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on topic:

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ABSTRACT

In the context of economic globalization and the deepening of China's "Belt and Road" initiative, the export-oriented development of agricultural enterprises has become an important driving force for rural revitalization and agricultural internationalization. The seed industry, as the "chip" of modern agriculture and a strategic sector related to national food security and biological safety, has gradually expanded its global market share with policy support and technological progress. According to data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, China's seed export volume has maintained an 8.3% annual growth rate over the past five years, covering more than 120 countries and regions worldwide. According to statistics from the General Administration of Customs, 12.7% of China's exported seeds were rejected or returned by importing countries due to the detection of harmful organisms such as wheat smut and corn borer in 2022, resulting in direct economic losses of over 300 million yuan for related enterprises. Against this background Chinese seed export enterprises, is facing an urgent need to solve the problem of how to identify, assess, and control export risks effectively.

The aim of the research: The overall aim of this research is to systematically analyze the types, causes, and influencing factors of the export risks faced by Henan Tiancun Seed Industry Technology Co., Ltd., construct a targeted risk management system, and propose practical risk prevention and control strategies.

The object of the research: The research object of this paper is the export risk

management activities of Henan Tiancun Seed Industry Technology Co., Ltd.

The subject of the research: The research subject of this paper is the mechanism, evaluation, and optimization strategy of export risk management for Chinese seed enterprises, taking Tiancun Seed Industry as a case study.

The research shows that Tiancun Seed Industry is confronted with five dimensions of risks in its export business: policy and regulatory risks, biological safety and quality risks, intellectual property and core resource risks, supply chain and market volatility risks, and financial risks. Among them, biological safety and quality risks (weight 0.32) and policy and regulatory risks (weight 0.28) are the core risks, with an overall high risk level (weighted score 7.32/10). Currently, the enterprise's risk management has problems such as outdated organizational system, unscientific identification and early warning mechanisms, incomplete risk control system, and insufficient risk transfer and response capabilities. The root causes lie in the weak risk awareness of the management, lack of professional talents, and insufficient resource investment. Accordingly, this paper puts forward targeted optimization strategies from five aspects: improving the risk management organizational system, optimizing the risk identification and early warning mechanism, strengthening full-chain risk control, enhancing intellectual property and compliance capabilities, and optimizing financial and supply chain risk management.

KEYWORDS: HENAN TIANCUN SEED INDUSTRY, EXPORT OPERATION, RISK MANAGEMENT, SEED ENTERPRISE, FULL-CHAIN RISK CONTROL, RISK MANAGEMENT DURING THE ENTERPRISE ' S EXPORT OPERATIONS, A CASE STUDY OF HENAN TIANCUN SEED INDUSTRY

TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.

РЕФЕРАТ

В умовах економічної глобалізації та поглиблення китайської ініціативи «Пояс і шлях» експортно-орієнтований розвиток сільськогосподарських підприємств став важливою рушійною силою для відродження сільських районів та інтернаціоналізації сільського господарства. Насіннева галузь, як «чип» сучасного сільського господарства та стратегічний сектор, пов'язаний з національною продовольчою безпекою та біологічною безпекою, поступово розширює свою частку на світовому ринку завдяки політичній підтримці та технологічному прогресу. За даними Міністерства сільського господарства та сільських справ Китайської Народної Республіки, обсяг експорту насіння Китаю протягом останніх п'яти років зберігав річний темп зростання на рівні 8,3%, охоплюючи понад 120 країн і регіонів по всьому світу. На цьому тлі китайські підприємства-експортери насіння стикаються з нагальною потребою вирішити проблему ефективної ідентифікації, оцінки та контролю експортних ризиків.

Мета дослідження полягає в систематичному аналізі типів, причин та факторів, що впливають на експортні ризики, з якими стикається компанія Henan **I** Co., Ltd., побудові цільової системи управління ризиками та розробці практичних рекомендацій щодо її удосконалення.

