

Most Urgent Pl.

No. 13-48/2014-SD.IV (E-15529)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)

116-B, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Dated: 8th April, 2024

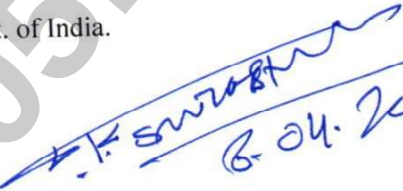
Subject: Minutes of the Meeting to Review of Export-Import Policy/ Process of Seeds and Planting Materials -reg.

Kind reference is invited to the meetings held on 15.03.2024 and 16.03.2024 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&FW), Govt. of India to review of Export-Import Policy/ Process of Seeds and Planting Materials.

In this regards, the minutes of the meetings are enclosed herewith for necessary action at the earliest at your end.

This issues with the approval of Secretary (A&FW), Govt. of India.

Encl: As above.


(Dr. Dilip Kr. Srivastava)
 Deputy Commissioner (QC)

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Distribution:

1. The Additional Secretary (PP), DA&FW, Govt. of India.
2. The Director General, DGFT, Govt. of India.
3. The DDG (Horticulture), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. The DDG (Crop Science), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. The Joint Secretary (NLM/PC), DAHD, Govt. of India.
6. Dr. D.K. Yadava, ADG (Seeds), ICAR, New Delhi.
7. The Director (IT), DA&FW, Govt. of India.
8. Dr. J.P. Singh, Plant Protection Adviser, DA&FW, Govt. of India.
9. The Director, NBPGR, Pusa, New Delhi.
10. Shri Navtej Singh, Director (Trade), DA&FW, Govt. of India.
11. Shri Md. Moin Afaq, Deputy DGFT, Govt. of India.

Copy to for favour of information please:

1. PPS to Secretary (A&FW), Govt. of India.
2. PPS to Special Secretary (Seeds), DA&FW, Govt. of India.
3. PPS to Joint Secretary (Seeds), DA&FW, Govt. of India.

Minutes of the Meeting to Review of Export-Import Policy/ Process of Seeds and Planting Materials held on 15.03.2024 and 16.03.2024 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&FW), Govt. of India, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

List of participants is *annexed*.

Secretary (A&FW) welcomed all the participants.

Special Secretary (Seeds) in his initial remarks explained that this meeting has been called as a follow up on decisions related to simplification of the process of seed import-export process as discussed in the earlier meetings dated 19.01.2023 (chaired by the Secretary DA&FW), dated 27.02.2023 (chaired by Special Secretary) and 07.03.2024 (chaired by Special Secretary).

He apprised that applications for export of seeds and planting materials are being invited on DGFT portal, however, DGFT portal allows applications for import of only restricted categories of seeds.

DG, DGFT present in the meeting confirmed this and accordingly matter was discussed to resolve this issue and way forward for implementing the new system.

After detailed discussions, it was decided that the applications for Import of Seeds and Planting Material will be invited on PQMS portal and applications for export of Seeds Planting Material will be invited on DGFT Portal.

The following decisions were taken:

1. ICAR will provide data regarding testing and result of samples provided to it for simultaneous multilocal trials.
2. Seed Division in consultation with Trade division and ICAR will review list of items in the restricted list.
3. Seed Division in consultation with ICAR and other stakeholders will review New Policy on Seed Development, 1988.
4. Seed Division will make SOP for import and export of Seeds and Planting Materials on the lines of SOP made by MeITY.
5. Comments of NBPGR, and ICAR for export of Seeds and Planting Materials will not be required. DGFT instead will accept affidavit (wherever affidavit required e.g. Paddy, Cotton etc.) from exporters through in-built feature in the portal. NBPGR and ICAR may audit exporting firms for compliance of provisions of export of seeds and planting materials.
6. Seed Division and ICAR will standardize quantity of seeds to be made available to respective ICAR research institutes for multilocal trials.
7. Seed Division and ICAR will standardize quantity of seeds allowed to be imported for simultaneous agronomical trials/ in-house trials by importer.

