

The Present Situation and Suggestion of Seed Quarantine Certificate Number

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Abstract: Shanghai is an important port of seed trade in China. In recent years, invisible dangers and unexpected problems of seed production have occurred. Important quarantine pests such as cucumber green mottle virus disease, melon bacterial fruit mottle disease and rice bacterial stripe disease have been found successively. These diseases seriously affected the safety of agricultural production and brand construction in Shanghai.^[4] The number of seed quarantine certificate is an important measure to ensure the hygienic production of seeds from the beginning, which is of far-reaching significance to reduce the risk of pest infestation's introduction and protect the trade of agricultural products. As far as Shanghai's policy is concerned, there is still a long way to go before achieving a truly global level. Popularizing relevant laws and regulations of seed quarantine certification are the crucial factor to enhance the security in the trading and producing process. In this paper, several problems existing in the seed quarantine certificate are discussed. Also proposing some countermeasures and suggestions, which will provide a direction for the future development of seed quarantine certificate number.

Keywords: Countermeasure; Laws about the Seed Quarantine Certificate Number; Current Situation about the Seed Quarantine Certificate Number; Future Development; Proposal

In order to further improve the market transaction, circulation and using of seeds, Ministry of Agriculture of the PRC approves Seed Law of the PRC, later at the sixth executive meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture in 2016 was reviewed and approved the measures for the administration of crop seed labels and instructions for use which refining crop seed's label and specification. However, in fact, the implementation of many regulatory measures is not entirely satisfactory, and the punishment measures that lacking the corresponding severe supervision has lost its original deterrent, which can not really regulate the market. After inspection and registration, it has been found that there are some problems with the quarantine certificate number on the seed label. These problems are not only greatly affect the

efficiency of seed quarantine management, but also make the number of quarantine certificate unable to achieve its due role in promoting seed quarantine.^[5]

1. General situation of seed quarantine certificate number

1.1 What is seed quarantine certificate number

The concept of the seed quarantine certificate number shall be according to Article 16 of the measures for the administration of crop seed labels and instructions for use: the quarantine certificate number shall be marked with the origin quarantine certificate number or the plant quarantine certificate number. The number of

the quarantine certificate of imported seeds shall be marked with the number of the quarantine approval form for imported seeds and seedlings

1.2 The function of quarantine certificate number

The number of the quarantine certificate of seeds is the item that must be marked in Seed Law of the PRC. It is not only the certification that the seeds have passed the inspection and quarantine, but also the way for consumers to obtain the information of possible seed disease. To sum up, it is not only of legal significance to pay more attention to the number of quarantine certificate which mean making it scientific and standardized, but also of great importance to protect agricultural production from the spread of quarantine pests.

1.3 Laws and regulations on the number of seed quarantine certificate

In recent years, the issue of seed quarantine certificate number has been paid more attention by the relevant departments. In 2015, Seed Law of the PRC added the corresponding steps of seed quarantine, labeling and management compared with the previous enforced law, and revised the corresponding punishment measures. In 2016, the measures for the administration of crop seed labeling and instructions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture is more specific than the previous general principles for crop seed labeling. And along with the continuous evolution of seed quarantine certificate, the QR coding rules of crop seed label have been issued to standardize the new kind of seed quarantine certificate.

2. The main problems existing in the current seed quarantine certificate number

2.1 There are many differences in the marking of seed quarantine certificate number between manufacturers in the market

After investigation, it is found that most of the seed quarantine certificates in the market are marked with various postil, such as quarantine number, agricultural

inspection number, quarantine number, plant quarantine number and origin quarantine number. Some manufacturer will add numbers in Chinese and English: no. 13608400201xxxxx or *Ji Zhi Jian Zi* 13608400201xxxxx, which is not standardized.

2.2 When purchasing sub packaged seeds (simple packaging)

In the market, merchants often puzzled been asked for the seed quarantine certificate number or the seed quarantine certificate. Some even confused the seed production and operation license with the seed quarantine certificate, mistaking the seed production and operation license number for the seed quarantine certificate number.

