



Accreditation Bodies and their Mandate: NSAs and NPPOs

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*Short Course on Seed Quality Assurance,
Management And Control Processes - UON*



National Seed Authorities (NSAs)

- National Seed Authorities are established by an Act of parliament and the same Act defines their roles.
- The roles of National Seed Authorities therefore vary from country to country.

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Functions of NSAs

NSAs perform some the following functions:

- Certify seeds of any notified kinds or varieties.
- Outline the procedure for submission of applications for growing, harvesting, processing, storage and labeling of seeds intended for certification till the end.
- Purpose: to ensure that seed lots finally approved for certification are true to variety and meet prescribed standards for certification.



Functions of NSAs

- Maintain a list of recognized Breeders of seeds.
- Verify, upon receipt of an application for certification that the variety is **eligible for certification** and the **seed source** used for planting was authenticated.
- Maintain such records as may be necessary to verify that seed plants for the production of certified seed were eligible for such planting.

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Functions of NSAs

- Inspect fields to ensure that the minimum standards for isolation and varietal purity as well as seed borne diseases are not present in the field to a greater extent than those provided in the certification standards.
- Inspect seed processing plants to ensure that admixtures of other kinds and varieties are not introduced.



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Functions of NSAs

- Take sample and inspect seed lots following laid down procedures.
- Test sampled seed to ensure it conforms to the prescribed standards of certification.

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Functions of NSAs

- Ensure that action at all stages, e.g. field inspection, seed processing plant inspection, analysis of samples taken and issue of certificates (including tags, labels, seals etc.) is taken expeditiously.
- Label and seal seed lots that have met the certification standards.



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Functions of NSAs

- Register and license seed dealers and growers
- Carry out post control plot tests
- Carry out educational programmes designed to promote the use of certified seed including a publication listing of certified seed growers and source of certified seed



Functions of NSAs

- Regulate introduction of new varieties
- Maintain an index of existing plant varieties
- Grant proprietary rights on plant varieties (In some cases)

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National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO)

- Under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (i.e. Article IV), each country is required to establish a national plant protection Organization (NPPO).

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Legal Authority

- The NPPO has authority by legislative or administrative means for control and issuance of phytosanitary certificates.
- The NPPO has the authority to prevent export of consignments which do not meet an importing country's requirements.

NPPO Responsibility

The key responsibilities of a NPPO include:

1. surveillance of growing plants (cultivated and non-cultivated), and plants and plant products in storage/transportation, with the object of reporting the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests, and of controlling those pests;
2. conduction of pest risk analysis;
3. protection of endangered areas;

NPPO Responsibility

4. disinfestations/disinfection of consignments (of plants and plant products) moving in internationally, to meet phytosanitary measures;
5. issuance of certificates relating to the phytosanitary regulations of the importing country;
6. Inspection of consignments.

Management responsibility

- The NPPO should:
 - have a management system that ensures that all requirements, including certification specifications, legislative requirements and administrative requirements are satisfied
 - identify a person or office responsible for the export certification system
 - identify the duties and lines of communication of all personnel with certification-related responsibilities

Management responsibility

Cont'd

- ensure that adequate personnel and resources are available to undertake the following functions:
 1. maintenance of information on importing country phytosanitary requirements as needed
 2. production of operational instructions to ensure that importing country phytosanitary requirements are satisfied
 3. inspection and testing of consignments and associated conveyances

Management responsibility

Cont'd

4. identification of organisms found during inspection of consignments
5. verification of the authenticity and integrity of phytosanitary procedures
6. completion and issuance of phytosanitary certificates

Management responsibility

Cont'd

7. document storage and retrieval
8. training
9. dissemination of certification-related information
10. review regularly the effectiveness of its export certification System.
11. development of bilateral protocols if necessary

Information on importing country phytosanitary requirements

- The NPPO should, to the extent possible, maintain official current information concerning the import requirements of its trading partners.
- It may be useful for the exporter to obtain information on the current import requirements for the country of destination and supply it to the NPPO.

Technical information

- The NPPO should provide the personnel involved in phytosanitary certification with adequate technical information concerning quarantine pests, and to the extent possible, non-quarantine pests, for the importing countries including:
 1. their presence and distribution within the exporting country
 2. the biology, surveillance, detection and identification of the pests
 3. pest management, where appropriate.

Equipment

- The NPPO should ensure that adequate equipment and facilities are available to carry out inspection, testing, consignment verification and phytosanitary certification procedures

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Communication

Within the exporting country

- The NPPO should have procedures in place for timely communication to relevant personnel and to industry concerning changes in:
 1. importing country phytosanitary requirements
 2. pest status and geographical distribution
 3. operational procedures.

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Communication Cont'd

- The NPPO may put in place, for non-conforming consignments, a procedure which enables rapid communication to all affected industry parties and certification personnel.
- This is in order to facilitate resolution of the problem and to prevent re-submission of the consignment unless approved corrective action has been undertaken

Communication Cont'd

Outside the exporting country

- The NPPO should:
 1. liaise with the nominated representatives of relevant NPPOs to discuss phytosanitary requirements
 2. - make available a contact point for importing country NPPOs to report cases of non-compliance
 3. - liaise with the relevant Regional Plant Protection Organizations and other international organizations in order to facilitate the harmonization of phytosanitary measures and the dissemination of technical and regulatory information

Role of NSAs/NPPOs in Accreditation

While providing for accreditation, a Designated Authority:

- Provides access (for information and advice) of its services to all persons seeking to be accredited.
- Ensures confidentiality of the information obtained in the course of the accreditation activities, at all levels of its organization is maintained.
- Ensures the accredited personnel are free from pressures which might adversely affect the quality of their work, independence of judgment and maintenance of integrity when undertaking authorized activities.

Role of NSAs/NPPOs in Accreditation

The Authority provides a system for the control of all documentation relating to the authorization including:

- Current issues of the appropriate documentation;
- A process to ensure that changes or amendments to documents are authorized, processed and implemented in a quick and efficient manner;
- An effective process to ensure that persons are notified of changes.

Role of NSAs/NPPOs in Accreditation

The Authority;

- Carries out official assessments of competence for accredited persons
- Undertakes monitoring and audits to ensure that accredited services are offered according to rules and methods provided.

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Thank You

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