

Chet was recently contacted by Indiana Crop Improvement Association to ask how to go about establishing seed certification standards for sesame. ICIA has been working with a company that is working with the crop in the U.S. and it would like to produce its varieties as a class of Certified seed. OECD does not have sesame standards. A search led to finding standards adopted by Ethiopia and India and they are similar in nature. These standards were used by Indiana Crop as an example for writing the standards they are submitting for AOSCA consideration. The proposed standards have been reviewed by the company to get an industry perspective. The proposed standards are being submitted to this committee, since the sesame will be used as an oilseed crop. This gives AOSCA the opportunity to play a leadership role in adopting standards for a niche crop that may have international seed trade implications.

SESAME CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

I. APPLICATION OF GENETIC CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

The General Requirements for seed certification found in Section I through V of the Genetic and Crop Standards apply to (Are Basic) all crops, and together with the following specific standards, constitute the certified Sesame standards

II. LAND REQUIREMENTS

- A) A crop of Sesame will not be eligible for certification if planted on land on which Sesame was grown the previous year:
 - 1) Unless the previous sesame crop was planted with a class of Certified seed of the same variety, or
 - 2) Unless the variety being planted is of a contrasting flower color, stem type and number of capsules.
- B) For the production of the Foundation class of sesame seed, the variety being planted must be of a contrasting flower color, stem type and number of capsules, unless it meets criteria in A.1

III. FIELD INSPECTIONS

- A) At least one field inspection per season shall be made in a manner approved by the Certification Agency. The field inspection shall be made at late blossom but before maturity.
- B) Applicants desiring reinspection of fields not meeting certification standards on first inspection will be charged an additional fee per field reinspected.
- C) The inspector shall cross the field sufficiently to accurately evaluate the genetic purity.
- D) If a field is harvested prior to inspection, that seed field automatically becomes ineligible for certification.

IV. FIELD STANDARDS.

- A) A field is defined as an area occupied by one crop which is covered by one application (or isolation), and/or inspection report, and is undivided by fences, ditches (sod waterways excepted), highways, public roadways, other crops (except crossable strips no more than 200 feet wide of another crop dividing the crop for certification within the boundaries of the same field), or natural barriers.
- B)

Factor	Field Standards for each Class			
	Breeder	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Rotation	2 years	1 year	1 year	1 year
Isolation	10 ft	10 ft	5 ft	5 ft
Off-Types / Other Varieties	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%

V. SEED STANDARDS

Factor	Standards for each Class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Pure seed (minimum)	97.00%	95.00%	93.00%
Inert matter (maximum)*	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Other Crop Seed(maximum)	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Weed Seeds (maximum)**	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%
Other kinds (maximum)	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

*Shall not contain more than 2% inert matter other than broken seed.

**Total weed seed shall not exceed 10 seeds per lb.