

## **Use of “Sticker” Seed Labels on Certified Seed Packets**

Seed certification is important as it is the process through which the government gives quality assurance on the seeds available to the farming community. The objectives of seed certification are:

- i. To ensure that seed sold to farmers meets minimum government set quality standards so as to maximize their crop production.
- ii. To promote seed trade (locally and internationally) by complying with set regulations/ agreements.

Seed certification in Kenya is guided by the Seeds and Plant Varieties Act (Cap 326), which empowers the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Agriculture to make regulations governing seed certification. The Seeds and Plant Varieties (Seeds) Regulations have provisions for labelling as a quality assurance measure.

KEPHIS recently introduced “Sticker” Seed labels for use on seed packets 5 kg and below. The label contains the following information:

- KEPHIS Logo
- Serial number
- Concealed number
- “Sms” code 1393

A farmer can check if the seed is genuine by following the following steps upon purchase of seed:

1. Scratch the label to reveal the scratch code (number).
2. Send the number as an “sms” to 1393.

The farmer will receive feedback if the seed is genuine or not. The sms is free of charge.

In case of difficulties in using the system, negative feedback or any other complaints on seed quality, farmers are encouraged to contact KEPHIS on the following numbers:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Tel. No</b>	<b>Email</b>
Nairobi/HQs	0709891000/020-661-800-00	director@kephis.org
Naivasha	0795057145	kephisnaivasha@kephis.org
Kitale	0722209502	kephiskitale@kephis.org
Nakuru	0722209503	kephisnakuru@kephis.org
Mombasa	0722209501	kephis_mombasa@kephis.org
Embu	0728600092	kephis_embu@kephis.org
Kisumu	0728607098/057-2024776/ 057-2024727	kephiskisumu@kephis.org

Farmers are also advised on the following:

1. Purchase seed only from licensed seed sellers.
2. Obtain an official receipt on purchase of seeds.
3. Not to buy seeds with tampered packets.
4. Keep the receipts and empty seed packets throughout the growing season for reference in case of complaints.
5. Report to KEPHIS immediately after anomalies are observed in the seed or resultant crops.
6. Report any strange diseases or pests to KEPHIS and agricultural extension staff.