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SEMIS - UON

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**REGULATORY APPROACHES TO
ENSURING ADHERENCE TO SEED
QUALITY STANDARDS AND ETHICS**

**Presentation to Trainees
on September, 2015**

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Introduction

Define Regulation

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

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?

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

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 in order that quality seed is provided according to set standards.
- Certification is based on generations from breeder to the time the farmer/customer plants

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

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?

SELF REGULATION

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

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 being

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GENERAL GUIDLINES FOR SEED INDUSTRY SELF REGULATION

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Introduction

- **What is self regulation?**
- ❖ It is control by oneself, self management, or itself independently of government supervision or laws,
- Self regulation complements legislation
- Guidelines set out principles and ethical practices
- Governments or her agencies have little or no oversight or regulation but industry may form organization
- The Designated Authority (DA) use seed laws to set regulations standards and ethics which guides seed industry
- The sector undertakes voluntarily to follow seed quality standards
- ❑ **Do you have self regulating seed industry in your country?**

GUIDELINES FOR SELF REGULATION

- Ensures the seed standards set by designated authority (DA) are adhered to by seed provider and customers,
- the members form an internal committee to issue guidance and set standards that they can be monitored, evaluated and enforced
- Each individual has responsibility to ensure compliance with certification rules under the seed law
- Promotes interest of the seed industry by Seed Providers
- Seed providers identify and implement the standards as specifies in their own guidelines
- Self regulation is dynamic and flexible

GUIDELINES FOR SELF REGULATION

cont'd

- Seed provider obtains all requires licenses as per the requirement by seed law
- Seed provider and staff inspect the seed crop according to the seed standards and regulations
- Seed provider and/or staff continuously tests/analysis the seed lot as required in seed law standard to ensure that the seed quality is high.
- Governments (USA) encourages farmers who plant GMOs alfalfa, bluegrass to talk to their neighbors to plant non-GMO varieties at standard isolation distance.
- The DA may authorize segment of industry to set up their respective monitoring Unit to oversee compliance

GUIDELINES FOR SELF REGULATION cont'd

- Every seed company must have its own internal mechanism to comply and may appoint officer to audit and enforce
- For purposes of compliance, seed company may develop its own internal guidelines and procedures in consultation with DA.
- The officer must be contact for any fed back or complaint from staff or public regarding violations
- The Manager shall be responsible for self regulation and ensure these are consistent with seed quality standards.
- Manager must brief any new staff on self regulation standards
- Manager is the final decision to accept or modify guidelines

Effect of Self Regulation

- This improves internal compliance of seed provider and staff to seed quality standards requirements
- This improves and create stress free working environment and relationship between acts especially with DA and seed managers with their staff
- Improves compliance, seed quality and repeat sales may increase
- improves traceability of the seed lot from the Breeder by the staff

Conclusion

- Seed law is the basis for and need by seed industry for self regulations
- Self regulation provides industry guidelines/agreements in those sections of the legislation is not very specific
- Self regulations provides an independent monitoring of the seed market as well as the requirement for this market
- Seed industry monitoring for the quality of their products with stockists is made easier
- All together the seed industry is providing a fair playing field which is good for the customer and the industry

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