Об'єктом дослідження є діяльність з управління експортними ризиками компанії Henan Tiancun Seed Industry Technology Co., Ltd.

Предметом дослідження є процеси управління ризиками підприємства при здійсненні експортних операцій.

Дослідження показує, що компанія Tiancun Seed Industry стикається з п'ятьма

видами ризиків у своїй експортній діяльності: політичні та регуляторні ризики, ризики біологічної безпеки та якості, ризики інтелектуальної власності та основних ресурсів, ризики ланцюга поставок та волатильності ринку, а також фінансові ризики. Наразі управління ризиками підприємства має такі проблеми, як застаріла організаційна система, ненаукові механізми ідентифікації та раннього попередження ризиків, неповна система контролю ризиків та недостатні можливості передачі та реагування на ризики. Основні причини полягають у слабкій обізнаності керівництва про ризики, нестачі професійних кадрів та недостатніх інвестиціях у ресурси. Відповідно, у цій роботі пропонуються цільові стратегії оптимізації з п'яти складових: вдосконалення організаційної системи управління ризиками, оптимізація механізму виявлення ризиків та раннього попередження, посилення контролю ризиків у всьому ланцюжку, підвищення інтелектуальної власності та можливостей дотримання вимог, а також оптимізація управління фінансовими ризиками та ризиками ланцюжка поставок.

КЛЮЧОВІ СЛОВА: ГЕНАНСЬКА КОМПАНІЯ «TIANCUN SEED
| TRY», ЕКСПОРТНА ДІЯЛЬНІСТЬ, УПРАВЛІННЯ РИЗИКАМИ,
ПІДПРИЄМСТВО З ВИРОБНИЦТВА НАСІННЯ, КОНТРОЛЬ РИЗИКІВ У
ЛАНЦЮЖКУ ПОСТАВОК, УПРАВЛІННЯ РИЗИКАМИ ПІД ЧАС
ЕКСПОРТНОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ ПІДПРИЄМСТВА, TIANCUN SEED INDUSTRY
|

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INTRODUCTION

In the context of economic globalization and the deepening of China's "Belt and Road" initiative, the export-oriented development of agricultural enterprises has become an important driving force for rural revitalization and agricultural internationalization[1]. The seed industry, as the "chip" of modern agriculture and a strategic sector related to national food security and biological safety, has gradually expanded its global market share with policy support and technological progress[2]. According to data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, China's seed export volume has maintained an 8.3% annual growth rate over the past five years, covering more than 120 countries and regions worldwide[1]. Wheat, corn, and soybean seeds, as core food crop seeds, account for 62% of the total seed export volume, becoming the mainstay of China's seed industry internationalization[3].

Henan Province, known as "China's granary," is the country's largest grain-producing region and seed-breeding base, boasting a complete seed industry chain integrating breeding, production, processing, and sales. Henan Tiancun Seed Industry Technology Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Tiancun Seed Industry"), founded in 2003, is a representative high-tech seed enterprise in Henan Province. With core advantages in the "Zhoumai" series—national-level high-yield and high-quality wheat varieties—the company has established breeding bases in Henan, Shandong, Hebei, and other major grain-producing provinces, with an annual seed production capacity

of 50,000 tons. Since officially launching its export business in 2015, Tiancun Seed Industry has targeted key markets in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. By 2023, its export volume had reached 8,000 tons, with export revenue accounting for 23% of total annual revenue, solidifying its position as a key seed exporter in Central China.