8. ADG (Seeds) in consultation with DDG (Horticulture) will standardize quantity of Planting Materials to be deposited to respective ICAR Institutes by importer for germplasm repository and further evaluation.
9. Seed Division in consultation with NBPGR will standardize quantity of seeds to be made available to Gene Bank of NBPGR for accession.
10. ICAR will provide list of Institutes for making available some quantity of seeds and planting materials for multilocal trials.
11. Applications for import of seeds and planting materials will be invited on PQMS portal. Therefore, PQMS portal will be modified accordingly. Separate fields will be created in PQMS portal for Seed Dealer Licence, trial and bulk import, samples to be provided to ICAR research institutes etc.
12. There will be no requirement of registration of importer with State Agriculture/ Horticulture Depts./ NSC. However, for doing business of seed domestically, the laws of land will be applicable.
13. ICAR will review the requirements of seeking information of parental lines and seed quality standards.
14. PQ Order, 2003 will be amended to omit reference of EXIM committee of Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW). PP Division will immediately move a proposal in this regard.
15. Till the operationalization of PQMS portal for import of seeds and planting materials, pending proposals will be cleared by EXIM committee.
16. A helpline number and email-id will be provided to importers for hassle-free transition to PQMS portal from SeedExim portal.
17. PP division will make PQMS portal operationalize within 7 days for import of seeds and planting materials.
18. The export of seeds and planting materials (restricted category items), will be processed through DGFT portal. Applications will be received online and decisions will be taken on the basis of requirements mentioned in **Annexure 'A'**.
19. The import of seeds and planting material (except OGL category) will be through PQMS portal. Importers will submit details as well as documents as elaborated in **Annexure 'B'**. Detailed procedure for import of seeds and planting material is mentioned in **Annexure 'C'**.
20. Login credentials of 'Seed Division, DA&FW', 'ICAR' and 'NBPGR' will be created on both DGFT and PQMS portals.
21. Seed Division, DA&FW shall facilitate and monitor import and export of seeds and planting materials.

Meeting ended with thanks to all.

Annexure-A

The following categories shall be eligible to export of seeds/ planting materials:

- i) Departments of Agriculture/Horticulture of the State Government, State Agriculture Universities and ICAR;
- ii) Seed producing Indian companies/firms having valid Seed Dealer License;
- iii) National Seeds Corporation, State Seeds Corporations;
- iv) Food processing industrial units;
- v) Growers of vegetables and flowers registered with the Director of Agriculture/Horticulture of the State Government.
- vi) Draft application Form attached.

Annexure-B

The following categories shall be eligible to export of seeds/ planting materials:

- i) Departments of Agriculture/Horticulture of the State Government, State Agriculture Universities and ICAR;
- ii) Seed producing Indian companies/firms having valid Seed Dealer License;
- iii) National Seeds Corporation, State Seeds Corporations;
- iv) Food processing industrial units;
- v) Growers of vegetables and flowers registered with the Director of Agriculture/Horticulture of the State Government.
- vi) Draft application Form attached.

Annexure-C

Procedure for import of Seeds and Planting Materials as per New Policy on Seed Development (NPSD), 1988 (copy enclosed) is as under: -

1. Seeds of wheat and Paddy:

(a) The import of seeds of wheat and paddy is allowed as per provisions of the Plant Quarantine Order, 2003 and amendments thereon as per DA&FW circular dated 27.06.2011 (copy enclosed), for a period not exceeding two years by companies, which have technical/ financial collaboration agreement for production of seeds with companies abroad, provided the foreign supplier agrees to supply parental line seeds/nucleus of breeder seeds/technology to the Indian company within a period of two years from the date of import of the first commercial consignment after its import has been recommended.

(b) A quantity of 16 kg seeds of wheat and 5 kg seeds of paddy for sowing sought to be imported by eligible importers, will be given to ICAR and such farms, which are accredited by ICAR, for trial and evaluation. After trial/ evaluation for one crop season, the ICAR will intimate the results, agro-climatic zone-wise, within three months of the season, after the receipt of the result of the ICAR trial/ evaluation, an eligible importer may apply for the bulk import of such seed.

2. Seeds of coarse cereals, oilseeds, pulses and fodder:

- a. The import of seeds of coarse cereals, pulses and fodder for sowing may be allowed for a period not exceeding two years by companies, which have technical/ financial collaboration agreements for production of seeds with companies abroad, provided the foreign supplier agrees to supply parent line seeds/nucleus or breeder seeds/ technology to the Indian company within a period of two years from the date of import of the first commercial consignment after its import has been recommended.
- b. The National Seeds Corporation and the State Seeds Corporation may be permitted to import of coarse cereals, oilseeds and pulses without being subject to the aforesaid conditions
- c. The import permission will be granted by the DGFT subject to the provisions of the Plant Quarantine Order, 2003.
- d. Trial/ evaluation of the seeds of coarse cereals/ pulses and oil seeds for sowing sought to be imported by eligible importers will be conducted by ICAR and / or such farms, which are accredited by ICAR for trial and evaluation, including farms operated by the importer and as per the procedures and protocols developed by ICAR and circulated by the DA&FW and subject to the supervision and monitoring by ICAR. The quantity of seed to be imported for this purpose is indicated in Annexure-I, II, III and IV. After trial/ evaluation for one crop season, the ICAR and the importers will intimate the results, of the trials of agro-climate zone-wise, within three months of the season.. After the receipt of the result of these trials/ evaluations, eligible importers may apply for the bulk import of such seed.
- e. On receipt of the application for commercial import, the PPA will consider the trial/ evaluation report on the performance/ resistance to seed and soil borne diseases of the seeds proposed to be imported. The PPA shall issue the import permission accordingly.
- f. All importers shall make available a small but specified quantity of the seed being imported to the ICAR at cost price, for testing/ accession to the Gene Bank with the NBPGR as per Annexure-V.

