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Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)

B/116, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 02nd May, 2017

Subject:- Minutes for the Technical Committee Meeting of the Central Seed Certification Board (CSCB) held under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture & Horticulture Commissioner held on 28.03.2017 at 12.00 noon

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to forward a copy of the minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the Central Seed Certification Board (CSCB) held under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture & Horticulture Commissioner held on 28.03.2017 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi for your information and necessary action, if any.

Yours faithfully

Encl: as above.


(D. S. Misra)
Deputy Commissioner (QC)
Tel: 23387661

Distribution: All participants.

Copy to:

1. PPS to Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture & Horticulture Commissioner for favour of information.
2. PPS to Joint Secretary (Seeds) for favour of information.

PPS
Please see
for uploads on website.
Tech. Director (NIC)
Sas n. a. pl.


28.5.17

Minutes for the Technical Committee Meeting of the Central Seed Certification Board (CSCB) under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture & Horticulture Commissioner held on 28.03.2017 at 12.00 noon

1. Uniformity in procedures of Seed Certification Agencies across India :-

The Technical Committee after discussing the above issue constituted a Committee with representatives from Rajasthan State Seed & Organic Production Certification Agency, Jaipur and Maharashtra State Seed Certification Agency, Akola along with a representative from the NSC (Mr. Prem Chand, Add. General Manager (QC)) to look into the various procedures/systems of seed certification prevalent in different States and make suitable recommendations to have uniformity in the procedures of seed certification system without interfering in the financial aspects i.e. fixation of inspection fees and other financial matters relating to the certification agencies.

The Committee will submit its report by 31st May, 2017 positively.

2. All SSCAs offer their services online :-

It was informed by the Member Secretary that Seed Division has been providing financial assistance of Rs.20/- lakh to the seed certification agencies for providing their seed certification services online. Some of the seed certification agencies like Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have developed the online seed certification system but other States has yet to develop the process of online seed certification. It was desired that all the seed certification agencies including the Department of Seed Certification functioning under the control of Directorate of Agriculture in States / UTs will make sincere efforts to enable their seed certification services online latest by 30th September, 2017 positively. It was also emphasized in the meeting that States who have not started online certification may visit the neighboring States who have developed the seed certification system online with their experts and make an attempt to utilize their software with minor modifications as per their requirements through NIC or any other software agency.

3. Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards (IMSCS) for Breeder Seed (BS) :-

Seed Division has been receiving a large number of complaints about the poor quality of breeder seed from various seed production agencies including SSCs and NSC. The major problem in the breeder seeds reported is the presence of off types, poor germination and genetic purity. This issue has been flagged on a number of occasions with the ADG(Seeds), ICAR while attending the Kharif and Rabi Zonal conferences. The main reason of the breeder seeds complaint is due to poor monitoring on the part of the monitoring team without having the sufficient representatives of the sponsoring breeder, State Seed Certification Agency, NSC and SAUs. It is also understood that in some of the SAUs the breeder seed production programme is being taken on the contract farmers fields resulting poor quality. Further, Maintenance Breeding is an integral area in the seed production chain which has long ignored in most of the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) resulting unsatisfactory quality breeder seeds. The Uttar Pradesh Seed Certification Agency has prepared a guideline for the breeder seed monitoring and the copy of the same is enclosed as Annexure-I for information to the members.

After discussing at length it Chairman retreated that the breeder seed should have highest standards of genetic purity and germination. Certified and Foundation Seeds are the future generation of the breeder seeds, therefore, the breeder seed should be with highest standards of genetic purity and germination. It was decided that a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Ravinder Babu, Director Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad may be constituted with members from the relevant stakeholders including State Agricultural Universities, DSR, Mau, ICAR institutes and some projects coordinators of some of the important crops and concerned breeders. The Committee will finalise the suitable recommendations for the breeder seeds standards and within a month time. However, the Technical Committee also emphasize the requirements of maintaining the source of the seeds while prescribing the standards for the breeder seeds further the name of the persons / scientists monitoring the breeder seeds inspection must be recorded in the Breeder Seed Monitoring Register maintained for this purpose by the sponsoring institutions for future reference. In case of any issue/dispute about the quality of breeder seed the scientist concerned may be approached to resolve the issue. Further, it was emphasize that breeder seed should include construction of Lot Number, year Rabi Kharif and also indicating the validity period etc. BS Labels should be machine-numbered in five (5) digits with series in numerical of state codes.

