



SCREENING CHAPTER 12
FOOD SAFETY, VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY POLICIES

**AGENDA ITEM 36: QUALITY OF SEEDS AND
PROPAGATING MATERIAL**

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I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK



- Decree Law No. 441: Gives authority to the MARA for development and implementation of seeds related rules
- Law No. 308: Registration, control and seed certification
- Law No. 6968: Plant protection and plant quarantine
- Law No. 5042: Protection of Breeder's Rights for New Plant Varieties



Turkey;

- member of ISTA since 1963,
- included in the OECD Seed Certification System for some plant species such as sugar beet, oil and fibre plants, cereals, oil seeds, fodder crops, maize and sorghum in 1968.
- equivalence of certification procedures for some species recognized by EU in 1989.



II. CHARACTERISTICS OF VARIETY REGISTRATION, SEED CERTIFICATION AND MARKETING SYSTEM



Plant Groups;

- Agricultural seeds
- Vegetable seeds
- Propagating materials of vegetable
- Fruit including strawberry and vine
- Forestry
- Ornamental plants
- GM Plants



A- AGRICULTURAL SEEDS

- Variety Registration
- Seed Certification



VARIETY REGISTRATION (1)

- Implementing Regulation 1997/25640 on “Registration of plant varieties”.
- It covers all plant species,
- For agricultural plant species, the registration process is done according to the results of DUS and VCU tests.
- Vegetable, fruits, vine and ornamental plant varieties are registered and listed solely upon the results of DUS tests.



VARIETY REGISTRATION (2)

- Following the successful completion of required lab analyses and field tests, the varieties are registered and denominated according to decision of the National Registration Committee (12 stakeholder representatives).
- Within a particular species, same and similar names were not allowed for new varieties.
- Registered varieties are published in the Official Gazette and placed in National Variety List.



B- SEED CERTIFICATION (1)

- Field inspection
- Seed sampling
- Seed testing
- Labeling
- Post Control
- Marketing Control



SEED CERTIFICATION (2)

- Implementing Regulation 1964/11622 on “Certification of seeds”.
- Implementing Regulation 1964/11622 on “Certified seed growers”.
- Instruction 2003/1437 on “Seed Certification and Standards”.
- Instruction 2002 on “Certification of potato seeds produced by tissue culture methods”.



SEED CERTIFICATION (3)

➤ Field inspection

Implementing Regulation 2004/25376 on “Field Inspectors”

- The field inspection on variety identification, variety purity, isolation requirements and diseases are carried out by authorized inspectors from the VRSCC (Variety Registration and Seed Certification Centre) and Regional Seed Certification Directorates or Provincial Directorates of MARA.



SEED CERTIFICATION (4)

- All marketed species are inspected according to methods and standards defined by MARA.
- After inspection, a field inspection report is prepared for each and every seed production plot .



SEED CERTIFICATION (5)

➤ Sampling

- Sampling is carried out by an authorized inspector in accordance with the ISTA Rules.
- Sampling method, size of seed lot, minimum sample weight of marketed species are determined by MARA.
- Samples in sealed packages are sent to the nearest regional certification laboratory for seed quality testing.



SEED CERTIFICATION (6)

➤ Seed Testing

- Seed testing is carried out by VRSCC and 5 regional seed certification laboratories.
- Laboratory analyses are carried out under the ISTA rules.
- Seed standards of the listed and marketed species are determined by the MARA.



SEED CERTIFICATION (7)

- Physical analyses (inert matter, other seed, wild seed etc.) and germination tests are compulsory for seed certification.
- Upon the results of laboratory analysis, seed samples which conform to the appropriate seed category standards are certified.