3. Seeds of vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants:

- a. The import of seeds of vegetables/ flowers and ornamental plants, tubers and bulbs, cuttings, saplings, budwoods, etc. of flowers will be allowed on Open General Licence (OGL) by identified categories.
- b. No post entry quarantine (PEQ) shall be necessary for the import of seeds of vegetables/ flowers/ ornamental plants and tubers and bulbs of flowers. The import will be permitted after visual inspection, fumigation, laboratory inspection and grow-out tests.
- c. Small quantities of flower/ vegetable seeds tubers and cuttings and saplings will be made available by the importers to ICAR at cost price for testing/accession to the Gene Bank.

4. Seeds/Planting materials of fruits: The import of seeds/ planting material for fruits except strawberry shall be permitted selectively by DGFT, on a case-to-case basis, subject to such quarantine regulations as may be laid down by the PPA.

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ANNEXURE-I

Maximum quantity of seed (Kg) permissible for import by the Importer for in-house R&D initial trials.

S. No.	Name of Crop	Quantity allowed for in-house R&D initial trials by the importer (in Kg.)
1.	Bajra	1.0
2.	Jowar	2.0
3.	Maize	5.0
4.	Miner millets	2.0
5.	Chickpea	15.0
6.	Peas	15.0
7.	Pigeon Pea	3.0
8.	Mungbean	3.0
9.	Urd Bean	3.0
10.	Cowpea	5.0
11.	Lentil	5.0
12.	Rajmaha/ field beans	15.0
13.	Groundnut (Pod)	25.0
14.	Rapeseed-mustard	1.0
15.	Sesamum	1.0
16.	Linseed	5.0
17.	Sunflower	2.0
18.	Safflower	2.0
19.	Soybean	10.0
20.	Castor	3.0
21.	Niger	2.0

ANNEXURE-II

Maximum quantity of seed permitted for import for multilocal Trials by the ICAR and for simultaneous agronomic trials by eligible importer.

S. No.	Name of Crops	Quantity allowed for import to be made available to the ICAR for multilocal trials	Simultaneous import allowed for agronomic trials by the importer	Total quantity of seed allowed for import multilocal trials by ICAR and agronomic trials by the importer
		(in Kg)	(in Kg)	(in Kg)
1.	Bajra	2.0	3.0	5.0
2.	Jowar	4.0	6.0	10.0
3.	Maize	10.0	10.0	20.0
4.	Minor millets	4.0	6.0	10.0
5.	Chickpea	30.0	70.0	100.0
6.	Peas	30.0	70.0	100.0
7.	Pigeon Pea	6.0	14.0	20.0
8.	Mungbean	6.0	14.0	20.0
9.	Urd Bean	6.0	14.0	20.0
10.	Cowpea	10.0	20.0	30.0
11.	Lentil	10.0	20.0	30.0
12.	Rajmaha/ field beans	30.0	90.0	120.0
13.	Groundnut (Pod)	50.0	100.0	150.0
14.	Rapeseed-mustard	2.0	3.0	5.0
15.	Sesamum	2.0	3.0	5.0
16.	Linseed	10.0	15.0	25.0
17.	Sunflower	4.0	6.0	10.0
18.	Safflower	4.0	6.0	10.0
19.	Soybean	20.0	55.0	75.0
20.	Castor	6.0	9.0	15.0
21.	Niger	4.0	4.0	8.0

ANNEXURE-III

Maximum quantity of fodder seed (Kg) permissible for import by the importer for initial trial

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Name of Crops</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
1.	Bajara	1.0
2.	Jawar	2.0
3.	Maize	5.0
4.	Cow Pea	5.0
5.	Guar	3.0
6.	Lucerne	2.0
7.	Berseem	5.0

ANNEXURE-IV

Maximum quantity of fodder seed permitted for import for multilocal trials by the ICAR, and simultaneous agronomic trials by eligible importers.

