Notification of kind and varieties of Seeds.
- Specifying the minimum limits of purity and germination.
- Establishing for Seed Certification Agencies.
- Regulation of sale of seed of notified kind and varieties.
- Establishment of law enforcing agencies.

### **25 Section in Seed Act ,1966 are as follows:**

- |              |                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Section 1)  | Short title, extent, application and commencement                                                                                       |
| (Section 2)  | Definitions (16 Nos.) deals                                                                                                             |
| (Section 3)  | Constitution of the Central Seed Committee                                                                                              |
| (Section 4)  | Establishment of Central Seed Laboratory                                                                                                |
| (Section 5)  | To Notify and Kind or Variety to be sold for the purpose of the act                                                                     |
| (Section 6)  | To prescribe minimum limits of germination and purity standards for each category of seeds and label the seed indicating the standards. |
| (Section 7)  | Regulation of sale of seeds of notified kinds of varieties                                                                              |
| (Section 8)  | To establish Certification Agency for the State.                                                                                        |
| (Section 8A) | To establish Central Seed Certification Board of its functions.                                                                         |
| (Section 9)  | Grant of Certificate by Certification Agency.                                                                                           |
| (Section 10) | Revocation of Certificate.                                                                                                              |
| (Section 11) | Prefer Appeal by any person aggrieved by decision of a Certification Agency under                                                       |

section 9 or 10.

|              |                                                                          |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Section 12) | Appointment of Seed Analyst.                                             |
| (Section 13) | Appointment of Seed Inspector.                                           |
| (Section 14) | Power of Seed Inspection.                                                |
| (Section 15) | Procedure to be followed by Seed Inspectors                              |
| (Section 16) | Report of Seed Analyst                                                   |
| (Section 17) | Restriction on export or import of Seeds of notified kinds or varieties. |
| (Section 18) | Recognition of Seed Certification Agencies of foreign countries.         |
| (Section 19) | Imposition of penalties for contravention of Act                         |
| (Section 20) | Forfeiture of property.                                                  |
| (Section 21) | Offences of companies                                                    |
| (Section 22) | Protection of action taken in good faith                                 |
| (Section 23) | Power to give directions                                                 |
| (Section 24) | Exemptions                                                               |
| (Section 25) | Power to make rules                                                      |

**The Seed Rules provide following forms:**

|            |                                                                                                                                              |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Form-I:    | Meant for, making an application for seed production under certification programme.<br>(Rule No.15)                                          |
| Form-II:   | It is a certificate to be issued by the Seed Certification . Agency or in other words called as Release order.<br>(Rule No.17)               |
| Form-III:  | Format for serving stop sale order by the Seed Inspector for contravention of provisions of section 6 of the Seeds Act.1966.<br>(Rule No.27) |
| Form-IV:   | Format for serving search and seizure order by the Seed Inspector<br>(Rule No.28)                                                            |
| Form-V:    | Format for referring seed samples to the Seed Analyst drawn by the Seed Inspector. (Rule No.29.30)                                           |
| Form-VI:   | Notice to be issued by the Inspector for taking seed samples.<br>(Rule No.34)                                                                |
| Form-VII:  | Analysis report to be issued by the Seed Analyst.<br>(RuleNo.35)                                                                             |
| Form-VIII: | Acknowledgement for the sample taken by the Seed Inspector<br>(Rule No.39)                                                                   |

THE SEED RULES, 1968 :The seed rules are framed in the year 1968 giving wide scope of understanding various provisions of the Seeds Act, 1966. The function of Central Seed Laboratory, Seed Certification Agency are elaborately dealt with. It made labeling of any notified kind or variety of seed compulsory. It provided certain requirement to be complied with the person carrying on the business of selling seed. These rules also dealt the following issues:



- I. Categorised the certified seed into three distinct classes. Certification procedures are dealt in detail.
- II. Qualification of Seed Analysts and his duties are specified. Qualification of Seed Inspectors and his duties are defined. Seed sampling procedures are dealt in detail.
- III. Maintenance of various records and issuing of memorandum in form VII by seed inspector to the dealer.

#### SEEDS (CONTROL) ORDER 1983

- The Seeds (Control) Order 1983 is promulgated under essential commodities Act of 1955 mainly with a view to evolve a mechanism for registration of seed dealers, get regular flow of information on seed production; and sales and to ensure suitable distribution of seeds all over the country.
- The Seed (Control) Order 1983 envisages the obligations on the part of the dealer to obtain licence (clause 3)
- Display stock board and price list (clause 8).
- Give memorandum of cash or credit to the purchaser (clause 9)
- Maintain records and submission of reports (clause 18)
- Ensure suitable distribution of seeds (clause 10)

#### EMPOWERS THE STATE GOVERNMENTS

- To make it obligatory on the part of seed dealers to register themselves to take licence (clause 3)
- Call for any information from the dealers (clause 13) cancel the licences in case of any violation (clause 15)
- Give direction for regulating the Seed Market (clause 10)
- To enter upon and search any premises where any seed is stored or exhibited for sale (clause 13 (b))
- To take samples, seize/ confiscate/ detain seed stocks to ensure compliance the criminal action against the dealer who contravene the provisions as prescribed under Essential Commodities Act 1955. The Seed (Control) Order 1983 inherently discourages the activities of unscrupulous dealer. Under Seeds (Control) Order the samples drawn should conform to the standard quality claimed on the label.