4. Distinction of truthful labeled seed from certified seed :-

The committee was informed the issues being faced by the private seed agencies while marketing the truthful labeled seed v/s certified seed. It has been observed that the seed companies are not putting proper label on the trustful label and deceptively using label look wise appears certified and farmers are unable to identify the same resultantly put to loss due to inferior quality of the seeds. Therefore, the technical committee informed that the label of the truthful seed (colour of the label opal) which is mandatory with the producing company to affix on the seed packing. Therefore, a advisory to the state Agriculture Department to issue suitable instruction to the all seed producing agency to use Opal Green Label for the truthful label seed and any deceptively used label will attract penalty as well as cancellation of the seed dealer licence and strict compliance may be made of the law.

5. Awareness programme about use of certified seeds :-

In India about 60% of the seed used by the farmers is the Farm Saved Seed (FSS) and the farmers use it upto 2-3 generations. However, to enhance the Replacement Rate (RR) in the country for self pollinated crops. Seed Division has been implementing the seed village scheme to provide quality seeds to the farmers of the latest released and notified varieties. The Technical Committee, therefore, emphasized that the farmers may be educated properly to use the certified seeds instead of FSS to have higher yield and better quality. Further, Seed Division have provided funds to seed corporations / seed certification agencies and Directorate of Agriculture for conducting training programmes. States may take the advantage of these funds for conducting training and awareness programmes to promote use of certified seeds by the farmers.

6. Printing of certification tags by Govt. Security Press, Nasik :

The members of the Committee appreciated the initiative taken by Director, Seed Certification Agency, Karnataka for printing of certification tags by Indian Security Press, Nasik. All the members have unanimously expressed their consent for implementation of the uniform printing of certification tags by the Indian Security Press. With respect to price of the certified tags/foundation tags it was informed that all seed certification agencies will inform the requirement of certified (blue) and foundation tag (white) on yearly basis to initiate negotiation

of the price of the tag with Government Security Press, Nasik as desired by their General Manager.

7. HDPE bags for packaging seeds.

The Technical Committee desired that there is no ban from Government of India on the use of HDPE bags for packaging of the seeds. Directorate of seed research, Mau have recommended as under:

- a. Seeds dried to less than 10% moisture content and packed in HDPE bags can maintain germination well for one planting season, which is as good as jute canvas bags.
- b. If the initial seed moisture is high (13%) jute canvas bags are better.
- c. The HDPE bags should be filled to 90% of its capacity and stacked in inter-locked positions for avoiding slippage and ensuring better storage.

The Technical Committee desired that the HDPE bags packaging may be allowed subject to the condition that a State of this subject will be conduct by Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Bhopal and other agencies to give their final recommendations on the subject. Time being the certification agency may allow packaging of seeds in the HDPE bags.

8. Inter State seeds certification.

The issue of Inter State Seed Certification was discussed in the 12th meeting of the Central Seed Certification Board on 31st March, 1994 and in that meeting, it was decided that the guidelines for Inter State Seed Certification may be issued to all states with the request to adopt the system. However, the some of state like Gujarat had some reservation on account of the reliability of the quality of seed getting eroded in the process of transit from one state to another. Therefore, board decided that the states who have reservation in accepting the guidelines may opt to remain outside the system of Inter State Certification after duly informing the Government of India.

