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DRAFT EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Vegetable seed — Requirements for certification: Part 1 — cucurbit

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

In order to achieve this objective, the Community established an East African Standards Committee mandated to develop and issue East African Standards.

The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the private sectors and consumer organizations. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the procedures of the Community.

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee EASC/TC 012, *Seeds and propagation materials*.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be subject of patent rights. EAC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

DEAS consists of the following parts under the general title, *Vegetable seed — Requirements for certification*:

— Part 1: *Cucurbit*

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Vegetable seed — Requirements for certification: Part 1 — cucurbit

1 Scope

This Draft East African Standard specifies the certification requirements for pre-basic, basic, and certified seed of cucurbit vegetable crops.

It covers requirements for eligible varieties, field standards, field inspections, seed sampling, laboratory standards, certificates, packaging, labelling, and post-control tests.

This standard applies to cucurbit vegetable seed varieties specified in Table 1.

Table 1 — Cucurbit vegetables

S/no	Common name	Botanical name
Gourds (Genus; Lagenaria, Luffa and others)		
i)	Bitter gourd (karela)	<i>Momordica charantia</i>
ii)	Bottle gourd (dudhi)	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>
iii)	Ridge gourd (turia/gizoda)	<i>Luffa acutangula</i>
iv)	Round gourd (tinda)	<i>Citrullus lunatus</i>
Squashes and pumpkins (Genus Cucurbita and others)		
i)	Courgette/marrow/squash/ Zucchini	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> and <i>C. moschata</i>
ii)	Pumpkin	<i>Cucurbit maximum</i>
iii)	Butternut	<i>Cucurbita moschata</i>
Melons (genus Cucumis and Citrullus and others)		
i)	Cucumber/gherkin	<i>Cucumis sativus</i>
ii)	Sweet Melon/cantaloupe	<i>Cucumis melo</i>
iii)	Water-melon	<i>Citrullus lunatus</i>
iv)	Horned melon	<i>Cucumis metuliferus</i>

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Rules

International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) Test guidelines

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Schemes for Varietal Certification or the Control of Seed Moving in the International Trade

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISTA, UPOV, OECD and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

seed test certificate

legal document issued by the national seed certification authority, which states that a seed lot has met the requirements set in this standard

3.2

distinctness

variety is deemed to be distinct if it is clearly distinguishable in at least one character from any other variety whose existence is a matter of common knowledge at the time of filing the application for registration

3.3

field

defined and identifiable area of land or facility that is used to produce a seed crop under the Seed Certification Scheme

3.4

field inspection

examination of a field and or seed crop, by an inspector to confirm that the minimum requirements for seed certification have been met

3.5

field number

number assigned to the field when the application form for certification is submitted

3.6

germination

emergence and development of a seedling to a stage where the aspect of its essential structures indicates whether or not it is able to develop further into a satisfactory plant under favourable conditions in the field

3.7

grower

person or entity registered to produce seed

3.8

inert matter

seed units and all other matter and structures not defined as pure seed or other seeds

3.9

isolation

minimum distance or time between two crops of soybean that is required to prevent contamination either mechanically or by cross pollination

3.10

inspector

authorized official or accredited entity responsible for carrying out seed certification activities

3.11**label**

tag or other device that is attached to or written, stamped, or printed on any container of seed or that accompanies any lot of bulk seed and which describes the kind of seed and any other information required by relevant laws and regulations

3.12**previous cropping**

minimum period (seasons or years) that should elapse between the production of a crop of the same species in a field and the production of a crop entered in the certification scheme in the same field

3.13**maintainer**

person or organisation responsible for the production or maintenance of a bred variety included in a national list of varieties eligible for certification, and ensures that the variety remains true to type throughout its full life-span

3.14**national seed certification authority**

designated authority responsible for conducting seed certification processes in the country

3.15**noxious weed**

weed species, the seed of which is difficult to separate during processing or has undesirable effects on the crop produced, for example by possible genetic contamination

3.16**off-type**

plant of the same species which does not exhibit the recognised and acceptable characteristics of the variety being grown

3.17**other seeds**

seeds of any plant species other than that of the crop sample that is being tested. They consist of weed seeds and other crop seeds

3.18**parental lines**

population or lines used by a breeder to develop and maintain a variety

3.19**post-control plot**

small plot where a representative sample of a seed lot is grown to determine the identity and purity of the variety

3.20**pure seed**

species stated by an applicant, or found to predominate in a test, and includes all botanical varieties and cultivars of that species, including intact seeds and pieces of seed units larger than one-half their original size

3.21**roguing**

removal of off-types, other varieties, and diseased plants or any other unwanted plant from a seed crop

