

# Seed certification



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## Why are seeds certified?

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 seed).

## Classes of seeds

**Breeder seed** : This is the seed of a new variety that has the highest purity and is produced, developed, controlled, and provided directly by breeders or their institutions for further multiplication.

**Foundation seed** : This is the progeny of the breeder seed, produced by trained officers of an agricultural research station, seed corporation, trained farmers in conformity with regulated national standards and handled to maintain genetic purity and identity of the variety.

**Certified seed** : This is the progeny of foundation seed handled to maintain sufficient varietal identity and purity, grown by selected farmers, farmer producer organizations, farmer producer companies 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.

## Seed testing :

Seed samples are collected and submitted to laboratory for analysis after drying and processing. Tests conducted include those that determine

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

Different countries set standards for the various factors considered in seed certification. Official standards for seed certification in India

Factor	Foundation	Certified
Pure seed (% minimum)	98	98
Other varieties (grain/kg maximum)	10	20
Total weed & other crop seed (grain/kg) (maximum)	10	20
Inert matter (% maximum)	2	2
Germination (% minimum)	80	80
Moisture content (%)	13	13
Moisture content for vapour proof container (maximum)	8	8



Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)

The World Bank is the funding agency of APART. Department of Agriculture, Assam is the nodal department for implementation of APART. ARIAS Society is the State Level coordinating and monitoring agency for APART. Assam Agricultural University is the leading Agricultural University of the State and implementing agency of APART, imparting research and scientific support. International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the rice global leader providing technical and hand-holding support in the implementation of APART.