

PROJECT PROFILE

<u>Sector</u>	Agriculture
<u>Sub-sector</u>	Crops
<u>Code</u>	AG 08 (D)
<u>Title</u>	National Seed Certification Service.
<u>Implementing Agency</u>	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries
<u>Location</u>	Countrywide.
<u>Total Plan Exp.</u>	US\$ 0.29m
<u>Funds Secured</u>	US\$ 0.19m
<u>Funding Gap</u>	US\$ 0.10m
<u>Start date</u>	2001
<u>Completion Date</u>	Unknown

Background.

The desire to promote, regulate, and control the importation and quality assurance of seeds and other planting materials arises out of the fact that unlike other goods, seed quality cannot be judged at a glance. Breeding, variety release, multiplication, conditioning and marketing are important as well.

The buyer cannot automatically tell the species, variety, assess the purity, germination capacity and the health status of seed. As a consequence, there is ample opportunity for fraud and deception by dishonest seed dealers.

This means that a farmer who sows poor quality seed may lose the whole crop and possibly the livelihood for the season. There is therefore need to put in place an effective and efficient National Seed Certification Service to address the above issues.

Objectives.

The main objective of the National Seed Certification Service is to enhance increased crop yields and food production through use of high quality seed by the farming community.

Expected Outputs.

- Testing of new varieties before their release.
- Laboratory seed testing and analysis.
- Inspection of seed growers and seed agents to assess the quality of seed on the market.
- Training of seed merchants.
- Harmonisation of seed laws and regulations.

Technical Description.

The project shall involve:

- The training of seed growers in quality seed production.
- Sensitisation of seed dealers and merchants on laws and regulations governing seed trade.
- Registration schemes for seed merchants/conditioners/importers.
- Accreditation of competent individuals/companies/institutions in field inspection, seed sampling or laboratory testing.
- Provision of training in the informal seed sector.

Financing.

The project is financed by the GoU. For the FY 2001/02, US \$ 0.102 million was provided for in the budget.