

OVERVIEW AND RATIONALE OF EXISTING PHYTOSANITARY AND SEED QUALITY STANDARDS

SEMIS COURSE ON
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INTRODUCTION

- Defination of a standard
 1. standard is a document which provides, inter alia, requirements, rules, and guidelines, for a process, product or service.
 2. Standard can be defined as a specification (or a set of specifications) that relates to a product's attributes (Sykes, 1995).

Introduction cont'd

- Standards are the result of a consensus and are approved by a recognized body.
- Standards aim at achieving the optimum degree of order in a given context.

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Overview and rationale of existing Phytosanitary and seed quality standards

- Some of the existing phytosanitary and seed quality standards includes:
 1. OECD Seed schemes for seed moving to international market
 2. Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA)
 3. International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)
 4. Association of Official seed Analysts (AOSA)

Overview and rationale of existing Phytosanitary and seed quality standards cont'd

5. Regional Seed Quality standards

- COMESA Seed quality standards
- East Africa Community seed quality standard

6. Phytosanitary measures - ISPM

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Rationale of OECD Seed Schemes standards

To facilitate trade & improve market access

- Reducing technical barriers through
 - a. harmonisation of certification procedures

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Rationale of OECD Seed Schemes standards

- b. use of internationally recognized labels/certificates
- c. Improve traceability along the food chain

To contribute to the international rules for seed certification

- a. evolution of the rules and procedures

Rationale of OECD Seed Schemes standards

- b. use of the Schemes (Domestic, International)
- c. maintain seed certification at a global level

To improve collaboration between countries & the public/private sector

1. multiplication of seed in third countries
2. authorization *of inspection*
3. To share information on best practices
4. exchange information and experiences with other NDAs

Rationale of AOSCA Seed certification standards

- The seed certification standards of AOSCA

provide:

1. Coordinated, professional and unbiased field inspections and laboratory testing.

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Rationale of AOSCA Seed certification standards

2. Unbiased record system for use in meeting state, federal and international seed law requirements.
3. Seed buyers with assurance that the designated seed has met purity standards related to a known description across seed lots and years of production.

ISTA Rules for seed testing

- The ISTA International Rules for Seed Testing provides annually updated and worldwide uniform seed testing methods
- The ISTA Accreditation Programme guarantees worldwide harmonized seed testing results

ISTA Rules for seed testing

- The ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificates issued exclusively by ISTA Accredited Laboratories, truly reflecting the quality of a seed lot.
- The **promotion of research, training, publishing and information** in all areas of seed science and technology and cooperation with related organizations.

AOSA

- The AOSA seed testing protocols:
 - a. Establish the AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds.
 - b. Contribute to the refinement and modification of the rules and procedures for seed testing.

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AOSA

c. Ensure that testing procedures are standardized between analysts and between laboratories.

d. Influence and assist in the enforcement of appropriate seed legislation at state and federal levels.

The rationale of phytosanitary measures and standards

- Phytosanitary measures are government legislations, regulations and procedures that regulate, restrict or prevent the import and marketing of certain plant species or plant products.

- These measures aim to prevent:
 - the introduction and spread of plant pests across international boundaries or
 - to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests. This is undertaken in a way that does not limit trade while making trade in plants and plant products

The rationale of phytosanitary measures and standards

- The measures include:
 1. Import permit
 2. Certification scheme
 3. Pre-inspection
 4. Defined entry ports
 5. Inspection /testing on entry
 6. Post entry quarantine (PEQ)
 7. Disinfestation
 8. Others

Benefits of regional and International Phytosanitary and Seed Certification standards

- A lowering of the technical barriers to trade (TBT).
 - a. Improved transparency for traders and stakeholders.
 - b. A reduction in transaction costs.
 - c. The use of worldwide recognized official seed labels and certificates facilitate the exchange of

Benefits of regional and International Phytosanitary and Seed Certification standards

- d. technical information on seed.
- e. Encourages the development of seed production in other regions and countries.

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Benefits of regional and International Phytosanitary and Seed Certification standards

- Contributes to the elaboration of international rules for seed certification.
- Promotes collaboration between the public and private sectors.
- Shares experiences and information on emerging issues and concerns in the seed sector

INCLUSION

- Phytosanitary and seed quality standards ensures both national and transponder seed trade while protecting introduction of pests and disease nationally

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