

SEED PRODUCTION FIELD
DIAGNOSTICS COURSE
HELD FROM 16TH TO 23RD
NOVEMBER 2014 AT CAVS

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

OUTLINE



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

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

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

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:

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

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

THANKS

munyao@kephis.org