2.3 The quarantine time which corresponding to the seed quarantine certificate number is not consistent with fact

Through careful inspection of the number, it has found that the interval between production time and quarantine time marked on some seed labels are very large, and the phenomenon of expired quarantine certificate number is frequently occurred. For example, the production years of seeds marked on seed labels are all October 2013, but the marked quarantine certificate number are follows. They are 37142203201000019, 6207020020120317 and 6207020020110106. They are all expired quarantine certificate numbers because the number should be issued and produced in the same year.^[1]

2.4 Unscientific using of QR code label

Although there are few commodities that use QR code to show the seed quarantine certificate in the market, at present, there are many problems in the QR code label, such as the QR code can not be read at all, or the information read out is very confusing, or even just mass of chaotic. Some businesses do not display information in accordance with the QR code coding rules for crop seed labels. There are not a few that scan QR code to display the original seed quarantine certificate number directly.

2.5 Do not meet the writing rules

Since July 1, 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture has uniformly launched the new version of the rules for the

numbering of agricultural plant quarantine documents nationwide, but in fact, there are diverse kinds of seed quarantine certificate numbers in the market, such as *Hu* (XX) *Zhi Jian Hao* XX, 3401000000100xx (15 digits), xxxx0011110009 (14 digits), which obviously do not conform to the new version of the rules for the numbering of agricultural plant quarantine documents.

2.6 The seed quarantine certificate number is attached in different ways

For the regular seeds purchased in the market, the number of seed quarantine certificate can be attached in the following ways: spraying code on the outer packaging, printing QR code on the outsourcing, outer packaging sticker, and internal paper (the number and QR code exist at the same time), and some internal labels are just anti-counterfeiting code without quarantine certificate number.

3. Proposal

3.1 Popularization of seed quarantine knowledge

In view of the above irregularities in our life, further implement the proposal of the Ministry of agriculture on "one strengthening, two construction and three quarantine" to ensure the orderly development of seed circulation market. "One strengthening" is to strengthen the popularization of plant quarantine knowledge. Because the work of plant quarantine involves a wide range and a large amount of work, it is not only necessary for the personnel of seed production enterprises to know the importance and basic legality of seed quarantine, but also necessary for leaders and cadres at each department, the whole society and individual merchants to pay attention to this work. The popularization rate of seed quarantine knowledge and quarantine system will be improved by widely publicizing plant inspection knowledge and relevant laws and regulations about it. "Two constructions" are correspond to the construction of plant quarantine laboratory and grass-roots quarantine team. First, we need to strengthen the construction of plant quarantine laboratories at all levels. Making the special quarantine equipment well-functioning and complete. In particular, on-site inspection and testing equipment and technical

measures for specified kinds of quarantine pests. Second, we need to strengthen the training of quarantine teams. Plant quarantine work is a very professional work, not only requires quarantine officers to be familiar with the relevant laws, but also to have a vast amount of quarantine knowledge. To strengthen the quarantine teams, we should ensure the stability of the team and increase the number of professional quarantine personnel. Then we should arrange the corresponding funds. Finally, we should strengthen the cultivation of the professional ability of quarantine personnel.^[2]

3.2 Strengthen the effective operation of the supervision mechanism of quarantine certificate number, and actively release potential abilities of seed quarantine certificate number in seed supervision

Further informatization of the national agricultural plant quarantine management system. It is more convenient for those authorized enterprises to query the quarantine certificate number issued by the plant quarantine organizations over the country in the system when using at real time. In this way, it is efficient to distinguish marking numbers at will, using overdue numbers, using single numbers at multiple seed, tampering with numbers and illegal behaviors.^[3]

3.3 Suggestions on future development of seed quarantine certificate number

Under the leading of the Ministry of Agriculture, the number of seed quarantine certificate shall be attached in a unified way throughout whole country, in the form of stickers and QR code in outer package. The specific content such as information and seed quarantine certificate number format shall be filled in and formatted by the Ministry of Agriculture. Printed and pasted by each manufacturer themselves. Provincial, municipal and regional agricultural quarantine stations jointly supervise the market. Quarantine institutions at all levels share quarantine information, and track the transferred seeds together. The law enforcement organ shall intensify the punishment and impose severe punishment on the merchants who do not stick the seed quarantine certificate number or sell without sticking the number. At the crucial moment of the epidemic virus which being called COVID-19 all over the country, let

consumers feel worrisome. With our country pushing the Belt and Road policy, making the seeds of fine crops are accessible and safe to overseas companies. As general secretary Jinping Xi delivered in the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the second International Cooperation Summit Forum, let us make progress together and sow the seeds of cooperation, and we will benefit from the fruits of development. Make the world a better place!

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