

PACKAGING AND HANDLING OF SEED

Packaging:

After processing and treating are completed, seed are packaged into containers of specified net weight. Packaging or bagging is essentially the last operation in which seed are handled in bulk flow and it makes future operations easier by:

1. Dividing the larger seed mass into units of specified weight which can be marketed easily.
2. Making handling, shipping and storage more orderly.
3. Helping provide positive identification of the seed.
4. Providing a means of carrying promotional and planting information with seed.

Bagging is usually the slowest and most costly operation in a seed processing plant. Bagging requires filling the bag to an exact weight, closing, and labeling the bag. These operations are often done by hand in several steps. This requires much labour and is slow and inaccurate. Newer equipment combines several of these steps and enables the processor to bag seed faster and at lower cost.

The Bagger-Weigher:

These are small machines which, when properly mounted beneath a bin, will fill and weigh a bag in a single operation. Several models of bagger-weighers are available. Operational steps include:

1. The empty bag is suspended on the bagger-weigher by a bag clamp.
2. Seed flow into the bag is begun, usually by a trip lever.
3. As seed flow into the suspended bag, a scale – type counter balance mechanism is actuated, so that when the proper weight of seed is in the bag, the seed flow lever is tripped and seed flow is automatically stopped.
4. The bag, now filled with the exact weight of seed, is removed from the bagger and is closed.
5. Bagger-weighers are relatively simple machines, are very accurate, easy to adjust and can easily fill 5 to 6 bags per minute.