

SEEDS (CERTIFICATION AND STANDARDS) REGULATIONS, 2018

EPISODE 3

5. Evaluation, release and registration of new crop varieties

The Technical and Variety Release Committee is responsible for crop variety releases in the country and shall, in that regard, recommend for the approval of the Council, the release and registration of any crop variety into the National Catalogue.

6. Procedures for release

- 1) A person who develops a crop variety shall inform the Committee in writing of an intention to release the crop variety in the country and shall submit with the application, a report of the characteristics of that variety to the National Release and Registration Committee to undertake supervision of the release process.
- 2) Where the variety to be released is a named variety from a foreign country, the person who is applying for the release shall submit a sample with the relevant data of the characteristics of the variety to the National Variety Release and Registration Committee.
- 3) The Committee shall give a sample of the propagating material to a competent independent body for testing.
- 4) A plant breeder or the accredited institution shall submit a schedule of activities as part of the application to the committee for field evaluation visits.
- 5) The Committee shall not recommend the release of a crop variety under these Regulations, unless that crop variety
 - a) Satisfies the conditions of distinctiveness, uniformity and stability;
 - b) Satisfies the condition of value for cultivation and use; and
 - c) Has an appropriate variety denomination.
- 6) The crop variety is eligible for release and registration in Ghana when the Committee is satisfied that the crop variety meets the conditions set out in sub regulation (5).
- 7) As specified in section 39 (1) (b) of the Act, a person who is registered to import seed materials into the country for the purpose of direct and commercial distribution to farmers for production shall ensure that the seed materials meet and conform to these Regulations in the Act.

EPISODE 4

7. Plant breeder to provide information to Committee

A plant breeder who intends to have a crop variety released shall provide the following information to the Committee:

- a) A statement of the origin of the variety;
- b) The ecological region of growth of the variety
- c) A description of the morphological, physiological, cytological, organoleptic test results, chemical characteristics of the variety and other important characteristics which distinguish that crop variety from other varieties;
- d) Evidence of performance of the variety, including data on yield, pest or disease tolerance or resistance and appropriate check of the variety where necessary;
- e) The method of maintaining breeder seed, foundation seed or certified seed;
- f) The recommended generation of multiplication and a description of any special requirements or limitations that must be adopted to maintain varietal characteristics; and

- g) Other important characteristics of the crop or plant required of that plant breeder as published in the *Gazette* and in two daily newspapers of nationwide circulation.