

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** September 22, 2023

**Report Number:** CH2023-0127

**Report Name:** PRC Issues Final Implementation Opinions for Crop Seed Certification

**Country:** China - People's Republic of

**Post:** Beijing

**Report Category:** Planting Seeds

**Prepared By:** FAS China Staff

**Approved By:** Adam Branson

**Report Highlights:**

On September 6, 2023, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) jointly published “Implementation Opinions of SAMR and MARA on Carrying Out Crop Seed Certification.” The finalized Opinions, which are voluntary and apply to domestic and foreign companies operating in China, make only minor changes to a previous draft. This report provides an unofficial translation of the final document and highlights changes made since the draft version published in April 2023.

## Summary

On September 6, 2023, SAMR and MARA jointly published the [Implementation Opinions of SAMR and MARA on Carrying Out Crop Seed Certification](#) (link in Chinese). The Opinions provide working mechanisms, implementation requirements, and supervision on crop seed certification. The Opinions clearly indicate that seed certification in China is voluntary rather than mandatory; however, seed certification is encouraged through certain incentives, such as reducing the frequency of supervision<sup>1</sup> for certified seed companies and crop seed certification agencies. Additionally, certified companies are given priority when applying for relevant major research and project construction tasks. Within the PRC, SAMR plays the leading role in seed certification and MARA provides technical support.

The final Opinions make only minor changes to the draft version, which was published for public comments in April 2023 (see GAIN Report [Draft Implementation Opinions for Crop Seed Certification | CH2023-0072](#)). Changes between the draft version and the final version are highlighted in **RED** and deleted content is marked by strikethrough.

## BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

### **Implementation Opinions of the State Administration for Market Regulation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Carrying out Crop Seed Certification**

Market Supervision Bureau (department, committee), Agriculture and Rural (Agriculture and Animal Husbandry) Department (bureau, committee) at all provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, and all relevant units:

To thoroughly implement the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the relevant deployment requirements of the Central Seed Industry Revitalization Action, give full play to the role of quality certification in improving the quality of seeds and enhancing the competitiveness of enterprises, accelerate the high-quality development of the crop seed industry, and promote the increase in agricultural production and efficiency, SAMR and MARA have decided to carry out crop seed certification in accordance with the "Seed Law of the People's Republic of China" and the "Regulations on Certification and Accreditation of the People's Republic of China". The following implementation opinions are hereby offered.

---

<sup>1</sup> Although "supervision" is not defined in the Opinions, Post generally understands this to mean the frequency of audits, inspections or other reporting required to maintain certification status.

## 1. Working principles and mechanisms

### (1) Working principles

Crop seed certification is a conformity assessment activity carried out by certification agencies on the quality of crop seeds based on voluntary applications from enterprises. According to the principle of "unified management, common norms, government guidance, and market operation", SAMR and MARA jointly organize and promote the work of crop seed certification according to their respective responsibilities.

### (2) Working mechanism

Crop seed certification is managed, supervised and comprehensively coordinated by SAMR, and is jointly organized and implemented with MARA. MARA is responsible for the acceptance of crop seed certification results.

SAMR and MARA jointly release the crop seed certification catalogue, certification rules and certification marks (see attachment). After consultation with SAMR, MARA issues relevant technical specifications for crop seeds as the basis for certification.

MARA and SAMR jointly establish the Crop Seed Certification Working Committee (the secretariat is in the National Agricultural Technology Extension and Service Center), which undertakes specific tasks such as decision-making consultation and technical support for crop seed certification.

## 2. Implementation of certification

(1) The certification institutions engaged in crop seed certification shall be established in accordance with the law, meet the basic conditions stipulated in the "Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Certification and Accreditation" and the "Administrative Measures for Certification Institutions", and have the corresponding professional conditions and technical capabilities for the certification of crop seeds. ~~Crop seed certification can only be carried out after being approved by SAMR in consultation with MARA. When necessary, expert review can be organized.~~ Such seed certification agency may obtain qualification after SAMR solicits the opinions of MARA and conducts expert review.

(2) Certification institutions carry out certification work in accordance with crop seed certification rules and certification technical specifications.

(3) According to the needs of the certification business, the certification institutions may entrust a crop seed inspection agency with corresponding qualifications that has passed the assessment of the provincial agricultural and rural authorities to carry out inspection and testing activities related to crop seed certification activities, and make certification conclusions based on relevant inspection and testing data.

(4) The certification institutions shall disclose information such as the certification fee standard, the validity, suspension, cancellation or revocation status of the certification certificate, ~~the certified product~~

~~and the producer, and accept social supervision and inquiries. and submit the implementation of crop seed certification and certification information to SAMR and MARA as required.~~

(5) ~~Crop~~ Seed certification institutions shall undertake the obligation to keep confidential the state secrets and commercial secrets they know in the process of crop seed certification.

### 3. Promotion and application

(1) MARA establishes a mechanism for the promotion and application of crop seed certification, and actively promoted the widespread acceptance of crop seed certification results in fields such as industry management and market circulation.

(2) Market supervision departments and competent agricultural and rural departments at all levels shall, according to their respective responsibilities, organize publicity and guidance on seed certification and related training.

(3) The state encourages seed companies to obtain seed certification, reduces the frequency of supervision to certified seed companies, ~~and researches and formulates support policies for seed certification institutions, related seed companies, and qualified certified seeds.~~ **and priority will be given to supporting crop seed certification agencies and certified companies to undertake relevant major research and project construction tasks.**

### 4. Supervision and management

(1) Market supervision departments and competent agricultural and rural departments at all levels shall, according to their respective responsibilities, supervise and manage work related to crop seed certification in accordance with the law, and handle complaints and reports of related illegal acts.

(2) Violations of laws and regulations in certification activities or in the use of certification certificates and marks shall be published in accordance with the laws and regulations, and include them in the list of the seriously illegal and untrustworthy in accordance with relevant regulations, and publicize information related to enterprises, such as administrative penalties and the list of seriously illegal and untrustworthy, through the national enterprise credit information publicity system and relevant national platforms.

## Appendix: Crop Seed Certification Logo



Meaning of the logo: China Seed Certification (English: China Seed Certification). The overall logo design is based on the simplified Chinese character "Zhong" in Qin Xiaozhuan. The top is folded in and the bottom is spread out. The overall shape is like a seed taking root in the earth and growing vigorously; a supporting and coherent upper and lower structure, meaning that seed certification serves "agriculture, rural areas and farmers" and supports the revitalization of China's seed industry.

**END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.