STATE SEED BILL, 2004: The State Seed Bill, 2004 in its nutshell contain 49 sections, it is prepared in such a way that the provisions of the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seeds Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 are integrated and loop holes, short comings of available legislation are removed.

## Procedure for registering Processing Plant with APSSCA

The Authorization to a processing plant is accorded for stocking of unprocessed seed lots, processing, sampling and final certification of seed lots under Certification programme. For the purpose of registration the APSSCA verifies the normative requirements of equipments for processing and collects required documents. Authorization is accorded duly allotting a code number, which will be the third part of the lot number and will indicate the seed processing plant where the relevant seed lot was processed. For example Lot No. May-2000-01-900 (P)-2812, May, 2000 - Seed harvested in May, 2000, 01 - State code allotted by Govt. of India., 900 (P) - Code Number allotted to Seed processing plant authorized by APSSCA., 2812 - Seed Produce code (MR number) which will trace to the particular unit of certification.

In crops like groundnut which may not be brought to the processing plant for post-harvest operations including grading, sorting, packing etc., for such units where only groundnut processing is taken up this office has been allotting processing plant number with (GN) as affix for Groundnut processing.

On receipt of the filled-in application from the Seed Producers/Firms for authorization and allotment of code number to the processing plant along with the payment and requisite documents, the concerned Senior Seed Certification Officer (SSCO-Divisional Head) inspects the processing plant as per the Check list and certifies the same in the application. The application along with the document is forwarded to the concerned Chief Seed Certification Officer (CSCO-Zonal Head), who in turn inspects and submits the inspection report along with the proposals to the Director recommending for authorization and allotment of code number.

In order to avoid any complaints from the public following documents are submitted by the Authorized person of the concerned Seed Processing plant to the Divisional Senior Seed Certification Officer (SSCO) for verification.

1. Covering letter on company letter pad requesting for registration/renewal
2. Filled application form
3. Seed Dealer License/JDA License
4. No Objection Certificate/Pollution certificate
5. Land/Lease/Building ownership Documents
6. Aadhar Card of Authorized person
7. Plant photos with name board and available machinery
8. Processing plant layout blue print
9. DD in the name of "Member Secretary, APSSCA, Guntur"

On receipt of filled in application along with the requisite enclosures and recommendations, the same are verified and proceedings are issued by the Director authorizing the processing plant and allotting a code Nos. serially maintained State wide which is valid for a period of Three calendar years.

Based on the proceedings the Divisional Officer issues a Certificate of Registration with validity of 3 calendar years. For further renewal of the processing plant the concerned SSCO is authorized to issue a renewal certificate for a period of 3 calendar years on requisition before expiry of initial validity period. The registration and renewal certificates are displayed in the concerned processing plant.

# International OECD Seed Certification

## Introduction

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1961 with its headquarters in Paris (France), as a multilateral forum to discuss, develop and reform economic and social policies.

## OECD Seed Schemes

Agriculture is one of the priority subjects of the OECD, which includes the seed schemes formulated to ensure the variety identity and purity of the seed through appropriate regulations and to facilitate seed trade between the countries by removing the trade barriers. Currently there are 61 countries including India from all over the world participating in the OECD Seed Schemes.

OECD seed schemes facilitates the international seed trade through globally recognized labs and certificates, which act as passport for seeds. Improves the seed quality regulatory system in the participating countries and thereby promotes quality seed production.

The OECD rules and regulations for seed varietal certification are technical standards developed by seed certification specialist in participating countries in close co-operation with other international seed related organizations such as UPOV, ISTA, FAO and ISF as a global representative of the seed sector.

## Objectives

- To encourage the use of “quality-guaranteed seed in participating countries.
- To authorize the use of labels and certificates for seed produced and processed for international trade according to agreed principles ensuring the identity and purity of seed.
- To facilitate the import and export of seed by the removal of technical trade barriers through internationally recognised labels.

## Benefits

- Facilitates international seed trade by using globally recognized OECD labels and certificates.
- Builds a frame work with other countries or companies to develop seed production.
- Facilitates in the elaboration of international rules for seed certification.
- Develop collaboration between the public and private sectors.

## OECD Seed Schemes In India

The Government of India nominated the Joint Secretary (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare as National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Implementation of the OECD Seed Schemes in India.

APSSCA has initiated International Seed Certification through OECD Schemes from Rabi 2020-21. Accordingly, areas were registered in different divisions for certification and the fields were inspected by Technical staff of APSSCA and clearance was given for inter state movement. This will boost International Seed Trade.

The NDA has nominated the 9 State Seed Certification Agencies including Andhra Pradesh State Seed Certification Authority (APSSCA) as Designated Authorities (DA's) for operating the varietal certification process of OECD Seed Schemes in the country. The APSSCA has initiated OECD seed Certification from Rabi-2020-21 and facilitated the certification of Sorghum, Sunflower, Maize and Bajra.

