

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
Seed Enterprise Management Institute

NATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION
ORGANIZATIONS (NPPOS) AND SEED
QUALITY REGULATORS COURSE

Seed Enterprises Management Institute

University of Nairobi

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REGULATORY APPROACHES TO ENSURING
ADHERENCE TO SEED QUALITY STANDARDS
AND ETHICS

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Introduction

Define Regulation

- To make orderly, control, direct or govern according to rules, principles, requirements, rates, amount, standard or law.

Task

- Name **seed quality regulatory Authority** in your country
- Who makes regulations in your country?

REGULATORY APPROACHES

- Through regulatory approaches governments establish benchmark for seed quality providers and institutions for the seed they provide.
- The approaches include:
 - ❖ Licensing
 - ❖ Certification
 - ❖ Accreditation
 - ❖ Self regulation

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APPROACHES CON'D

- These are not mutually exclusive and are complementally
- Each has **distinct purpose** and can contribute to overall strategy for ensuring quality seed is provided
- All are based on evaluation of adherence to explicitly defined **STANDARDS**
- All create **uniformity of practice** by seed providers and delivery of seed
- They may differ in the following ways:-
 1. Whether mandatory or voluntary
 2. In nature of issuing and enforcing regulations
 3. In respect the part of seed system is the object of evaluation

APPROCHES CON'D

4. In the level of detail of requirements
5. Scope of standards
6. In the frequency with which evaluation is carried out
7. In the assessment methodology used

Which of the approaches require stricter enforcement all the time in order to deliver quality seed?

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LICENSING

- *This is statutory requirement in most countries*
- *Before registration as a seed provider*
- *Capacity evaluated including*
 - *1. buildings*
 - *2. equipments*
 - *3. personnel*
 - *4. farms*

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CERTIFICATION

- Countries use both internal and external seed quality control system to ensure their seed remains popular with the customers.
- Certification process **MUST** be understood by seed growers, providers and customers so that quality seed is provided according to set standards.
- Certification is based on generations from breeder to the time the farmer/customer plants

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CERTIFICATION CON'D

- Seed classes indicate how many generations a seed lot is removed from the originating Breeder.
- Each class has required level of quality
- Seed classes:-
 1. Breeder
 2. Prebasic or Foundation (in USA system)
 3. Basic or Registered (in USA system)
 4. Certified, CG1, CG2, CG3

What terms are used in your country?

CERTIFICATION CON'D

➤ Certification requires: -

1. **field inspection** where seed crop is of known seed class, and inspectors follow required standards
2. **Lab analysis** to determine, genetic purity, physical purity, germination, vigor and seed health
3. **Insurance of certificate** to sell or not for sale

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ACCREDITATION

- This is a process in which certification is authorized to a third party to do specified standardized functions
- Standards are set by trusted Team of Experts.
- The Regulatory Authority certifies a third party to perform regulatory activities
- Examples... Harmonized seed policy in East Africa allowing NRA to accredit institutions.
- Does NRA in your country accredit?

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SELF REGULATION

- *To be explained in the next lecture on guidelines for seed industry self regulation.*

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CHALLENGES

- Seed providers are issued with licenses for premises, equipment and human resource once without mechanisms for **re-inspection** or for **upgrading**
- No fast and clear mechanism for appeal when aggrieved by regulator as this may take a long period to be addressed
- Enforcement is weak in some countries promoting disregard for seed standards
- Enforcement is open to abuse due to **corruption**
- **What challenges do you encounter in your country?**



*THANK YOU
FOR LISTENING*

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