3.22

seed certification

process by which the quality and identity of a seed lot is assured through official control by designated seed certification authority

3.23

seed lot

defined quantity of seed bearing the same reference number and for which the origin, production history and identity is known

3.24

stability

state of a variety where distinguishing characteristics remain unchanged after repeated growing cycles

3.25

uniformity

state of a variety subject to the variation that is expected from the particular features of its propagation, to remain sufficiently homogeneous in its relevant characteristics

3.26

variety

assemblage of cultivated plants that is clearly distinguished from other varieties by any characters (morphological, physiological, cytological, chemical, or others) and which retains its distinguishing characteristics when reproduced by the normal means for the crop and variety

3.27

variety catalogue

detailed list of varieties that have been registered by a national designated authority

Note 1 to entry: Variety registration is inclusion of an approved new variety in a national variety catalogue when it has been tested and satisfied the requirements for distinctness, uniformity, stability, and has value for cultivation and use.

3.28

carryover seed

seed produced in previous season and stored for one or more cropping seasons or past its valid test duration subject to meeting the requirements of this standard upon retesting

3.29

pre-basic seed

seed that is derived from breeder seed and is used to produce basic seed through one cycle of multiplication

Note 1 to entry: Breeder seed is an original parental material produced by the breeder and which is multiplied through one or more generations to produce pre-basic seed.

3.30

basic seed

seed that has been produced from breeder or pre-basic seed under the responsibility of the breeder and is used for the production of certified seed

3.31

certified seed

seed that is produced from basic seed through one or two generations of multiplication

3.31.1

certified seed 1st generation (C1)

first generation of seed derived from basic seed

3.31.2**certified seed 2nd generation (C2)**

certified seed 1st generation which is multiplied once

3.32**seed sampler**

person authorized by the national designated seed certification authority to do seed sampling

4 Seed classes

For the purpose of this standard, the following classes of seed shall apply:

- a) pre-basic seed;
- b) basic seed;
- c) certified seed;
 - i) 1st generation (C1); and
 - ii) 2nd generation (C2).

5 General requirements

Cucurbit seed shall be free from pests of quarantine importance and regulated non-quarantine pests with zero tolerance and meet the requirements specified in Table 2 in regard to the regulated non-quarantine pests, injurious diseases and pests and from any defects likely to impair their quality as seed.

6 Eligible varieties

6.1 Varieties eligible for seed certification shall be those that have been examined, tested and registered in at least one-member country of the EAC in the national list of varieties/national variety catalogue. The country adopting the variety shall test it for at least one season.

6.2 The national seed certification authority shall keep the official descriptor of the varieties it has registered in hard and electronic copies and these shall be made available within EAC on request.

6.3 Examination of a candidate variety for certification shall be undertaken in accordance with UPOV and OECD Seed Scheme. The official descriptor of the variety shall be made available for the national seed certification authority and its inspectors to check the identity and purity of the variety during field inspections.

7 Application for certification

7.1 The minimum requirements for application of certification of a seed crop shall include the following:

- a) name, address and any other contact details of the seed company/seed grower;
- b) crop and variety to be planted;
- c) physical location;
- d) area and reference number of the field and cropping history for the past three cropping seasons;
- e) class of seed used during planting and class of seed to be produced; and
- f) registration number of the seed company/seed grower.

7.2 Information and crops related to the previous cropping history, origin of seed planted and field inspection shall be kept and used for certification to ensure full traceability of quality, genetic identity and purity of the seed harvested.

7.3 Seed grower of pre-basic, basic and certified seeds shall apply for certification of a seed crop not later than three weeks (21 days) after planting by filling the form in Annex A.

8 Field inspection

8.1 The national seed certification authority shall prepare the inspection schedule for the inspectors, based on all necessary information on the field, to ensure that the timing of inspections allows the requirements in Table 2 to be properly assessed.

8.2 The inspector shall inspect the field in accordance with OECD Seed Schemes and shall check for isolation requirements, off-types and the presence diseases.

8.3 The seed lot shall be sampled and tested in a national designated laboratory. The sampling and testing of seed lots shall be done in accordance with the relevant procedures described in the ISTA rules.

8.4. A seed lot that conforms to the requirements specified in Table 2 shall be given a seed test certificate and a unique reference number to confirm its status under the certification scheme. One part of the seed sample shall be retained for sowing in a post-control plot in the next season, or earlier if that can be achieved.

8.5 At the time of the first inspection, the inspector shall confirm with the grower the previous cropping of the field, checking on isolation, and the proof of origin/authentication of the variety planted by using the labels.

8.6 A minimum of two inspections shall be done for each seed production field to confirm if the field standards specified in Table 2 are met. The first inspection shall be done at flowering and the second inspection at full maturity when at least 80 % have shed the leaves from the plants so that the pubescence and hilum colour can be observed.

