

SEED PRODUCTION FIELD  
DIAGNOSTICS COURSE  
HELD FROM 16<sup>TH</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup>  
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SEMIIS UON  
Seed Enterprises Management Institute

**OBLIGATIONS AND ETHICAL ISSUES FOR SEED  
GROWERS PRESENTED BY Munyao W. M**

# OUTLINE

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- Seed grower definition
- Grower classes
- Selection criteria of growers
- Grower and seed company obligation
- Ethical issues

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# SEED GROWERS

## □ Definition:

- Seed growers are skilled producers who transfer the technology contained in seed from one generation to the next without allowing impurities or contamination from other varieties or crops

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# SEED GROWERS Cont'd

- Seed growers may fall into one of the following three classes:
  - ❖ Smallholder growers – mainly contracted in groups
  - ❖ Small scale growers – contracted individually and/or in groups
  - ❖ Large scale growers – contracted individually

# Selection of seed growers

- The criteria used by seed companies to select farmers to contract are based on the following:
  - ❖ Reliability,
  - ❖ knowledge,
  - ❖ resourcefulness,
  - ❖ willingness to cooperate

# Selection of seed growers

- ❖ Location of farm relative to the seed company
- ❖ Farm size
- ❖ Infrastructure of the farm
- ❖ Labour availability

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# OBLIGATIONS OF SEED GROWERS

- Should be familiar with the seed certification requirements in all stages of seed production, conditioning and handling

- Obligation of seed growers fall in all seed production stages and they include:

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# OBLIGATIONS OF SEED GROWERS

## Cont'd

- a. Agreement to produce a particular crop and variety exclusively for a seed company
- b. Quantity of seed to be produced
  - planted area

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# OBLIGATIONS OF SEED GROWERS

## Cont'd

- the minimum yield
- c. Crop management specification
- d. Certification requirements
  - the highest level of integrity
  - Genetic purity – Isolation, roguing of off-type plants from seed fields
  - Physical purity - protected from varietal mixture and other crop species

# OBLIGATIONS OF SEED GROWERS

## Cont'd

- Freedom from pests and diseases
- Germination capacity
- Moisture content
- Traceability of harvested seed
- Ensuring that all equipments and storage facilities are cleaned and disinfected before storing harvested seed

# OBLIGATIONS OF SEED GROWERS

## Cont'd

- Cropping history of the farm
- e. Allow freedom of inspection of seed fields by company representatives and certifying agencies
- f. Seed delivery form, methods and schedules
- g. Keep record of the farm operation eg planting dates

# OBLIGATIONS OF SEED COMPANIES

## □ Seed company obligations includes

- a. Supply parent seed
- b. Specify services to be rendered to the grower
- c. Pay for the agreed price, including any applicable bonuses or penalties
- d. Follow the payment schedule

# ETHICALS ISSUES OF SEED GROWERS

- **Ethics** are standards of conduct (or social norms) that prescribe behavior
- **Ethics** are general standards of conduct of a particular profession, occupation, institution, or group within a society
- **Morality** consists of a society's most general standards

# ETHICALS ISSUES OF SEED GROWERS

## □ Code of Ethics

Is a set of principles and rules used by companies, organizations or individuals to govern their decision-making in choosing what is right and wrong.

-Depending on the context of a given code of ethics, penalties and or sanctions may be applied.

# ETHICAL ISSUES AND PRACTICES OF SEED GROWERS

## □ *The basis of ethics*

- a. Don't harm others or yourself.
- b. Help others and yourself.
- c. Respect truth: do not lie, cheat, deceive.
- d. Be faithful: keep promises and agreements.
- e. Be fair: treat equals equally.

# ETHICAL ISSUES AND PRACTICES OF SEED GROWERS

## Cont'd

- The growers' actions that are unethical include:
  - a. Tendency not to plant all the seed supplied
  - b. Diversion of inputs
  - c. Non conformity to agronomic practices and seed certification requirements



# ETHICAL ISSUES AND PRACTICES OF SEED GROWERS

## Cont'd

- d. Tendency of farmers to keep part of the contracted crop to eat at home
- e. Selling of harvested seed to third party
- f. Yield fraud – Adding uncertified seed to certified to increase the yield

# ETHICAL ISSUE AND PRACTICES OF SEED COMPANIES

- Seed company unethical practices include
  - a. Failure to collect produce
  - b. Late payment
  - c. Buying seed from non-contracted growers

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**THANKS**

[munyao@kephis.org](mailto:munyao@kephis.org)