List of Designated Authorities in India.

Website for OECD Seed Schemes : <https://www.oecd.org/agriculture/seeds/>

| S.No | Designated Authority                                                                                                                            | DA Code | Area of Operation                                                                 |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Andhra Pradesh State Seed Certification Authority, Lam farm, Gorantla, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522034..                                          | AP      | Andhra Pradesh and Odisha                                                         |
| 2    | Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority, House No. 5-10-193, 1st Floor, HACA Bhawan, Opposite Public Gardens Hyderabad-500004. | TL      | Telangana and Chhatisgarh                                                         |
| 3    | Bihar State Seed and Organic Certification Agency, Meethapur, Patna – 800001                                                                    | BH      | Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar, North-Eastern States and Sikkim |
| 4    | Maharashtra State Seed Certification Agency, Neel Kanth Sekhari soot, Girni Amravathi Road Akola – 444005                                       | MH      | Maharashtra, Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Goa                   |
| 5    | Rajasthan State Seed and Organic Certification Agency, 3rd Floor, Pant Krishi Bhawan, Jan Path, Jaipur-302004                                   | RJ      | Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh and Madhya Pradesh                         |
| 6    | Karnataka State Seed and Organic Certification Agency, KAIC Premises, Opp. Baptist Hospital, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bangalore – 560024           | KA      | Karnataka                                                                         |
| 7    | Directorate of Seed and Organic Certification, 1424 A Thadagam Road, GCT Post, Coimbatore-641013                                                | TN      | Tamil Nadu and Puducherry                                                         |
| 8    | Uttar Pradesh State Seed Certification Agency, Government Garden Campus, Alambag, Lucknow– 226005                                               | UP      | Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand                                                       |
| 9    | Uttarakhand State Seed Certification Agency, 12/II, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun – 248006                                                             | UK      | Uttarakhand,<br>Himachal Pradesh and Jammu Kashmir.                               |

#### Enlisting of Variety/Hybrid into OECD List

The OECD list of varieties eligible for certification is an official list of varieties which have been accepted by NDA as eligible for Certification in accordance with the rules of OECD Seed Schemes. The seed producing companies shall submit the application to the Joint Secretary Seeds, DAC & FW, ministry of Agriculture, GOI & National Designated Authority For listing of Varieties/hybrids under “OECD national List”

#### Classes of seeds

The following categories of seed are recognized in the Scheme:

### **i. Pre-Basic Seed:**

Pre-basic seed is defined as seed of generations preceding Basic seed and may be at any generation between the parental material and the Basic seed.

- Controlled by official Maintainer + Designated Authority.
- Subject to compulsory pre-control test.
- Cannot be commercialized and it has to be used for further multiplication.
- Carries White Label with diagonal Violet Stripe

### **ii. Basic seed**

Basic seed is defined as seed which has been produced under the responsibility of the maintainer according to the generally accepted practices for the maintenance of the variety and is intended for the production of certified seed.

- Controlled by official Maintainer + Designated Authority.
- Subject to compulsory pre-control test.
- Cannot be commercialized and it has to be used for further multiplication.
- Produced officially by the recognized Institute/organization.
- No validity period.
- Carries White Label.

### **iii. Certified Seed**

Certified seed is defined as seed that is of direct descent from either Basic seed or certified seed of a variety and is intended for the production of either certified seed or of crops for purposes other than seed production.

- Not under Breeder/Maintainers control however consulted for the number of multiplication.
- DA's shall undertake the quality control including post control test
- Used for the commercial multiplication/sale.
- No validity period.
- Certified stage 1 (C1): Carries Blue Label
- Certified Stage 2 (C2): Carries Red Label

#### **i. Not Finally Certified Seed:**

Seed which is to be exported from the country of production after field approval, but before final certification as basic or certified seed is called not finally certified seeds.

- Carries Grey Label

#### **ii. Standard Seed:**

Seed Which is declared by the supplier as being true to the variety and of satisfactory varietal purity. It must conform to the appropriate conditions in the Scheme.

- This category mainly exists in vegetable seed scheme.
- Carries Dark Yellow Label.

### **Steps in OECD Certification**

1. Listing of Seed Company as Maintainer under "OECD Maintainer List" and Listing of Hybrids/Varieties under OECD Varietal List.
2. Registration of Seed Companies and Seed Processing Units (SPU) with APSSCA.
3. Initial parental Seed Multiplication along with pre-control under supervision of APSSCA. (Pre-basic)
4. Registration of Seed Production Area (Basic and Certified Seed Production)
5. Seed Plot Inspections at different growth stages.
6. Harvesting of Seed produce & shifting of raw seed produce to processing plant along with Transfer Certificates (TCs)
7. Post-harvest supervision (Seed Processing and Cleaning)
8. Seed Sampling and Testing (ISTA/Domestic)
9. Issue of OECD Labels & Varietal Certificates for seed exports
10. Post Control plot testing of exported seed lots and Parental Seed Lots