8.7 Depending on the degree of contamination, the inspector may give instructions for off-types and diseased plants to be rogued so as to maintain the genetic purity.

8.6 The field inspection report shall indicate the field status and comments for any corrective actions required such as re-inspection to confirm the field standards. All field inspection reports shall be provided to the grower and the seed enterprise after each inspection in a timely manner. The field inspection report in Annex B shall be signed by the inspector and may be signed by the grower or the grower's representative

9 Field requirements

9.1 Pre basic shall be produced under the responsibility of the breeder or the maintainer.

9.2 Basic seed shall be produced under responsibility of licensed seed grower(s).

9.3 A field producing cucurbit vegetable seed shall be approved for certification if it complies with the requirements given in Table 2.

9.4 Fields may be rejected for certification due to unsatisfactory conditions caused by noxious weeds, poor growth, poor stands, excessive disease presence, pest damage, and any other condition that prevents accurate inspection or creates doubt as to the identity of the variety.

Table 2 – Field requirements for cucurbit vegetable seed

S/N	Variable		Pre-basic seed	Basic seed	Certified seed		
i.	Isolation, m, min.	OPV	1000	500	500		
		Hybrid	1500	1000	100		
ii.	Off-types, %, max.		0.0	0.0	Melons	Gourds	Squashes & pumpkins
					0.1	0.3	0.2
iii.	Minimum number of Inspections		2	2	2		
iv.	Previous cropping, min.		2	2	2		
v.	Maximum percentage by number of plants infected with seed borne disease - at final inspection		0	0	0		
vi.	Maximum number of plants infected with <i>Anthrocnose</i> (<i>Colletotrichum lagenarium</i>) – at final inspection		0.1	0.1	0.2		
vii.	Maximum number of plants infected from <i>Pseudomenae lachrymans</i> and mosaic virus disease – at final inspection		0	0	0		

Table 3 — Maximum limits for off-types for Cucurbit vegetables

S/N	Seed class	Limits for off-types
i.	Basic seed % max. (Br, pbr, b)	0.0
ii.	Certified seed (C1, C2, Standard)	
iii.	a) Water-melon, % max.	1
iv.	b) Karela, cucumber, gourds, % max.	3
v.	c) Courgette, pumpkin, % max.	2

10 Seed sampling and laboratory requirements

10.1 The harvested seed from the field approved for certification shall be kept as an identified unit until processing. The identification shall include; grower's number, field crop number, packing unit, variety name and seed class. After processing, a sample shall be submitted to the laboratory for testing where a conforming sample shall be given a certificate with a unique lot number for the purpose of traceability.

10.2 The maximum size of a seed lot for certification purposes is 30 000 kg; lots larger than this shall be divided and given separate lot numbers.

10.3 An official seed sampler shall draw a representative composite sample from each lot as guided by the ISTA rules.

10.4 The composite sample shall be divided into three sub-samples, one for testing in the laboratory, one to be stored for reference purposes in case re-testing is necessary, and one for the post-control tests. The submitted samples shall be labelled, securely sealed and stored in cool and dry conditions to prevent contamination and loss of germination".

10.5 Laboratories authorized by the national seed certification authority shall conduct seed testing for certification in accordance to the methodology established in the ISTA rules for cucurbit vegetable seed.

10.6 The seed lot shall be approved for certification if it complies with the requirements given in Table 3.

Table 3 — Laboratory requirements for cucurbits vegetable seeds

S/N	Factor		Requirements for all seed classes
i.	Purity	a) Pure seed, % min.	97
		b) Inert matter, % max.	2.9
		c) Seed of other varieties by number, % max.	0.0
		d) Other crop seed, % max.	0.1
		e) Weed seed, % max.	0.0
ii.	Germination	All others % min,	75
		cucumber – % m	80
iii.	Moisture content	Moisture content, % max (For all cucurbit vegetables) .	9

11 Certificates

11.1 The seed test certificate for a seed lot shall be signed and issued by the national seed certification authority and shall include all information specified in Annex C. This certificate shall be valid for a period not exceeding nine months.

11.2 Carryover seed shall be re-sampled and retested for germination. If the test result complies with the minimum standards, a new test certificate shall be issued for the seed lot, which cancels the previously issued certificate, and shall include the certificate number of the cancelled certificate.

12 Packaging

All categories of seed that have been certified shall be packaged in containers that safeguard the quality of the seed.

13 labelling

13.1 Each package shall have the official label of the national designated seed certification authority.

13.2 The labels for each category shall be identified by the following colours:

- a) pre-basic (violet band on white);
- b) basic seed (white);
- c) Certified seed 1st generation (C1): (blue); and
- d) Certified seed 2nd generation (C2): (red).