SEED CERTIFICATION (8)

➤ Labelling

Circular No.1998/410 on “Labels of certified seeds”

- Certified seed for varieties published in National Variety List is labeled by VRSCC and TURK-TED (Turkish Seed Industry Association).
- Label information and size depend on the category of seed.
- A different serial number is given to each label for the purpose of tracing



SEED CERTIFICATION (9)

- Label colors are in line with EU standards:

Pre-basic seed	White label with diagonal purple stripe
Basic Seed	White
Registered Seed	White label with diagonal blue stripe
Cert.Seed 1 st Generation	Blue
Cert.Seed 2 nd Generation	Red
Not finally certified seed	Gray



SEED CERTIFICATION (10)

➤ Post Control

- Tests are carried out by VRSCC.
- 100% of the basic seeds and 10% of certified seeds lots are subject to Post Control tests.
- Results of the tests are evaluated and relevant institutions are notified by VRSCC



SEED CERTIFICATION (11)

➤ Market Control

- Implementing Regulation No. 1988/19861 on “basic principles which the seed retailers must comply with.”
- Market control is carried out by Provincial Directorates of MARA.
- Penalties related to “market control” violations are determined by various laws.
- Random samples during market controls are sent to the VRSCC and Regional Seed Certification Labs for testing.



B- VEGETABLE SEED

- Instruction 1991/122367 on “Marketing of standard vegetable seed”
- Production is carried out by authorized producers.
- Producers are responsible for the maintenance of varietal purity, verification of name and compliance with seed quality standards.
- Market control is carried out by authorized inspectors.
- Standard vegetable seed produced in accordance with this legislation is subject to post control tests.



C- VEGETABLE PROPAGATING MATERIALS

- All propagation processes are carried out according to Implementing Regulation 2004/25553 on “Supply, Production and Marketing with respect to Vegetable Seedling”.
- Seedlings belonging to the vegetable varieties in the Catalog are marketed only by controlling for diseases and quality standards.



D- FRUIT INCLUDING STRAWBERRY AND VINE (1)

- Propagation, certification and marketing of fruit and vine propagating materials are performed according to Communiqué 1997/22868 on “Certification of fruits and vine”
- Seedlings belonging to the strawberry varieties in the Catalog are produced, certified and marketed in accordance with Communiqué 1999/23475 on “General principles with respect to the certification of strawberry seedlings”



FRUIT INCLUDING STRAWBERRY AND VINE (2)

- Only the propagating materials of the listed fruit and vine varieties free of diseases are certified.
- Production of “controlled young plants” of varieties not listed in the catalog is also possible under this system only by carrying out inspection for particular plant diseases.



FRUIT INCLUDING STRAWBERRY AND VINE (3)

➤ Label Colors

<u>Category of Production Material</u>	<u>Label Colour</u>
1. Stock material (Pre-basic)	White
2. Stock material (identified as basic material)	White
3. Certified young plants/young plants propagation materials	Blue
4. Certified young plants	Blue



E- FORESTRY

- Implementing Regulation no. 2006/20068 on “Marketing of Forest Reproductive Materials”:
 - in compliance with Directive 1999/105/EC.
 - determines the principles on production, certification and marketing of forest tree propagation materials
- Ministry of Environment and Forestry is responsible.



F- ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

- Circular no. 2005/3 on “importing of ornamental plants and their propagating materials”.
- Circular no. 2005/5 on “exporting of ornamental plants and their propagating materials”.
- Inspection is carried out by inspectors of Provincial Directorates of MARA only in terms of diseases subject to quarantine and then marketing is allowed .



G- GM PLANTS

- Seed of GM plant varieties can not be imported , produced and marketed in Turkey.
- GM Plant Variety trials in limited areas for some species such as maize, sunflower, cotton, potato and soybean are allowed according to Instruction no. 1998/19 “on the field trials of transgenic plants”.
- Technical studies for “Bio-safety Law” are in progress.



III.COMPARISON WITH EU SYSTEM



- Turkish legislation on seeds is generally compatible with EU.
- Sampling and laboratory analyses are done under the ISTA Rules both in Turkey and EU.
- The variety registration for all species are also carried out under the UPOV Rules both in Turkey and EU.

However,

Turkish legislation: horizontal,
EU legislation: vertical in nature.



IV.FUTURE PLANS



- Draft Seed Law is on the agenda of the Parliament.
- Technical studies for further alignment with relevant Acquis are in progress.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION