

Seed Certification

Why certify seed

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 seeds).

Classes of seeds

Breeder Seed - this is the seed of a new variety that has the highest purity, and produced, developed, controlled and provided directly by the breeders or their institution 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.

Testing Seed

Seed samples are collected and submitted for laboratory analysis after drying and processing.

Tests conducted include:

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

Different countries set standards for the different factors considered in certifying different classes of rice seeds.



Official Standards for Seed Certification in Philippines

Factor	Breeder	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Pure seed (%)	98	98	98	97
Other varieties (grains/500g)	0	2	5	10
Weed & other crop seed (%)	0	0	0.05	0.1
Inert matter (%)	2	2	2	3
Red rice (grains/500 g)	0	0	1	2
Germination (% minimum)	80	80	80	80
Moisture content (%)	14	14	14	14

For more information contact

Agricultural Engineering Unit
IRRI, DAPO Box 7777, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel.: (63-2) 580-5600, Fax.: (63-2) 580-5699
Email: M.Gummert@cgiar.org
J.Rickman@cgiar.org

IRRI INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE