



EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Rice seeds — Requirements for certification

PUBLIC REVIEW 2020

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East African Community
P.O. Box 1096,
Arusha
Tanzania
Tel: + 255 27 2162100
Fax: + 255 27 2162190
E-mail: eac@eachq.org
Web: www.eac-quality.net

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Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

The Community has established an East African Standards Committee (EASC) mandated to develop and issue East African Standards (EAS). The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the public and private sector organizations in the community.

East African Standards are developed through Technical Committees that are representative of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the Principles and procedures for development of East African Standards. XXXXXX

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee EASC/TC 012, *Seed and propagation materials*.

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Rice seeds — Requirements for certification

1 Scope

This Draft East Africa Standard specifies the certification requirements for pre-basic, basic and certified seed of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.). It includes requirements for eligible varieties, field requirements, field inspections, seed sampling, laboratory requirements, certificates, packaging and labelling, and post-control tests.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) rules

OECD, Seed Schemes; Guidelines for Control Plot Tests and Field Inspection of Seed Crops

OECD, Schemes for Varietal Certification or the Control of Seed Moving in the International Trade

UPOV TG/16/8, Guidelines for conducting DUS tests for Rice (Oryza sativa L.)

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the terms and definitions given in ISTA, UPOV and OECD apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

seed test certificate

legal document issued by the national seed certification authority, which states that a seed lot has met the requirements set in this standard

3.2

distinctness

variety is deemed to be distinct if it is clearly distinguishable in at least one character from any other variety whose existence is a matter of common knowledge at the time of filing the application for registration

3.3

field

defined and identifiable area of land or facility that is used to produce a seed crop under the Seed Certification Scheme

- 3.4 field inspection**
inspection of a field and or seed crop, by an inspector to check if the minimum requirements for seed certification have been satisfied
- 3.5 field number**
number assigned to the field by the national seed certification authority, when the application form for certification is submitted
- 3.6 germination**
emergence and development of a seedling to a stage where the aspect of its essential structures indicates whether or not it is able to develop further into a satisfactory plant under favourable conditions in the field
- 3.7 seed grower**
person or entity registered to grow a crop intended to produce seed
- 3.8 seed dealer/merchanta**
person trading in seed and who is licensed to do so
- 3.9 inert matter**
seed units and all other matter and structures not defined as pure seed or other seeds
- 3.10 isolation**
minimum distance or time between two crops of wheat that is required to prevent contamination either mechanically or by cross pollination
- 3.11 inspector**
authorized official or accredited entity responsible for carrying out seed certification activities
- 3.12 international seed testing association (ISTA) rules**
rules for seed testing published by the International Seed Testing Association
- 3.13 label**
tag or other device that is attached to or written, stamped, or printed on any container of seed or that accompanies any lot of bulk seed and which describes the kind of seed and any other information required by relevant regulation
- 3.14 previous cropping**
minimum period (seasons or years) that must elapse between the production of a crop of the same species in a field and the production of a crop entered in the certification scheme in the same field
- 3.15 maintainer**
person or organisation responsible for the production or maintenance of a bred variety included in a national list of varieties/variety catalogue eligible for certification, and ensure that the variety remains true to type throughout its full life-span and in the case of hybrid varieties, that the formula for hybridisation is followed

3.16

national seed certification authority

national authority responsible for conducting seed certification processes

3.17

noxious weed

weed species, the seed of which is difficult to separate during processing or has undesirable effects on the crop produced, for example by possible genetic contamination

3.18

off-type

plant of the same species which does not exhibit the recognised and accepted habit and characteristics of the variety being grown

3.19

other seeds

seeds of any plant species other than that of the crop sample that is being tested. They consist of weed seeds and other crop seeds

3.20

parental material

population or lines used by a breeder to maintain a variety

3.21

person

natural person or legal entity

3.22

post-control plot

small plot where a representative sample of a seed lot is grown to determine the identity and purity of the variety and to check if the seed certification system is operating satisfactorily

3.23

pure seed

species stated by an applicant, or found to predominate in a test, and includes all botanical varieties and cultivars of that species, including intact seeds and pieces of seed units larger than one-half their original size

3.24

/variety registration

recording of a new variety in a national variety catalogue/national variety list when it has been tested and satisfied the requirements for distinctness, uniformity, stability, and has value for cultivation and use

3.25

rogueing

removal of off-types and diseased plants or any other unwanted plant from a seed crop if they may reduce the quality of the harvested crop

3.26

seed certification

process by which the quality and identity of a seed lot is assured

3.27

seed lot

defined quantity of seed bearing the same reference number and for which the origin, production history and identity is known

3.28

stability

condition of a variety distinguishing characteristics to remain unchanged after repeated growing cycles

3.29

uniformity

relevant characteristics subject to the variations that may be expected from the particular features of its propagation

3.30

variety

assemblage of cultivated plants that is clearly distinguished from other varieties by any characters (morphological, physiological, cytological, chemical, or others) and which retains its distinguishing characteristics when reproduced by the normal means for the crop and variety

