

Verified Seed Scheme (VSS)

AIMS

Quality control and traceability are essential elements in the production of farm-processed seed and the NAAC has taken a proactive role in establishing an independently audited quality standard for mobile seed processing contractors. This will cover the quality of service which the contractor provides and will be known as the NAAC Assured Land-Based Contractor (Verified Seed) Scheme. Mobile seed processing contractors and their customers must co-operate to ensure a safe, traceable seed processing service can take place. This Scheme offers customers genuine assurance about the activity of contractors. Contractors will only be certified if they can meet the appropriate standards.

In addition to the NAAC's Verified Seed Specific Standard, the contractor must also have been assessed against the NAAC Assured Land-Based Contractor (Generic) Standard in the current scheme year. Ideally, both audits will be carried out together. Please note, certification cannot be granted without conformity with the generic and seed standards.

SCOPE

This scheme applies to contractors who are processing seed on-farm using mobile seed processing machinery for use under the direct control of the farmer customer and is not for sale, or intended for sale. This scheme aims to promote a co-ordinated, traceable route between farmer and contractor.

OBJECTIVES

The NAAC scheme is designed to help contractors involved in the mobile processing of seed to identify the hazards and critical control points of the process. The scheme aims to help the person processing seed to fully understand, and to be able to show full understanding of, the seed processing system and the critical control points of that process. These critical control points will include:

- Ensuring that personnel involved in seed processing are suitably skilled.
- Ensuring that seed materials are traceable and are free from harmful contamination;
- Providing appropriate storage for raw materials; Ensuring that processing equipment is regularly and appropriately maintained and cleaned;
- Adopting production processes, such as record keeping, which ensures full traceability;
- Identifying and controlling hazards which might occur.

The scheme will establish a framework of good and safe working practices, to be verified by independent external assessors, that will enable members of the scheme to produce a safe, fully traceable seed processing service to meet the requirements of national quality assurance programmes.

INFORMATION

For more information about the Verified Seed scheme contact the NAAC offices (see below).

IT PAYS TO BE PROFESSIONAL.....