

Date: 23.03.2020

To  
Shri Sanjay Agarwal  
Secretary (Agriculture)  
Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare,  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
Govt. of India, Krishi Bhawan  
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

The National Seed Association of India (NSAI), the largest association of seed companies of the country, supports the endeavor of the Nation to stop the spread of Corona virus. Each member of the Association is working their bit in this vital National endeavor.

As you are aware, the Industry is preparing to deliver quality seeds to millions of farmers across the country for the coming Kharif season. Lakhs of acres of seed crop is planted in the Rabi season which is now at flowering to harvesting stage. The quality control and production supervisory teams require to monitor the pollination, pre-harvest and harvest operations. Similarly, the quality assurance teams need to conduct inspections, carryout grow out test operations as well as laboratory testing. Finally, all the seeds needs to be processed, packed and distributed across the country so that they reach through millions of retailers to the needy farmers who can take up timely sowing of their crop for ensuring continuity of food supplies to the Nation.

The seeds are included in the list of essential commodities, the Seed Control (Order), 1983 also clarify the same. The letter issued by the Cabinet Secretary, Govt. of India dated 22.03.2020 to all the State Governments clarifies that the movement of essential commodities, the manufacturing and the people involved in the manufacturing are exempt from the closure.

In view of this, we request you to clarify the following in the lock down period.

1. The staff and workers working in the seed companies may be permitted to move to the extent required for carrying out their job responsibilities. The identity cards issued by the company employing them can be used for ascertaining their identity.
2. The vehicles carrying the seeds from the farmers' fields to the processing plants, from one processing plant to other processing plant or from processing plant to the distribution points (C&F agencies) or from distribution points to the retailers may be permitted after due inspection based on the accompanying documents which clarify

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that they are nothing but seeds or the packing materials, leaflets, treating materials etc., required for packing seeds.

Since the seeds move across the States, the intimation will have to be sent to all the States so that the movement of seeds is allowed from State to State without any hindrance.

3. The Agro input retailers may be permitted to sell seeds depending on the sowing season in respective regions / States. Ex: the Jute sowing is already started in West Bengal. The cotton sowing may start very soon in Punjab, Haryana etc.

In view of the need to protect the agriculture, food production and rural employment, we request you to kindly issue clarificatory circulars to all the States as soon as possible for which we shall be grateful.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



M Prabhakar Rao  
President

Copy submitted to:

The Principal Secretaries of all States