3.31

variety catalogue/national variety list

list of varieties that have been registered by a national authority and can be produced and marketed as certified seed

3.32

carryover seed

seed produced in previous season and stored for one or more cropping seasons

3.33

pre-basic seed

seed that is derived from breeder seed and is used to produce basic seed through one cycle of multiplication

3.34 breeder seed

nucleus seed from the breeder and is used to produce pre-basic seed

3.35

seed

planting materials used for generative propagation of plants

3.36

basic seed

seed that has been produced from breeder or pre-basic seed and is used for the production of certified seed

3.37

certified seed

seed that is produced from basic seed through one or two generations of multiplication

3.37.1

certified seed 1st generation

first generation of seed derived from basic seed

3.36.2

certified seed 2nd generation

seed derived from 1st generation certified seed

4 Abbreviated terms

- DUS: Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability
- ISTA: International Seed Testing Association
- OECD: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
- UPOV: International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.

5 Seed classes

For the purpose of this standard, the following classes of seed shall apply:

- a) Pre-basic seed;
- b) Basic seed; and
- c) Certified seed;
 - i. 1st generation (C1); and
 - ii. 2nd generation (C2).

6 Requirements

6.1 Eligible varieties

6.1.1 Varieties eligible for seed certification shall be those that have been examined, tested and registered in at list one member country of the EAC and are included in the national list of varieties/national variety catalogue. The country adopting the variety shall test it for at least one season.

6.1.2 Each national seed certification authority shall keep the official descriptor of the varieties it has registered in hard and electronic copies and these shall be made available within EAC on request.

6.2 Application for certification

6.2.1 The minimum information for an application for certification of a seed crop shall include the following:

- a) name, address and contact details of the seed grower;
- b) crop and variety to be sown;
- c) physical location;
- d) area and reference number of the field, and its cropping history for the past two cropping seasons;
- e) class of seed to be produced; and
- f) registration number of the seed grower.

6.2.2 Information and records related to the previous cropping history, origin of seed planted, and field inspections shall be kept and used for certification to ensure full traceability of quality, genetic identity and purity of the seed harvested.

6.3 Field inspection

6.3.1 The national seed certification authority shall prepare the inspections' schedule for the inspectors, based on all necessary information on the application form, to ensure that the timing of inspections allows the requirements in Table 1 and Table 2 to be properly assessed.

6.3.2 The inspector shall inspect the field in accordance with OECD seed schemes and shall check for isolation requirements, off types, the presence of noxious weeds and pests and diseases.

6.3.3 A minimum of two inspections shall be done for each seed production field to check if the field requirements specified in Table 1 and table 2 are met.

6.3.4 At the time of the first inspection, the inspector shall confirm with the grower the previous cropping of the field, checking on isolation, and the proof of origin/authentication of the variety planted by using the labels.

6.3.5 Depending on the degree of contamination, the inspector may give instructions for off-types and diseased plants to be rogued so as to maintain the genetic purity. In case of noxious weeds found in the field, the grower shall be instructed to remove the weeds before harvesting.

6.3.6 The field inspection report shall indicate the field status and comments for any corrective actions required such as re-inspection to confirm the field requirements. All field inspection reports shall be provided to the grower and the seed enterprise after each inspection in a timely manner. The field inspection report in Annex B shall be signed by both the inspector and the grower or the grower's representative.

7 Field requirements

7.1 Pre basic seed shall be produced under the responsibility of the breeder or maintainer.

7.2 Certified seed shall be produced for up to a maximum of 2 generations.

7.3 For hybrid seed, certified seeds shall be produced from one generation.

7.4 The national certification authority shall inspect and certify the production of pre-basic, basic and certified seed crops

7.5 A field producing a seed crop of rice shall be approved for certification if it complies with the requirements in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1 — Field requirements for seed crops of rice (non –hybrid)

S/N	Variable	Pre-basic seed	Basic seed	Certified seed
i	Previous cropping (seasons before), min.	1	1	1
ii	Isolation, m, min.	5	5	5
iii	Off types %, max number per 100 m ²	1	1	3
iv	Rice blast, %, max.	0.1	0.1	0.5
v	Bacterial leaf blight, %, max.	1	2	2
vi	White tip nematode, %, max.	0	0	0
vii	Bunt round spot, per 100m ²	0	0	0
viii	Brown spot, per 100m ²	1	1	1
ix	Narrow brown leaf spot, per 100m ²	1	1	1
x	Wild rice, per 100m ²	0	1	1

Table 2 — Field requirements for seed crops of rice (hybrids)

S/N	Variable	Pre-basic seed	Basic seed	Certified seed
i	Previous cropping (seasons before), min.	2	2	2
ii	Isolation, m, min.	25	25	25
iii	Off types, per 100m ²	1	1	5

			2 (1 male and 1 female)	10 (5 male and 5 female)
vi	Rice Blast %, max.	0.1	0.1	0.5
v	Bacterial Leaf Blight, %, max.	1	2	2
vi	White tip nematode, %, max.	0	0	0
vii	Bunt round spot, per 100m ²	0	0	0
viii	Brown spot, per 100m ²	1	1	1
ix	Narrow brown leaf spot, per 100m ²	1	1	1
x	Wild rice, per 100m ²	0	1	1

7.6 Fields may be rejected for certification because of unsatisfactory condition caused by noxious weeds, poor growth, poor stands, excessive disease presence, insect damage, and any other condition that prevents accurate inspection or creates doubt as to the identity of the variety.