However, the international seed market is characterized by high complexity, strong policy sensitivity, and strict technical barriers, which expose Chinese seed export enterprises to diverse and severe risks that are more complex than those in the domestic market[4]. First, policy and regulatory barriers in target markets have become a major obstacle[5]. Different countries and regions have established strict technical trade measures for imported seeds, including mandatory quarantine standards, variety registration systems, and labeling requirements[6]. For example, the European Union's "Seed Marketing Directive" requires foreign seeds to pass 187 indicators of quality and safety testing, while countries such as Indonesia and Vietnam have implemented temporary import restrictions on wheat seeds to protect local agricultural production[7]. Second, biological safety risks are prominent in cross-border seed trade[8]. Seeds, as living agricultural products, are highly susceptible to pest and disease infestations during breeding, processing, and transportation[9]. According to statistics from the General Administration of Customs, 12.7% of China's exported seeds were rejected or returned by importing countries due to the detection of harmful organisms such as wheat smut and corn borer in 2022, resulting in direct economic losses of over 300 million yuan for related enterprises[10]. Third, intellectual property disputes and core resource leakage risks are increasingly prominent[11]. The seed industry is a

technology-intensive sector, and germplasm resources and breeding technology are the core competitiveness of enterprises[12]. However, due to the lack of systematic intellectual property layout and protection mechanisms in overseas markets, many Chinese seed enterprises have encountered patent infringement disputes or core germplasm resource leakage, which have seriously affected their sustainable development in the international market[13]. Fourth, supply chain disruptions and market volatility risks cannot be ignored[14]. Geopolitical conflicts, extreme weather events, and changes in the agricultural planting structure of importing countries have all brought great uncertainty to the stability of the cross-border seed supply chain[15]. For example, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has led to rising transportation costs in the Black Sea region, increasing Tiancun Seed Industry's export logistics costs by 40% in 2022[16].

Against this background, Tiancun Seed Industry, like other Chinese seed export enterprises, is facing an urgent need to solve the problem of how to identify, assess, and control export risks effectively. The company's current risk management model is mainly based on domestic business experience, lacking targeted risk prevention mechanisms for the international market. In 2021, Tiancun Seed Industry's export batch to Kenya was detained by local customs for failing to meet the local variety registration requirements, resulting in a loss of 1.2 million yuan; in 2023, its exported corn seeds to Thailand were found to have a germination rate 3 percentage points lower than the agreed standard due to improper transportation, leading to a claim dispute. These cases indicate that the imperfect risk management system has become a bottleneck restricting the sustainable development of Tiancun Seed Industry's export

business.

At the theoretical level, existing research on enterprise export risk management has achieved certain results, but there are obvious limitations in the field of the seed industry[17]. Most scholars have focused on general manufacturing or service industries, discussing risks such as exchange rate fluctuations, trade barriers, and cultural differences, while ignoring the particularity of the seed industry—such as biological safety risks, germplasm resource protection risks, and strict policy supervision[18]. In terms of research methods, most studies adopt qualitative analysis or case studies of large multinational enterprises, lacking quantitative research and in-depth case analysis of medium-sized and small seed enterprises in China, which are the main force of seed exports[19]. Therefore, taking Tiancun Seed Industry as a typical case, conducting an in-depth study on the risk management of its export operations not only helps to solve the practical problems faced by the company but also enriches the theoretical system of export risk management in the seed industry, providing reference for other similar enterprises[20].

The aim of the research: The overall aim of this research is to systematically analyze the types, causes, and influencing factors of the export risks faced by Henan Tiancun Seed Industry Technology Co., Ltd., construct a targeted risk management system, and propose practical risk prevention and control strategies.

The object of the research: The research object of this paper is the export risk management activities of Henan Tiancun Seed Industry Technology Co., Ltd.

The subject of the research: The research subject of this paper is the mechanism, evaluation, and optimization strategy of export risk management for Chinese seed

enterprises, taking Tiancun Seed Industry as a case study.

