

**TALKING POINTS FOR THE VIDEO CONFERENCE  
ON 16.05.2023 AT 11.00 AM  
BY HON'BLE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE**

1. The vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister is to make available the good quality seed to the farmers and to make the state free of spurious seeds.
2. Taskforce teams comprising of the officials of Police department, Agriculture department and TSSOCA shall be formed and the teams shall take up inspections of Seed Processing units, Storage go-downs, dealer premises and other suspected places.
3. The spurious seeds shall not be allowed and stern action shall be taken. Spurious seeds can be as follows.
  - a) Packed in white cloth bags
  - b) Improperly labelled packets
  - c) Imitating licensed company packets
  - d) Sold in loose form.
  - e) Sold by unscrupulous persons like fly-by-night operators without licences.
  - f) GoT failed seeds.
4. Spurious seeds are prevalent particularly in case of Cotton and Chillies. Verification of Cotton and Chilly seed stocks are most important during inspection.
5. The Ht Cotton is not approved by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) for commercial cultivation in India. Therefore, the sale, cultivation and seed production of Ht Cotton seeds is punishable offence under Seeds Act 1966, Seeds Rules 1968, Seeds (Control) Order 1983, vis-à-vis under Environmental Protection Act 1986 and Environmental Protection Rules 1989.
6. As the Ht. cotton being illegal, farmers shall be educated sufficiently that they shall not grow Ht. Cotton seeds.
7. Task force teams shall check the premises for Ht. Cotton seeds also and stringent action shall be taken if such seeds are found.
8. The Task force teams shall be provided with the Ht test kits for onsite testing of the Cotton Seeds.

9. The habitual offenders shall be dealt under PD Act.
10. Strict vigilance shall be enforced at check posts of other states borders. The MAO concerned shall be vigilant in this regard.
11. In every suspicious case, samples shall be drawn and if found substandard, prosecution shall be launched and cases shall be defended suitably.
12. The following Non-rectifiable defects shall be dealt stringently. The said few defects are as mentioned below.
  - a) Selling of spurious /substandard seed
  - b) Selling of date expired seed if, offered for sale
  - c) Selling of seed without licence
  - d) Selling of Ht. Cotton seed
  - e) Selling by un licensed operators .

All such seeds shall be seized and suitable action can be initiated by booking cases under IPC 420.

13. Certain defects are rectifiable mistakes which are mentioned below and in such cases, stop sale orders shall be issued till the defect is rectified or for a maximum period of 30 days whichever is earlier if not rectified, the stocks shall be seized.
  - a) When licences are not displayed at conspicuous place
  - b) Issuance of credit/ cash bill in incomplete shape in other format than prescribed
  - c) Non-display of stock and price list
  - d) Maintaining bill book and register without seed inspector's attestation.
  - e) Non-seeking deletion of premises from licence, which is not in use
  - f) Non furnishing of Form – D
  - g) Conduct of business with in grace period after expiry of licence.
  - h) Non-incorporation of premises in use for sale and storage, in licence where the dealer/company already applied for such inclusion.

	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Clarification</b>
a	No signatures of farmers on bills	The lack of signature on the bill is not indicative of quality of seed. Hence such seed cannot be treated as spurious seed, for this reason alone.
b	Percentage of RIB not written on the packet/GOI number not mentioned on packet.	Whether it is mentioned or not on the label, each packet shall have 5-10% refuge seed which can be tested and verified. If there is some suspicion, the samples can be drawn and referred for analysis but shall not be seized for the simple reason that the RIB percentage is not mentioned on the label. Similar is the case with mentioning of GOI Gazette number on the packet.
c	Variation in label size	The Act provides that, the mandatory label which is opaline green in colour can vary with size of the packet. Hence, variation in label size cannot be the basis for seizure, detention etc. The standard label size is 15x10 cm which can vary with size of the packet vide S.O. No. 761(e)dated 6-11-1991
d	Seizure of Bulk seed	Any seed which is stocked as bulk in licensed premises shall not be seized .If it is tested Ht. positive in strip test, the stock shall not be allowed for sale. Sample from such stock shall be sent to the lab i.e. (DNA Lab, Hyderabad).If it is found positive in the lab test the stocks shall be seized.
e	Seizure of returned seed	Shall not be seized just because it is returned. The returned seed shall be bulked immediately by the company concerned on return.

#### **14. Unlicensed varieties/hybrids and Co-marketing:**

- 14.1 In view of Hon'ble High Court orders in W.P No. 17894, 18365, 18385 and 17880 of 2016 instructions were issued to DAOs not to insist for inclusion of varieties in the seed licence. Accordingly, the Private varieties/Hybrids are not being included in the seed licences of companies from May 2017 onwards except notified varieties/hybrids.

- 14.2 The varieties /Hybrids, which are not included in the licences, are permitted for sale, storage provided that, they are packed, labelled and have minimum prescribed standards as required under Seeds Act 1966 and Seed Rules 1968, keeping in view the Hon'ble High Court orders.
- 14.3 Co-marketing Permissions were stopped from June 2016 onwards vide memo No. SRC(1) 426/2016 dated 30-05-2016. The seed companies filed WP 17894 /2016 in Hon'ble High court challenging the said circular. The Hon'ble High Court stayed the same in their order dated 28-06-2016. Consequently, the companies are selling their seeds under co-marketing also.

15. Farmers awareness programmes shall be conducted on the following:

- 15.1 Not to purchase any seed from unlicensed persons.
- 15.2 Farmers shall obtain Bills on every purchase and retain the bill till the harvest of crop.
- 15.3 Not to purchase seeds from un licensed sale points..
- 15.4 Awareness campaigns at Rythu Vedikas through Pamphlets/ leaflets/ Posters/ Samskruthika Varadhi Sanghalu.

16. The Farmers shall be educated that the application of weedicide Glyphosate is restricted to barren lands only and it shall not be used under any circumstances on cotton or any other crops.

17. DAOs to ensure that all the seed companies should crush the GOT failed seed lots before handing it to the farmers duly following SOPs communicated through circular dt: 03-05-2021.

18. DAOs are instructed to constitute District level task force teams with one ADA, one Officer from TSSOCA and one Official from Police Department for inspections at District level and furnish report to C&DA.