8 Seed sampling and laboratory requirements

8.1 The harvested seed from the field approved for certification shall be kept as an identified unit until processing. After processing, a sample shall be submitted to laboratory for testing where a conformed sample shall be given a certificate with a unique lot number for the purpose of tracking and sampling.

8.2 The maximum size of a seed lot for certification purposes is 30 000 kg; lots larger than this shall be divided and a given separate lot numbers.

8.3 An A seed sampler shall draw a representative sample from each lot according to the ISTA rules

9.4 The submitted sample shall be divided into three sub-samples, one for testing in the laboratory, one to be stored for reference purposes in case re-testing is necessary, and one for the post-control tests. The samples shall be marked with the same identification as the seed lot, securely sealed and shall be stored in cool and dry conditions to prevent deterioration.

8.5 Laboratories authorized by the national seed certification authority to conduct seed testing for certification shall follow ISTA rules..

8.6 The seed lots shall comply with the laboratory requirements specified in Table 3 and Table 4.

Table 3 — Laboratory requirements for seeds lots of rice (non hybrid)

S/N	Variable	Pre-basic seed	Basic seed	Certified seed
i	Pure seed, %, min.	99	99	98
ii	Inert matter, %, max.	0.95	0.95	1.95
iii	Other crop seeds, %, max.	0.05	0.05	0.05
iv	Germination, %, min.	80	80	75
v	Moisture content, %, max.	13	13	13
vi	Weed seeds, per kg, max.	0	0	0

Table 4 — Laboratory requirements for seeds lots of rice (hybrids)

S/N	Variable	Pre-basic seed	Basic seed	Certified seed
i	Pure seed, %, min.	99	99	98
ii	Inert matter, %, max.	0.95	0.95	1.95
iii	Other crop seeds, %, max.	0.05	0.05	0.05
iv	Germination, %, min.	80	80	75
v	Moisture content, %, max.	13	13	13
vi	Weed seeds, per kg, max.	0	0	0

8.7 The laboratory test report shall be issued in accordance with Annex B.

9 Certificates

9.1 The seed test certificate for a seed lot shall be signed and issued by the national seed certification authority and shall include all information presented in Annex D. This certificate shall be valid for a period of six (6) months.

9.2 Carryover seed shall be re-sampled and retested for germination. If the test result complies with the minimum requirements, a new test certificate shall be issued for the seed lot, which cancels the previously issued certificate and shall include the lot number of the cancelled certificate.

9.3 Issuing of certificates shall be in accordance to ISTA rules.

10 Packaging and labelling

10.1 All classes of seed that have been certified shall be packaged in new containers which shall be marked with the company name and crop species and shall have the official label of the national seed certification authority.

10.2 The labels for each class are identified by the following colours:

- a) pre-basic seed: Violet band on white;
- b) basic seed: White;
- c) certified seed 1st Blue; and
- d) certified seed 2nd: Red.

10.3 If seeds are treated with any chemical or product harmful for human or animal consumption, the container shall carry a label stating the chemical or product used and warning of the health risks.

10.4 The labels shall be prominent, indelible, legible and fixed to the containers by an authorized person in such a way that they cannot be destroyed or easily removed. The following information shall be included on the official labels:

- a) front label:
 - i. name of the crop, "Rice seed";
 - ii. species (scientific name);

- iii. variety denomination;
- iv. seed lot number;
- v. test certificate number;
- vi. date of test;
- vii. net weight; and
- viii. seed treatment declaration (if applicable);
- b) back label:
 - i. logo of the national certification authority;
 - ii. name and address of certifying authority;
 - iii. seed class;
 - iv. date of test and country of production; and
 - v. statement of re-packing and re-labelling (if applicable).

10.5 All containers/bags shall be closed either by hand or machine stitching and shall be sealed in such a way that if they are opened illegally, that violation can be detected.

10.6 Repackaging and relabeling are authorized in the following cases:

- a) the national seed certification authority may authorize the re-packaging and re-labelling of a particular seed lot that is produced in another country, but shall retain the original label information of the producing country; and
- b) blending of a seed lot with other lots of the same variety and class (generation) is allowable if all seed lots of the blend have met the field and laboratory requirements for certification prior to blending. A new lot number shall be issued. Details of the blended lots and their proportions shall be kept by the certifying authority for traceability.

11 Post-control tests

The Post control tests shall be carried out in accordance with OECD Schemes for Varietal Certification or the Control of Seed Moving in the International Trade.

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