

**30. Central seed committee, central seed certification board, state seed certification agency, central and state seed testing laboratories**

**Central seed committee**

The Central Government shall, as soon as may be after the commencement of Seed Act, constitute a Committee called the Central Seed Committee to advise the Central Government and the State Governments on matters arising out of the administration of this Act and to carry out the other functions assigned to it by or under this Act.

The Committee shall consist of the following members, namely:-

- i. A Chairman to be nominated by the Central Government;
- ii. Eight persons to be nominated by the Central Government to represent such interests that Government thinks fit, of whom not less than two persons shall be representatives of growers of seed;
- iii. One person to be nominated by the Government of each of the States.

The members of the Committee shall, unless their seats become vacant earlier by resignation, death or otherwise, be entitled to hold office for two years and shall be eligible for renomination. The Committee may, subject to the previous approval of the Central Government, make bye-laws fixing the quorum and regulating its own procedure and the conduct of all business to be transacted by it.

The functions of the Committee or any sub-committee thereof may be exercised notwithstanding any vacancy therein. The Central Government shall appoint a person to be the secretary of the Committee and shall provide the Committee with such clerical and other staff as the Central Government considers necessary.

**Central seed certification board**

The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish a Central Seed Certification Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) to advise the

Central Government and the State Governments on all matters relating to certification, and to co-ordinate the functioning of the agencies established under section 8.

The Board shall consist of the following members, namely:-

- i. A Chairman to be nominated by the Central Government;
- ii. Four members, to be nominated by the Central Government from out of the persons employed by the State Governments as Directors of Agriculture;
- iii. Three members, to be nominated by the Central Government from out of the persons employed by the Agricultural Universities as Directors of Research;
- iv. Thirteen persons, to be nominated by the Central Government to represent such interests as that Government thinks fit, of whom not less than four persons shall be representatives of seed producers or tradesmen.

A member of the Board shall, unless his seat becomes vacant earlier by resignation or otherwise, be entitled to hold office for two years from the date of his nomination provided that a person nominated under clause (ii) or clause (iii) of sub-section (2) shall hold office only for so long as he holds the appointment by virtue of which his nomination was made.

### **Certification agency**

The State Government or the Central Government in consultation with the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish a certification agency for the State to carry out the functions entrusted to the certification agency by or under this Act.

### **Grant of certificate by certification agency**

1. Any person selling, keeping for sale, offering to sell, bartering or otherwise supplying any seed of any notified kind or variety may, if he desires to have such seed certified by the certification agency, apply to the certification agency for the grant of a certificate for the purpose.
2. Every application under sub-section (1) shall be made in such form, shall contain such particulars and shall be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed.

3. On receipt of any such application for the grant of a certificate, the certification agency may, after such enquiry as it thinks fit and after satisfying itself that the seed to which the application relates conforms to the minimum limits of germination and purity specified for that seed under clause (a) of section 6, grant a certificate in such form and on such conditions as may be prescribed.

### **Revocation of certificate**

If the certification agency is satisfied, either on a reference made to it in this behalf or otherwise, that-

- a. The certificate granted by it under section 9 has been obtained by misrepresentation as to an essential fact; or
- b. The holder of the certificate has, without reasonable cause, failed to comply with the conditions subject to which the certificate has been granted or has contravened any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made there under;

Then, without prejudice to any other penalty to which the holder of the certificate may be liable under this Act, the certification agency may, after giving the holder of the certificate an opportunity of showing cause, revoke the certificate.

### **Appeal**

1. Any person aggrieved by a decision of a certification agency under section 9 or section 10, may, within thirty days from the date on which the decision is communicated to him and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed, prefer an appeal to such authority as may be specified by the State Government in this behalf:

Provided that the appellate authority may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

2. On receipt of an appeal under sub-section (1), the appellate authority shall, after giving the appellant an opportunity of being heard, dispose of the appeal as expeditiously as possible.

3. Every order of the appellate authority under this section shall be final.

### **Central Seed Laboratory and State Seed Laboratory**

- (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish a Central Seed Laboratory or declare any seed laboratory as the Central Seed Laboratory to carry out the functions entrusted to the Central Seed Laboratory by or under this Act. The Seed Testing Laboratory at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, has been notified as the Central Seed Testing Laboratory and it was established during 1960. The functions assigned to this laboratory are:
- a. Initiate testing programme in collaboration with the State Seed Laboratories designed to promote uniformity in test results between all seed laboratories in India.
  - b. Collect data continuously on the quality of seeds found in the market and make this data available to the Committee;
  - c. Carry out such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Central Government from time to time; and
  - d. Act as referee laboratory in testing seed samples for achieving uniformity in seed testing. The State Seed Testing Laboratories are required to send five percent samples to the Central Seed Testing Laboratory along with their analysis results.
- (2) The Act envisages the establishment of State Seed Testing Laboratories in each State by notification in the official Gazette. The functions assigned to this laboratory are to carry out the seed analysis work of the State in a prescribed manner. There are eight notified Seed Testing Laboratories are available in Tamil Nadu.