Keeping in mind the above facts, it was decided that the issue of Inter State Certification is important in view of the reorganization of some of the states like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. The state of Telangana requested the seeds Division that the Inter State Seed

Certification is required in view of the fact that the some production area fall into the Andhra Pradesh jurisdiction and therefore, it is urgently required to comply the guidelines of Inter State Seed Certification.

With regards all the Inter State Seed Certification, Chairman decided that a committee consisting of Director, Seed Certification Agency, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh with a representative from NSC will give suitable recommendation on the issue of Inter State Seed Certification within a week from the receipt of the minutes. However, the Inter State Seed Certification will be allowed in those States which have been reorganized recently i.e. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and some area under seed certification among Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan which was offered for certification in the States by the private Seed industry and they are having issues with respect to their logistic problems as their fields are not confined to the states where they have the seed processing facility and therefore, require movement of the seed from one State to another State for process, grading and packaging. It is relevant to mention that, the guidelines of Inter State Certification already available may also be reviewed keeping in mind the latest developments taken place in the seed sector during the more that last two decades while finalizing the recommendations on this subject.

9. Disposal of remnant/treated failed lots of foundation/certified seeds.

It was informed that at present there is no standard disposal by remnant/treated in the country and all States are following their own system keeping in view that there is tremendous growth in the seed sector and many times the foundation seeds are failed so it is a very serious matter/issue to dispose of the foundation seeds lots. Accordingly, the Technical Committee desired that the Directorate of seed Research, Mau should come out with some guidelines keep in mind the guidelines made by International Seed Federation (ISF). In the mean while, the certification agencies are advice to burned the treated seed and not to dispose of it through soil to avoid pollution. However, the untreated field seeds lots may be treated for human consumption.

10. Preparation of seed certification standards of some additional crops/species

A sub-committee for developing seed certification standards for additional new crops/species was already constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture and Horticulture Commissioner as per the decision taken in the 24th meeting of the central sub-committee on crop standards, notification and release of varieties for horticultural crops held in September, 2016. The committee had its 1st meeting on 09.02.2017 and finalized the list of left

over crops for which the seed certifications standards are yet to be developed. The committee has developed several groups with Nodal Officers for various crops for developing seed certification standards within one month with detailed SOP to the department for taking necessary action. The sub-groups of the newly listed crops are likely to make their presentation on the development of seed certification standards to their mandated crops before the committee.

11. Formation of Central Team to supervise Seed Law Enforcement/Status of notified seed testing labs

Seed law enforcement is primarily is the mandate of the State Agriculture Department as per the provisions under the Seeds Act, 1966 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. Seed Analyst (section 12), Seed inspectors(section 13) and seed testing laboratory have been notified by the State Govts. along with their jurisdiction under the Seeds Act, 1966. Further, section 14 of the Seeds Act, 1966 clearly defines the powers of the Seed inspector and the procedures to be followed by seed inspectors while taking the seed sample and any notified seed lot. Thus it is ample clear that the statutory power for the seed law enforcement is vested with the State Govts.

However, Seed Division of this Department is getting a lot of complaints from the States about the spurious, sub standard, fake seed resulting losses to the farmers. A suggestion has come from the Rajasthan that Central Team may be constituted to supervise Seed Law Enforcement/Status of notified seed testing labs to regulate the supply of substandard seeds in the market. The central team will assist the State Govt. machinery in strict enforcement of the Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rule, 1968 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983.

The participation of the officers from the central team will help the state machinery in updating their knowledge and skill about the seed law enforcement in a techno-legal angle and also keep a watch on the strict quality control in the seed sector. It is expected that the State machinery is sometimes biased and also influenced by the big seed companies and hesitant to withdraw their samples. The presence of the central team will be moral boosting for seed law enforcement machinery and a step forward towards transparency and accountability of the official in the Seed Law Enforcement. However, the matter may be referred to the Department of Legal Affair to know the legal validity of this kind proposal.