13.3 The labels shall be prominent, indelible, legible and fixed to the containers by an authorized person in such a way that they cannot be destroyed or easily removed. The language on the label shall be English and any other official language of Partner State may be used. The following information shall be included on the official labels provided by national seed certification authority:

- a) name of seed crop;
- b) species (Latin name);
- c) variety denomination;
- d) seed lot number;
- e) seed test certificate number;
- f) date of test;
- g) net weight;
- h) seed treatment declaration (if applicable);
- i) logo of the national seed certification authority;
- j) name and address of national seed certification authority;
- k) seed class;
- l) germination rate; and
- m) purity level.
- n) country of production;
- o) year of production;

- p) name and address of the grower; and
- q) lot number.

13.4 If seeds are treated with any chemical or product harmful for human or animal consumption, the container shall carry a label stating the chemical or product used and warning of the health risks.

13.5 Repackaging and relabelling are authorized in the following cases:

- a) the national seed certification authority may authorize the repackaging and relabelling of a particular seed lot that is produced in another country, but shall retain the original label information of the producing country; and
- b) blending of a seed lot with other lots of the same variety and class (generation) is allowable if all seed lots of the blend have met the field and laboratory requirements for certification prior to blending. A new lot number shall be issued. Details of the blended lots and their proportions shall be kept by the certifying authority for traceability.

14 Post control tests

The post control tests shall be carried out in accordance with OECD Schemes for Varietal Certification or the Control of Seed Moving in the International Trade.

Annex A (normative)

Application for field inspection of a seed crop

Form No..... Grower No.....

APPLICATION FOR FIELD INSPECTION OF A SEED CROP

1. Full name of grower _____ Postal Address _____ Tel. No. _____

2. Farm on which the seed crop is being grown _____

Land registration number. _____

3. Physical location _____ GPS coordinates _____

4. Details of crop (Every crop regardless of size must be mentioned separately. A crop is field planted within 5 days).

Crop

Field crop No.	Species	Variety	Lot No. of seeds used	Class of seed used	Ha	Date planted	Approximate date of harvest	Previous cropping history (Last 3 seasons)		

4. Seed rate per hectare _____ kg

5. Registered seed merchant to whom the entire seed stock will be sold _____

6. I have enclosed _____ number of labels from packets/containers of the seed for this crop(s); as proof of origin.

7. The person who will daily be in charge of the seed crop is (Name/Telephone number) _____

8. Declaration:

I hereby declare that all information provided here is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I shall always observe all conditions governing seeds production as provided in the Seeds Act and Regulations

Date..... Signature of Applicant

Stamp of seed Merchant/Grower.....

Annex B (normative)

Field inspection report

Form Number.....Date.....

Grower's Number.....

FIELD INSPECTION REPORT

Grower's Name Species

Variety Field Number (s)

Crop Number(s) Hectares Class

1st 2nd 3rd Inspection (tick)

ITEMS:

- Is the crop true to type? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Doubtful

Remarks.....

- Isolation in distance/time ☐ satisfactory ☐ Not Satisfactory

Remarks.....

- Off-type(s) (describe).....

Remarks.....

- Noxious weeds (specify)

Total found.....

- Other crop species (specify).....

Health (Diseases).....

- Crop Stand ☐ Good ☐ Satisfactory ☐ Not satisfactory

Remarks.....

- Estimated yield at final inspection.....

No of counts made..... Average count.....

No of plants counted..... tassels/selfing plant found.....%

Crop result ☐ Pending ☐ Approved ☐ rejected because of

If to be re-inspected withinDays

Further remarks

.....Bags/ha

Copy to:.....

Seed Inspector(s) Name.....Signature

Official stamp.....

Annex C (normative)

Seed testing certificate

Form SR.....

OFFICIAL SEED TESTING CERTIFICATE

Date of sampling													
Date received													
Lot number			Reference No.				Weight of lot:						
Crop species, variety			As stated by inspector:										
Country of origin													
			RESULTS OF ANALYSIS										
Purity			Germination								Moisture		
Pure seed (P) %	Inert matter %	Other crop seed %	First count Days	Germ (G) %	Final count Days	Germ (G) %	Hard %	Fresh ungerm %	Dead %	Pure germinating seed $\frac{PxG}{100}$ (%)	Moisture %	Test No. Any inquiries concerning this test must quote this number	
Abnormal, %			Broken germinated, %										
(1)													
(2)													
(3)													
Special tests Seed dressing:													
									Official seed Tester				
									Date:				
Copies To									Seed Testing Laboratory				

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