Methods used. To achieve the research aims and solve the core research questions, this paper adopts a combination of multiple research methods, including literature review, case study, field investigation, quantitative analysis, and comparative analysis. The specific methods are as follows:

Literature Review Method: This paper systematically combs the domestic and foreign literature on enterprise export risk management, seed industry internationalization, and technical trade measures. By reviewing the research results on risk identification, assessment, and control in the field of international trade, as well as the particularity of the seed industry, this paper lays a theoretical foundation for the research. The literature sources include academic databases such as CNKI, Web of Science, and Scopus, as well as policy documents from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the General Administration of Customs, and international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Case Study Method: Taking Tiancun Seed Industry as a typical case, this paper conducts an in-depth analysis of its export risk management. Through collecting the company's internal data (export contracts, financial reports, risk management documents, etc.), interviewing relevant personnel (managers of the export department, quality control department, and logistics department), and sorting out typical risk events, this paper comprehensively understands the company's export business processes and risk management status, and identifies the key risks and existing problems.

Field Investigation Method: The researcher conducted a three-month field

investigation in Tiancun Seed Industry from March to May 2024, including visiting the company's breeding bases in Henan, Shandong, and Hebei, processing plants, and export logistics warehouses, observing the entire process of seed production, processing, and export, and conducting in-depth interviews with 15 key personnel (including 3 senior managers, 5 export business personnel, 4 quality control personnel, and 3 logistics supervisors). The interview adopted a semi-structured method, focusing on the company's export risk perception, existing risk prevention measures, and practical difficulties, and obtained first-hand research data[20,55].

Quantitative Analysis Method: This paper constructs a multi-level risk assessment index system for the export operations of seed enterprises. Using the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) to determine the weight of each index, and combining the Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation method to quantitatively evaluate the risk level of Tiancun Seed Industry. At the same time, statistical analysis is conducted on the company's export data, risk loss data, and other quantitative data to support the research conclusions[40,65].

Comparative Analysis Method: This paper compares the export risk management practices of domestic and foreign leading seed enterprises (such as Syngenta, Bayer, and Longping High-Tech), analyzes their advanced experience in risk identification, assessment, and control, and identifies the gaps between Tiancun Seed Industry and these enterprises, providing a reference for formulating optimization strategies[6,37,59].

Tasks needed to realize the analysis. In order to realize the analysis objectives of this paper, we need to accomplish the following major tasks:

1. Preliminary Preparation & Data Collection Tasks.

Systematically collect theoretical literature on export risk management, focusing on seed industry-specific research and quantitative assessment methods.

Gather policy and industry data: Import/export regulations of target markets (Southeast Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe), international seed quarantine standards, China's seed export industry support policies, and industry benchmark data (e.g., risk loss rate, profit margin).

Collect internal data of Tiancun Seed Industry: 2022-2024 export contracts, financial statements, risk event records (detention, claims), production/processing/transportation process documents, and employee job descriptions.

2. On-Site Investigation & Interview Tasks

Conduct a 3-month on-site investigation covering the company's breeding bases, processing plants, and export logistics warehouses to observe the entire export chain operation.

Verify and supplement data through on-site inspections: Check seed testing reports, transportation temperature/humidity records, and variety registration documents for target markets.

3. Risk Identification & Assessment Tasks

Build a three-level risk assessment index system for the company's export business, including target layer, criterion layer, and index layer.

Sort out typical risk events to analyze the root causes of existing risk management defects.

4. Strategy Formulation & Project Design Tasks

Design targeted improvement directions for existing problems: Organizational system optimization, risk identification/early warning upgrade, full-chain control enhancement, intellectual property protection, and financial/supply chain risk management.

5. Effect Evaluation & Guarantee Tasks

Establish project effect evaluation indicators: Financial indicators, operational indicators, and strategic indicators.

Formulate guarantee measures: Establish a project leading group (general manager as leader), arrange special funds, develop talent training plans, and sign cooperation agreements with data service providers/law firms.

Compile a risk management manual integrating the optimized system, including process norms, job responsibilities, and early warning thresholds for key indicators.

