

GUIDELINES FOR MULTIPLICATION OF A VARIETY UNDER REGISTRATION PROCESS

The purpose of the Guidelines for multiplication of a variety under registration across ESCAA member countries is to provide information to Competent Authorities when seeds are multiplied in an ESCAA member country of a variety under registration process in another ESCAA member country.

These guidelines were drafted in 2025 by a working group composed of experts from Italy, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain, Greece, Netherlands and Bulgaria.

ESCAA strongly encourages its members to apply those guidelines.

The procedure would be as follows:

1. The applicant for variety registration (breeder, maintainer or their representatives) submits to the Competent Authority of the country of registration a request to communicate the arrangements for the multiplication to the Competent Authority of the country of multiplication.

This request shall include at least the following elements:

- species
 - breeder's reference of the material
 - provisional denomination of variety
 - country of the seed multiplication
 - name of the multiplication company
 - seed category to be sown
 - certification/production country
 - quantity of seed to be sown
 - category of the seed to be produced
 - area of production.
2. The Competent Authority of the country of registration verifies that the request is legitimate, i.e. if the application for the registration of the variety was duly submitted. In addition, the Competent Authority of the country of registration verifies if a provisional description (breeder description or first-year official description) and a reference sample of the variety can be provided. If all the conditions are verified, the Competent Authority of the country of registration issues an agreement for the multiplication of the variety in the country of multiplication.
 3. The Competent Authority of the country of registration informs the Competent Authority of the country of multiplication (the applicant in copy) about the multiplication agreement, provides the provisional description and, upon request, the reference sample of the variety under registration process.

4. Field inspections are carried out officially or under official supervision in the Country of multiplication to check whether the relevant requirements for the category to be produced are satisfied.
5. Seed which has been found to satisfy the conditions for the category to be produced can be harvested, processed, stored in sealed packages and labelled with a reference to the status “variety under registration”. Then, it can take two different paths:
 - a. The seed is moved to another ESCAA member Country where the certification procedures will be completed. In this case, the Seed Certification Agency of the country of multiplication provides a document containing the following information:
 - Authority issuing the document,
 - species,
 - breeder reference of the material (provisional denomination of variety),
 - country where the application for registration has been made,
 - country of the seed multiplication,
 - reference number of the seed lot used to sow the field,
 - category of the harvested seed,
 - area of production,
 - seed lot reference number,
 - quantity of seed harvested and number of packages,
 - attestation that the conditions to be satisfied by the crop from which the seed comes have been fulfilled
 - results of a preliminary seed analysis.
 - b. The seed remains in the country of multiplication until the registration in the Common Catalogue. After that, the seed is officially labelled by the country of multiplication and placed onto the market.

Final certification can only take place when the registration of the variety has been completed.