Seed certification

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Rice Fact Sheet

Why are seeds certified

The purpose of seed certification is to maintain and make available to farmers high-quality and genetically pure seeds of superior cultivars. Certified seed is high in genetic purity, high in germination and vigor, and of good quality (i.e., free from disease and from damaged or immature seed). Certified seeds meet both field and lab standards as per minimum seed certification standards during the process of certification.

Classes of seeds

Breeder seed - this is the seed of a new variety that has the highest purity and is produced, developed, controlled, institutions for further multiplication.

Foundation seed - this is the progeny of the breeder seed, produced by trained officers of an agricultural station in conformity with regulated national standards and handled to maintain genetic purity and identity of the variety.

Registered seed - this is the progeny of the foundation seed grown by selected farmers, handled to maintain genetic purity and identity, and has undergone field and seed inspections to ensure conformity with standards.

Certified seed - this is the progeny of foundation, registered, or certified seeds, handled to maintain sufficient varietal identity and purity, grown by selected farmers under prescribed conditions of culture and isolation, and subjected to field and seed inspections prior to approval by the certifying agency. Harvest from this class is used for commercial planting.

Seed testing

Seed samples are collected and submitted for laboratory analysis after drying and processing. Tests conducted include those that determine

- Seed health
- Varietal purity
- Weed and other crop seed
- Inert material
- Other varieties
- Red rice
- Germination
- Moisture content

Official standards for seed certification in India

Seed Standards	Foundation	Certified
Germination min %	80	80
Moisture max %	12	12
Pure seed min %	98	98
Inert matter max %	2	2
ODV max %	0.05	0.2
Objectionable weed seeds max	2/kg	5/kg
Designated disease	0.1	0.5

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