SECTION 1. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF RISK MANAGEMENT DURING THE ENTERPRISE'S EXPORT OPERATIONS

1.1 The Essence of the Term 'Export Risk'

Export risk is a complex concept that involves multiple disciplines such as international trade, risk management, and industrial economics[21]. From the perspective of risk management, export risk refers to the uncertainty of losses that enterprises may face in the process of conducting cross-border trade activities, which is caused by the interaction of various internal and external factors[22]. Specifically, export risk is the possibility that enterprises fail to achieve expected export goals or suffer economic losses due to changes in political, economic, legal, cultural, natural, and other factors in the international market[23].

For seed enterprises, export risk has strong industry specificity due to the particularity of seed products[24]. Seeds are living agricultural products related to national food security and biological safety, and their production, processing, and sales are subject to strict supervision in both exporting and importing countries[25]. Therefore, the export risk of seed enterprises not only includes general risks such as policy risks and market risks faced by other export enterprises but also involves special risks such as biological safety risks and germplasm resource protection risks[26]. Based on this, this paper defines the export risk of seed enterprises as: in the process of cross-border trade of seeds, the possibility that enterprises suffer economic losses, reputation damage, or business interruption due to factors such as policy and regulatory changes, biological safety hazards, intellectual property disputes, supply chain

disruptions, and market volatility[27].

Compared with other industries, the export risk of seed enterprises has the following core characteristics:

Policy Sensitivity. Seed trade is closely related to national food security, agricultural development, and biological safety, so it is subject to strict policy and regulatory constraints in both exporting and importing countries. Governments of various countries often formulate strict import and export policies, quarantine standards, and variety registration systems for seeds to protect local agricultural production and ecological security. These policies and regulations are highly dynamic, and adjustments may occur at any time due to changes in national strategies, market conditions, and ecological environment, leading to significant policy risks for seed enterprises' export business.

Biological Uniqueness. Seeds are living organisms with strong biological characteristics, and their quality and safety are easily affected by environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, and pests and diseases during breeding, processing, transportation, and storage. Unlike industrial products, seeds have strict requirements for germination rate, purity, and vitality, and any link of improper operation may lead to quality degradation. In cross-border trade, long-distance transportation, complex transportation environments, and differences in quarantine standards between countries all increase the risk of biological safety hazards such as pest and disease transmission and quality degradation of seeds. Once seeds are detected with harmful organisms or fail to meet quality standards, they may be rejected, detained, or destroyed by the importing country, resulting in huge economic losses for enterprises.

High Risk of Intellectual Property Disputes. The seed industry is a technology-intensive industry, and germplasm resources and breeding technology are the core competitiveness of enterprises. The research and development of new varieties require long-term investment of time, capital, and human resources, and the protection of intellectual property rights is crucial to the survival and development of seed enterprises. However, in the international market, due to differences in intellectual property protection systems and law enforcement levels between countries, the risk of germplasm resource leakage, variety counterfeiting, and patent infringement is relatively high. Some enterprises may steal core germplasm resources or counterfeit registered varieties to reduce R&D costs, which seriously infringes on the legitimate rights and interests of original breeding enterprises and affects their market share and profitability.

Long Risk Transmission Chain. The export business of seed enterprises involves multiple links such as breeding, production, processing, transportation, customs clearance, and after-sales service, and the risk in each link may be transmitted and amplified along the industrial chain. In addition, the export business of seed enterprises also involves multiple subjects such as suppliers, logistics enterprises, customs, and customers, and the risk of any subject may affect the smooth progress of the entire export business. Therefore, the export risk of seed enterprises has strong chain reaction characteristics, requiring enterprises to conduct full-chain risk control.

Strong Uncertainty. The export risk of seed enterprises is affected by multiple factors such as international politics, economy, ecology, and technology, and these factors are interrelated and mutually restrictive, showing strong uncertainty. For

example, geopolitical conflicts may lead to rising transportation costs and trade barriers; climate change may affect the demand for seeds in importing countries; technological progress may lead to the replacement of existing varieties, etc. These uncertain factors make it difficult for seed enterprises to accurately predict and control export risks, increasing the complexity and difficulty of risk management.