12. Any other important issues with the permission of Chairman:- The committee desired that these issues which are listed under required in depth and elaborate discussion and therefore taken up in the next meeting of the Technical Committee.

- 1) Revisit of IMSCS, 2013 for specified crops Maize, Jowar, Bajra
- 2) Need of publicity in Kissan channel to create awareness in farming community over advantages of using certified seeds.
- 3) Subsidy on spray of Propaconazole spray to control karnal Bunt.
- 4) ODV/Tolerance limit in seed certification
- 5) Seed Health Tests in seeds/testing of pvt. Hybrids/HYV/varieties before permission for marketing

13. Other Important issues flagged for consideration

- 1) Form- II For all certified seed lots (FS&CS) should be in English only.
- 2) The SAUs and ICAR Institutes may communicate varieties/ hybrids of different crops to NSAI along with SSCAs as and when notified.
- 3) All notified varieties may be made to certify compulsorily to make available to farmers at affordable prices. Certification voluntary
- 4) Seed Production incentives may be extended to all certified seed growers of all seed producers including SSDCs / state agros, through SSCAs based on Qty. certified by respective SSCAs, if not already extended. Subsidy is extended only to
- 5) sale subsidy limited to certified seeds only to encourage CS production to strengthen SSDCs & SSCAs etc to strengthen SSCAs and SSDCs.
- 6) Extension of validity period (Revalidation) issue should be as per previous practice before written New IMSCS(Sept.2013).
- 7) GoT/DNA finger printing for genetic purity
- 8) The job of seed law enforcement may be handed over to SSCAs who better Knows about varieties/hybrids and characters, lot numbers and validity etc. Legal validity of Seed Inspector/Certification Officer

List of participants who attended the 17th meeting of the Technical Committee of the Central Seed Certification Board (CSCB) held at 11.00 A.M. on 28th March, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture and Horticulture Commissioner, DAC&FW in Committee Room No.138, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

1. Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture and Horticulture Commissioner, DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – **Chairman**
2. Shri D.S. Misra, Deputy Commissioner (QC), DAC&FW
3. Shri Prem Chand, Addl. GM (QC), NSC, New Delhi. Beej Bhawan, Pusa complex, New Delhi 9999453940
4. Dr. Kalyan Goswami, ED, NSAI
5. Shri Kuldeep Singh, Sr. GM (Q), NSC
6. B. Shivaraju, Director, Karnataka State Seeds Organic Certification Agency, Bangalore.
7. S. Sabha Natesan, Joint Director, Seed Exhibition Directorate of Seed Certification Coimbatore, Tamilnadu.
8. Dr. V. Ravindra Babu, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad-500030 rbvemuri1955@gmail.com
9. Dr. Eapan Vettath Eapan, Seed Analyst (ADSC), Directorate of Seed Certification, Coimbatore-13 eapenvettath@gmail.com
10. R. Pandiarajan, Joint Director of Seed Inspection, Directorate of Seed Certification, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu. dscbe@gmail.com
11. Shri B.S. Gupta, Seed Certification Officer, RSSOPCA, Jaipur337, Pant Krishi Bhawan Jaipur-302005. Bsgupta55@gmail.com
12. Shri S.R. Sardar, Director, MSSCA, Akola Directors Office, MSSCA, Akola, Maharashtra State msscaakola@gmail.com
13. Shri B.B. Kundaria, Manager Marketing, Gujarat State Seed Corporation Ltd. Beej Bhavan Se-10A, Gandhinagar, Gujarat State, mm@gurabini.com
14. Dr Dilip Srivastava, Assistant Commissioner(QC), DAC&FW
15. Dr. Manisha Negi, NSAI, New Delhi.
16. Sh. C.P. Singh, STA, DAC&FW.
17. Sh. M.R. Gautam, Asstt. DAC&FW
18. Shri Lekh Raj Sharma, Seed Division-IV (QC)