



Mandates National Seed Authorities

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National Seed Authorities (NSAs)

- National Seed Authorities are established by an Act of the parliament and the same Act defines their roles.
- The roles of National Seed Authorities therefore vary from country to country. But in general they performs some the following functions:



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.



Functions of NSA cont'd

- 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.



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.



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 under these Rules.
- 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
- Maintain an index of existing plant varieties
- Regulate introduction of new varieties
- Register and license seed dealers and growers
- Carry out control plot test



THE MANDATE OF KENYA SEED REGULATORY BODY - KEPHIS

- co-ordinate all matters relating to crop pests and disease control;
- establish service laboratories to monitor the quality and levels of toxic residues in plants, soils and crop and animal produce;
- administer Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) in Kenya and serve as a liaison office for the International Union for the Protection of new Varieties of Plants (UPOV), thus, the custodian of the Plant Breeders' Rights Register;

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- undertake inspection, testing, certification, quarantine control, variety testing and description of seeds and planting materials;
- undertake grading and inspection of plants and plant produce at the ports of entry/exit;
- develop and implement standards on both imported and locally produced seeds;
- approve all importation and exportation licences for plants and seeds;

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- implement the national policy on the introduction and use of genetically modified plant species, insects and micro organisms in Kenya;
- establish posts at convenient locations for quarantine, inspection and quality control of fertilizer and seeds and monitor levels of residues of agricultural inputs and their environmental effects; and
- establish linkages for collaboration with various local and international government and non-governmental organisations so as to execute its tasks more professionally.

THE VISION OF KEPHIS

- **KEPHIS aims to be the lead regulatory agency in agriculture.**

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MISSION OF KEPHIS

- To provide an effective and efficient science-based regulatory service for assurance on quality of agricultural inputs and produce, thereby promoting sustainable economic growth and development.

DEPARTMENTS OF KEPHIS

KEPHIS accomplishes its mission through the following service departments:

- **Support operations**
- **Inspection operations**
- **Planning and implimentation**

THE PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE (PVPO)

The Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) was established in March 1997 to oversee the implementation of the Plant Breeders Rights in Kenya.

The scope of the breeder's rights require that the holder's prior authorization is necessary for production purposes, commercial marketing, offering for sale, and the marketing of propagating material of the protected variety.

Test to determine granting of such rights are known as Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability tests (DUS), conducted together with National Performance Trials (NPT). These rights are granted for a limited period of up to twenty five (25) years.

THE QUALITY CONTROL SERVICES

The department is divided into highly specialised units for quality control of agricultural inputs:

- **Analytical Chemistry Laboratory**
- **Fertilizer Quality Control**
- **Seed Quality Control Services**

Analytical Chemistry Laboratory

- **The Analytical Chemistry Laboratory (ACL) is a multi-purpose facility, able to analyse pesticide formulations and residues in a wide range of agricultural produce, soil, water and animal tissues. It also checks formulations of commercial pesticides.**
- **Exporters of agricultural produce to overseas markets are urged to utilize the facility to ensure compliance with importing country's maximum residue levels (MRLs). The facility is handy in detection of environmental contamination for corrective advice.**

Fertilizer Quality Control

- The Fertilizer Quality Control laboratory analyses the quality of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, folia feeds, copper-based pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, manures, soils and irrigation waters.
- Inspection for quality of agricultural inputs at entry, outlets, bulking and manufacturing points is done alongside educating end users on the importance of quality products, safe use and legal rights pertaining to quality of inputs.

Seed Quality assurance Services

- **Undertakes seed certification from Registration of seed crops in the field to labelling and sealing during packaging (processing) to ensure conformity to government set standards and ensure clean healthy planting seeds are accessible to the farmers.**
- **Ensures that appropriate quantities and quality seed dressing chemicals are safely used during seed processing without a risk of exposure to humans and environment.**

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- **Monitors and inspects imported seeds at the country's entry point to ensure quality and safe movement of seeds across the borders**
- **Destroys non-conforming seed lots by either incineration or re-exportation to the countries of origin so as to protect farmers and the environment from low quality seeds.**
- **Conducts post certification surveys country wide to identify quality problems (expiry, dressing and health) associated with seeds that are offered to the farming community.**

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- **Trains stakeholders (farmers, seed growers, stockists and registered seed merchants) on seed quality and health as related to usage, delivery and storage. This ensures maximum viability and quality maintenance of seed from the seed merchant to the end user (farmer).**
- **Enforces the use of protective gears during seed processing for the safety and health of humans so as to enhance life span and human resource capacity for improved and increased crop production.**

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- **Conducts pre and post control tests following OECD Standards to ensure that both locally produced and imported seed lots conform to government set standards ensuring increased and improved crop performance towards food security.**
- **KEPHIS on behalf of the Government of Kenya is a member of International Seed organizations e.g. OECD (Trade), ISTA (Seed testing), UPOV (Variety protection), IPPC (Phytosanitary), - all of which are involved in World seed trade, thereby enabling Kenyan produce to compete in the Global market.**

THE PLANT PROTECTION SERVICES

This department has the following units for specialised service delivery;

- The Plant Health Clinics (PHC)
- Plant Quarantine Services (PQS)
- Grading and Inspection Services (Plant Inspection Units-PIUs)

The Plant Health Clinics (PHC)

- **Plant Health Clinics are diagnostic laboratories offering services on plant disease & pest identification and advisory on management strategies.**
- **The Pathology Plant Health Clinic receives plant and soil specimen, carry out diagnosis and identification of the pathogen and give advice on the management (prevention / control) options.**
- **The Entomology Plant Clinic receives pest infested plant materials or insect specimens that are then identified and appropriate preventive and control measures recommended.**
- **The clinic has a large insect collection that serves as a reference in the taxonomy of crop pests, In addition, the clinic staffs conduct field inspections alongside training students on attachment.**

Plant Quarantine Services (PQS)

The Plant Quarantine Services are based at the Plant Quarantine Station (PQS) at Muguga. The services aim to protect Kenya's agriculture from economically harmful pests and diseases. The facility has the requisite infrastructure for safe transfer of crop germplasm. These include;

- Quarantine green houses and screen houses for handling imported germplasm for tests to ensure no diseases and pests not yet recorded in Kenya are introduced.
- Well-equipped pathology and virology laboratories for disease screening
- A modern tissue culture laboratory for virus clean up and rapid multiplication of high value crop

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All persons intending to import plant materials to Kenya should obtain a Plant Import Permit (PIP) and imported materials should be accompanied with a Phytosanitary certificate. Kenyan plant import regulations are kept under constant review to incorporate the latest scientific information available on all aspects of pest such as their distribution, spread, means of detection and host plants.

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KEPHIS also implements the National Policy on the introduction and use of genetically modified species of plants, insects and micro-organisms (biosafety) in the country in close collaboration with the National Biosafety Regulations Committee.

Grading and Inspection Services (Plant Inspection Units-PIUs)

These are regulatory services offered to imported and exported plant materials at points of Entry/Exit. Plant inspectors enforce produce grading in quality standards, through issuance of phytosanitary certificates. Plant materials failing to meet the standards are destroyed or prohibited from leaving or entering the country.

All agricultural produce exported or imported must be whole, intact, undamaged, clean (free from soil) and practically free of foreign matter, pesticides residues, pests and diseases.



Thank You

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