

# SEEDS (CERTIFICATION AND STANDARDS) REGULATIONS, 2018

## EPISODE 25

### *Rules for certifying yam seed*

#### **104. Land requirements for yam seeds**

- 1) A person who grows yam seeds of a class specified under regulation 10 (1) shall
  - a) Grow the yam seed on a field that is free from volunteer plants
  - b) Ensure that the yam seed is not grown under a swampy or shady condition; and
  - c) Ensure that drainage and yam residue from other yam fields do not get onto the field on which the person has grown the yam.
- 2) The certifying authority shall approve yam field which is free from diseases and pests.

#### **105. Inspection of a yam field**

Without limiting regulation 161, the certifying authority shall conduct at least four field inspections of each yam field, planned as follows;

- a) The first inspection shall be an inspection of the yam seed before planting;
- b) The second inspection shall be conducted ninety days after planting;
- c) The third inspection shall be conducted one hundred and fifty days after planting; and
- d) The fourth inspection shall be conducted two hundred days after planting or at harvest, depending on the variety.

#### **106. Standards for the isolation of a yam field**

- 1) A person who grows yam of a class specified under regulation 10 (1) shall plant the yam seed on a field which is reasonably clean from weeds.
- 2) The person shall ensure that the field is isolated by a distance of not less than five meters from the field on which another variety of that yam seed is grown for all the classes as specified under regulation 10 (1).
- 3) The certifying authority shall permit an off-type tolerance of zero-point zero five percent for a pre-basic and basic seed field and zero-point one percent for a certified seed field.

#### **107. Refilling of field on which yam seed is grown**

A person who grows yam of a class specified under regulation 10 (1) shall not, after one month of planting, refill the field on which the yam planting material is planted with yam seeds for the yam seeds that did not sprout after planting.

#### **108. Labelling of the yam field**

A person who grows yam shall label the field by indicating on a sign post, particulars that include the following:

- a) Class of the seed;
- b) Variety of the yam;
- c) The date of planting;
- d) The size of the field; and
- e) The name of the producer of the yam seed.

#### **109. Age of a tuber of yam seed at harvest**

- 1) A person who grows yam seed shall ensure that the yam seed is harvested at full maturity and sprouting of yam seeds shall not be below ninety-five percent before planting.
- 2) For purposes of sub regulation (1), the maturity periods for the improved varieties are as follows;
  - a) Eight months for varieties similar to the Maankrong Pona variety and the CRI Pona variety;

- b) Ten months for varieties similar to the Kukurupa variety.

**110. Size of the yam seed**

- 1) The certifying authority shall satisfy itself that the weight of a tuber of yam grown as a seed is between one hundred and fifty to three hundred grams depending on the variety for pre-basic and basic seed and two hundred to four hundred grams for certified seed depending on the variety.
- 2) The certifying authority shall allow a variation not exceeding five percent for tubers that do not conform to a specific size or weight, for all classes of seeds depending on the variety.

**111. Pests and diseases tolerance levels for yam seed**

- 1) The certifying authority shall, at the harvest of yam, reject as seed, a tuber of yam that is
  - a) Heavily infested with scale insects, mealy bugs, yam beetles, termites, millipedes, worms or other similar insects; or
  - b) Infected by a nematode disease or a virus.
- 2) The tolerance level as approved by the certifying authority for yam infected with a disease shall not exceed one percent of the lot at final inspection, where the tuber of yam is cut, bruised, unshapely or has cracks as a result of the activities of millipedes, termites, other insects or other physical factors.
- 3) The certifying authority shall accept the tubers of yam grown from the field, if
  - a) Tubers of yam observed by the certifying authority as having rots
    - i) During harvesting of the yam does not exceed five percent of the tubers of yam grown; and
    - ii) Are not more than ten percent after three months from the date of harvest; and
  - b) Tubers of yam infected by the Anthracnose or Tar spots disease do not exceed
    - i) Zero-point zero five percent for a breeder seed and foundation seed; and
    - ii) Zero-point one percent for a certified seed.
- 4) The pests and diseases tolerance levels for yam seed are as set out in paragraph 2 of the Sixth Schedule.

**EPISODE 26**

*Rules for certifying sweet potato seed*

**112. Standards for the isolation of a sweet potato field**

- 1) A person who grows a sweet potato vine or tuber of a class specified under regulation 10 (1) shall plant the sweet potato vine or tuber on a field which is free from
  - a) Diseases and pests
  - b) Volunteer plants; and
  - c) Residue and drainage from different varieties of sweet potato fields.
- 2) The person shall ensure that the field is isolated by a distance of not less than ten meters from the field on which another variety of that sweet potato vine or tuber is grown.
- 3) The certifying authority shall permit an off-type tolerance of zero-point one percent for a breeder and foundation field and zero-point two percent for a certified field.

**113. Labelling of sweet potato field**

A person who grows a sweet potato vine or tuber shall label the field by indicating on a sign post, particulars that include the following;

- a) Class of the planting material;
- b) Variety of the sweet potato vine or tuber;
- c) The date of planting;

- d) The size of the field; and
- e) The name of the producer of the sweet potato vine or tuber.

**114. Inspection of sweet potato field**

Without limiting regulation 161, the certifying authority shall conduct at least three field inspections of each sweet potato field, planned as follows;

- a) The first inspection shall be conducted after planting;
- b) The second inspection shall be conducted during flowering; and
- c) The third inspection shall be conducted before the sweet potato vine or tuber is harvested for distribution.

**115. Age of vines at harvest**

A person who grows sweet potato shall ensure that the vine for transplanting is at least one month old.

**116. Pests and diseases tolerance of sweet potato seed**

- 1) The certifying authority shall, at the harvest of sweet potato, reject as planting material, a vine or tuber of sweet potato that is heavily infested with scurf and wilts.
- 2) The tolerance level as approved by the certifying authority for a sweet potato vine
  - a) Shall not exceed zero-point one percent of the lot at final inspection, where the sweet potato vine is infested with the potato beetle, *Cylas sp* and leaf defoliators,
  - b) Is zero percent, where the sweet potato vine is infested with the *Acerata caterpillars*,
  - c) *Is one percent, where the sweet potato vine is infested with slugs and wire worms, or*
  - d) Is zero percent virus during final inspection as set out in paragraph 3 of the Sixth Schedule.
- 3) The certifying authority shall accept sweet potato vines or tubers grown from a field, if the sweet potatoes observed by the certifying authority as having Black rot during the harvesting of the sweet potato do not exceed five percent of the mother plants.
- 4) The person growing the sweet potato shall ensure that small roots meant for vegetative propagation at the primary level are not infected by nematodes.