Third party participation in seed quality

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INTRODUCTION

Third party definition

A technical body or entity acting under official delegated authority to undertake specific activities associated with seed certification on behalf of the Designated Authority.
Introduction cont’d

Note: Designated Authorities retains overall accountability for the operation of the system and the delivery of seed certification.
Authorized Third Party Seed Inspection Organization” where appropriate, can:

- carry out official assessments of competence for authorization of seed persons and / or laboratories;
Introduction cont’d

- Ensure that seed sampling and/or seed testing is done according to Seed Certification Schemes Rules and methods as indicated as required.
- Provide seed certification labels to seed companies with authorized seed samplers and any other authorized person within the company.
Introduction cont’d

- The Designated Authority must ensure regular surveillance and audits laboratories and organizations.
To qualify for authorization, the Third party seed organization must:

- Be independent
- Have sufficiently trained
  - qualified manager who is technically competent in seed certification requirements;
AUTHORISATION OF THIRD PARTY SEED ORGANISATION

- enough qualified seed certification staff
- be situated in appropriate premises and have appropriate equipment
- work according to the Rules of the Seed Schemes
The following methods may be used to assess the competency of applicants:

- Examination of the manager’s knowledge and understanding of the seed certification rules
- Seed certification examination for all seed inspection, sampling, testing and auditing staff:
Competency assessment

- Re-examination in case of recognised deficiencies of the authorised Third Party Seed Organisation’s seed certification staff.
Conditions for maintaining knowledge and skills

- Authorised Third Party Seed Organisations need to ensure that their staff maintain their knowledge and skills by:
  - undertaking regular seed certification work
  - keeping up-to-date the documentation and being familiar with the appropriate operating procedures and methods based on Seed Certification Schemes
Conditions for maintaining knowledge and skills

- participating in periodic retraining, if required.
Surveillance and audit procedures

- Designated Authority should carry out:
  - Check-inspections
  - Inspection Audits
  - Re-examination
  - Documentation
  - Use of pre- and post-control plot assessment results
Thanks
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