



Integrating NPPOs with National Seed Authorities

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*Seed Enterprise Management Short Course for
NPPOs and Seed Quality Regulators - UON*



National Seed Authorities (NSAs)

- National Seed Authorities are normally established by law, which defines their roles.
- The roles of National Seed Authorities vary from country to country. But in general they perform some or all the following functions:

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Functions of NSAs

- 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 to ensure that seed lots finally approved for certification are true to variety and meet prescribed standards for certification.



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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.
- Take sample and inspect seed lots produced under the procedure laid down and have such sample tested to ensure that the seed conforms to the prescribed standards of certification.



Functions of NSAs

- Inspect seed processing plants to see that the admixtures of other kinds and varieties are not introduced.
- 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.



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Functions of NSAs

- 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
- Label and seal seed lots that have met the certification standards.



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Functions of NSAs

- Maintain such records as may be necessary to verify that seed plants for the production of certified seed were eligible for such planting.
- 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.



Functions of NSAs

- Grant proprietary rights on plant varieties (In some cases)
- Maintain an index of existing plant varieties
- Regulate introduction of new varieties
- Register and license seed dealers and growers
- Carry out control plot test



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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 should have the sole authority by legislative or administrative means for control and issuance of phytosanitary certificates.
- In using this authority, the NPPO should:
 - bear the legal authority for its actions.
 - implement safeguards against potential problems such as conflicts of interest and fraudulent use of certificates.

Legal Authority

- The NPPO may have the authority to prevent the export of consignments which do not meet an importing country's requirements.
- It must be a signatory of the IPPC and have agreed to follow IPPC guidelines for issuing phytosanitary certificates.

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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

The key responsibilities of a NPPO include:

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.

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 inform

Interaction between NSAs and NPPOs

- Seed health – Seed borne/transmitted diseases, quarantine diseases
- Control spread of pests
- Introduction of new species
- Weeds including noxious weeds
- Import/Export of plant materials
- Issuance of documents – Plant import permits and phytosanitary certificates

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Thank You

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