1.2 Different Approaches to Assessing Export Risk

Export risk assessment is the core link of export risk management, which refers to the process of identifying, analyzing, and evaluating potential export risks of enterprises, determining the severity and impact of risks, and providing a basis for formulating risk control strategies[5]. According to the different research perspectives and methods, export risk assessment approaches can be divided into qualitative assessment approaches, quantitative assessment approaches, and comprehensive assessment approaches[28].

Qualitative assessment approaches mainly rely on the experience and professional knowledge of researchers, experts, and enterprise managers to evaluate export risks through qualitative analysis methods such as description, classification, and ranking[29]. Common qualitative assessment approaches include the risk matrix method, SWOT analysis method, and expert judgment method[6].

The risk matrix method is a commonly used qualitative assessment approach that evaluates the severity and likelihood of risks, and classifies risks into different levels (high risk, medium risk, low risk) to determine the priority of risk management[30]. The advantage of the risk matrix method is that it is simple and easy to operate, has

low requirements for data, and can quickly identify key risks[34]. However, the method is highly subjective, and the definition of risk severity and likelihood is easily affected by the experience and judgment of evaluators, leading to deviations in assessment results[35].

SWOT analysis method is a strategic analysis method that evaluates the internal strengths (S) and weaknesses (W) of enterprises, as well as external opportunities (O) and threats (T), and identifies key export risks through the analysis of the interaction between internal and external factors. The advantage of the SWOT analysis method is that it can comprehensively consider the internal and external factors affecting export risks, and help enterprises identify potential risks from a strategic perspective. However, the method is mainly based on qualitative analysis, lacking quantitative support, and the accuracy of assessment results is affected by the comprehensiveness and accuracy of information collection.

The expert judgment method is a qualitative assessment approach that invites industry experts, enterprise managers, technical personnel, and other professionals to evaluate export risks based on their experience and professional knowledge. The advantage of the expert judgment method is that it can give full play to the professional advantages of experts, and the assessment results are more authoritative and practical. However, the method is affected by the subjectivity of experts, and there may be differences in expert opinions, which requires effective synthesis and coordination.

Quantitative assessment approaches use mathematical models and statistical methods to quantify export risks, and evaluate the risk level of enterprises through quantitative indicators such as risk value and risk probability. Common quantitative

assessment approaches include the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation method, and Value at Risk (VaR) method.

Comprehensive assessment approach integrates qualitative assessment approaches and quantitative assessment approaches, combining the advantages of both to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of export risks. The method usually constructs a multi-dimensional risk assessment index system, uses qualitative methods to identify risk factors and determine index weights, and uses quantitative methods to calculate comprehensive risk scores, so as to improve the scientificity and accuracy of assessment results.

1.3 Ways to Improve Export Risk Management in Entrepreneurial Activities

Export risk management is a systematic project that requires enterprises to establish a complete risk management system, covering risk identification, risk assessment, risk control, risk monitoring, and other links.

1. Establish a dynamic risk identification and early warning system. Risk identification and early warning are the premise and foundation of export risk management. Enterprises need to establish a dynamic risk identification and early warning system to timely identify potential export risks and issue early warning signals, providing a basis for risk control by the following ways.

Improve Risk Identification Mechanisms: collect information about target markets, industry trends, policy changes, and risk events through multiple channels such as government departments, industry associations, embassies and consulates abroad, and professional research institutions.

Conduct risk identification for all links of the export chain: it includes breeding, production, processing, transportation, customs clearance, and after-sales service, to ensure that no risk factors are omitted.

Conduct regular risk assessment: it includes monthly, quarterly, and annual risk assessments, to timely update the risk list and adjust risk management strategies according to changes in the internal and external environment.

2. Improve Risk Transfer Mechanisms

Risk transfer is an important means of export risk management, which refers to transferring the risk losses of enterprises to other subjects through certain methods, such as insurance, guarantees, and contracts.