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Name of Crop</u>	<u>Quantity allowed for import to be made available to the ICAR for multilocal Trials</u>	<u>Simultaneous import allowed for agronomic trials by the importer</u>	<u>Total quantity of seed for allowed for import for multilocal trials by ICAR and agronomic trials by the importer</u>
1.	Bajra	2.0	3.0	5.0
2.	Jawar	4.0	6.0	10.0
3.	Maize	10.0	20.0	30.0
4.	Cow Pea	10.0	20.0	30.0
5.	Guar	6.0	14.0	20.
6.	Lucerne	4.0	6.0	10.0
7.	Berseem	10.0	15.0	25.0

ANNEXURE-VMinimum weight of sample to be submitted to Gene Bank of NBPGR for accession

S. No.	Name of the Crop	Size of the sample (gms.)
<u>Oilseed Crops</u>		
1.	Rape seed & Mustard	100
2.	Groundnut (pod)	1000
3.	Soybean	500
4.	Sunflower	200
5.	Safflower	90
6.	Castor	500
7.	Linseed	15
8.	Niger	15
9.	Sesame	7
<u>Pulses</u>		
1.	Black gram	700
2.	Cowpea	400
3.	Mothbean	200
4.	Gram	1000
5.	Norsegram	500
6.	Green gram	120
7.	Lentil	60
8.	Pea	900
9.	Khesari	70
10.	Red gram	300
11.	French gram	700
<u>Fodder Crops</u>		
1.	Barseem	6
2.	Lucerne	5
3.	Oat	120
4.	Forage Sorghum	90
5.	Guar	500
6.	Sudangrass	25
7.	Sweet clover	5
8.	Guinea grass	2
9.	Buffel grass	6
10.	Setaria grass	2

Millets

11.	Maize	900
12.	Sorghum (grain)	90
13.	Bajara	25

Small Millets

14.	Common Millet	15
15.	Finger Millet	10
16.	Italian Millet	9
17.	Japanese Millet (Barnyard Millet)	8
18.	Kodo Millet	10
19.	Little Millet	3

APPLICATION FOR EXPORT OF SEED/PLANTING MATERIAL

1. Name and complete address of the exporter.
2. Item proposed for export.
3. Details of seed/ planting material proposed for export.

S.No.	Crop & its scientific name	Variety/Hybrid	Qty. (in Kgs./Nos.)	FOB Price per unit

4. Classification of item under EXIM Policy
 - (a) Restricted Item
 - (b) Canalised Item
5. Destination of export and name and address of buyer.
6. Whether exporter is an MRTP/ FERA Company. Give details.
7. Whether seed/ planting material proposed to be exported is of notified variety.
8. Whether seeds/ planting material proposed to be exported has been produced under custom production arrangements? If so, enclose details/ agreement entered into with buyer.
9. Whether the variety of seed/ planting material proposed to be exported is used in India.
10. Places where the variety proposed to be exported is grown.
11. Details of exports effected by the exporter during the last five years.
12. Any other relevant information

Signature
Name & Address of the Exporter

To
The Joint DGFT

APPLICATION FOR IMPORT OF SEED/PLANTING MATERIAL

1. Name and complete address of the Importer, Phone No, Mobile No, Email id.
2. Name and complete address of the foreign firm, Phone No, Mobile No, Email id, Country/who is/are providing Seed/Planting material.
3. I.E.C. No.
4. Details of Seed Dealer Licence issued under Section 3 of Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 and validity (Please attach copy of the same).
5. a) Details of seeds/ planting material/ clones etc. proposed for import (Please enclose catalogue/ information furnished by the seed supplier.

S.No.	Crop & its scientific name	Variety/Hybrid	Qty. (in Kg/Nos.)	Price/ Unit	Source
1.					
2.					

b) Certificate of seed quality especially genetic purity, viability and characteristics.

c) Details for import of Planting material: -

6. Name of country and location where seeds and planting materials was produced.
7. In Case of Seeds of cereals, coarse cereals, pulses, Oilseeds and fodder proposed for import, provide information of the following point: Whether import is for trial or commercial purpose:
8. Whether importer has established PEQ facilities as specified in Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 (if applicable).

To

The PPA,
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare,
Krishi Bhawan-110001.

**Signature of importer/
Authorized agent with seal**

Annexure

S. No.	Name and Particulars of the participants
1.	Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary (A&FW), Govt. of India.
2.	Shri Rakesh Ranjan, Special Secretary (Seeds), DA&FW, Govt. of India
3.	Shri Faiz Ahmad Kidwai, AS (PP), DA&FW, Govt. of India
4.	Shri Santosh Kumar Sarangi, DG, DGFT, Govt. of India
5.	Shri Pankaj Yadav, JS (Seeds), DA&FW, Govt. of India
6.	Dr. J P Singh, PPA, DA&FW, Govt. of India
7.	Shri Muktanand Agrawal, Director (IT), DA&FW, Govt. of India
8.	Shri Md. MoinAfaq, Deputy DGFT, Govt. of India
9.	Dr. Celia ChalamVasimalla, Head, Division of Plant Quarantine, GoI
10.	Dr. PR Chaudhury , Pr. Scientist, ICAR
11.	Dr. GyaneshwarBanchhor, JD, PQ, DPPQS, DA&FW, Govt. of India.
12.	Dr. Michel Raja, AD (PP), DA&FW, Govt. of India.
13.	Dr. Dilip Kr. Srivastava, DC(QC), Seed Division, DA&FW, Govt. of India