

Laws Governing Variety Release, Certification & Seed Import and Export

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Variety release

▶ Purpose

–The purpose of Release of cultivars is to introduce the newly bred varieties to the public for commercialization in the country and within region in which it is suitable.

–The procedure should ensure that only good, appropriate, new varieties are released by governments,

–Certification is to ensure that farmers get good quality seed,

–import and export regulations are to facilitate safe trade

Variety release procedure

- ▶ Designating agency to handle
- ▶ Applications
- ▶ Variety testing
- ▶ Data evaluation and reporting
- ▶ NPTC recommendations
- ▶ NVRC approvals
- ▶ Entry into National variety List (Gazettement)
- ▶ Commercialization

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Variety release challenges

- ▶ Over regulation or poor regulation block release of varieties that could be beneficial to farmers
- ▶ Delays or long procedures
- ▶ Variety testing and release procedures not supported by law
- ▶ Vested interests
- ▶ Free flow of germplasm is affected

Seed certification procedures

- ▶ Registrations
- ▶ Field inspections
- ▶ Factory processing inspections
- ▶ Sampling
- ▶ Seed testing
- ▶ Seed labelling
- ▶ Post control
- ▶ Post certification survey

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Seed import and export

- ▶ Registration
- ▶ Notification
- ▶ Obtaining PIP/Phytosanitary
- ▶ ISTA/acceptable test certificate
- ▶ Verification at entry/exit
- ▶ Sampling in case of import
- ▶ Testing (Pre-control/lab test)
- ▶ Commercialization

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Laws applicable

- ▶ In case of Kenya
 - seed and plant varieties act Cap 326
 - Plant protection act cap 324
 - Noxious and invasive weeds AFFA act 2012

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Thank you