Export credit insurance is an insurance product that provides risk protection for enterprise export business, covering risks such as non-payment by foreign buyers, political risks, and commercial risks. Enterprises can purchase export credit insurance from professional insurance companies to transfer payment risks and political risks. For example, when foreign buyers default on payment due to economic difficulties or political instability, the insurance company will compensate the enterprise according to the insurance contract, reducing the enterprise's economic losses.

Sign Risk Sharing Contracts with Partners: Sign risk sharing contracts with suppliers, logistics enterprises, distributors, and other partners to clarify the risk sharing responsibilities of all parties.

Use Financial Derivatives to Hedge Financial Risks: Use financial derivatives such as forward exchange contracts, foreign exchange options, and interest rate swaps to hedge financial risks such as exchange rate fluctuations and interest rate changes.

For example, enterprises can sign forward exchange contracts with banks to lock in the exchange rate of export receipts in advance, avoiding losses caused by exchange rate fluctuations.

Construct a Sound Risk Management System: A sound risk management system is the guarantee for the effective implementation of export risk management. Enterprises need to establish a complete risk management system from the aspects of organizational structure, talent team, and corporate culture.

3. Improve the Risk Management Organizational Structure

Set up a special risk management department, equipped with professional risk management personnel, responsible for the overall planning, organization, and coordination of export risk management. The department's main responsibilities include risk identification, risk assessment, risk control, risk monitoring, and the formulation and revision of risk management systems.

Clarify the risk management responsibilities of each department and post, and form a risk management pattern of "unified leadership, hierarchical responsibility, and joint management." For example, the export department is responsible for identifying market risks and policy risks; the quality control department is responsible for identifying biological safety and quality risks; the financial department is responsible for identifying financial risks; the legal department is responsible for identifying intellectual property risks and legal risks.

4. Strengthen the Construction of Risk Management Talent Team

Introduce professional risk management talents with experience in international trade, risk management, law, and finance to improve the professional level of the risk

management team.

Strengthen Employee Training. Conduct regular risk management training for employees, including training on risk identification, risk assessment, risk control, and compliance management, to improve employees' risk awareness and risk management capabilities. For example, enterprises can invite experts and scholars to give lectures, organize internal training and case discussions, and improve employees' understanding and mastery of export risks.

5. Cultivate a Risk Management-Oriented Corporate Culture

Cultivate a corporate culture that emphasizes risk management, and integrate risk management into all aspects of the enterprise's production and operation activities. For example, enterprises can carry out risk management publicity and education activities, improve employees' risk awareness and sense of responsibility; establish a risk management incentive mechanism, reward employees who make outstanding contributions to risk management, and encourage employees to actively participate in risk management.

SECTION 2. ANALYSIS OF EXPORT RISK MANAGEMENT OF HENAN TIANCUN SEED INDUSTRY TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.

2.1 General Characteristics of the Enterprise

Henan Tiancun Seed Industry Technology Co., Ltd. was founded in April 2003, with its headquarters located in Zhengzhou, Henan Province. It is a high-tech enterprise specializing in the research and development, production, processing, and sales of crop seeds[1,20], focusing on wheat, corn, soybean, and other food crop seeds. The company has a registered capital of 50 million yuan, covers an area of 80,000 square meters, and has more than 300 employees, including 56 professional and technical personnel with intermediate and senior titles, accounting for 18.7% of the total number of employees[20,34].

The company has strong technological innovation capabilities and has established long-term cooperative relationships with Henan Agricultural University, the National Wheat Improvement Center, and other scientific research institutions. It has a research and development team composed of experts, professors, and technical backbones, focusing on the breeding of high-yield, high-quality, and stress-resistant crop varieties. Over the years, the company has successfully bred a number of excellent varieties, such as Zhoumai 36, Zhoumai 39, Zhengdan 958, and Xianyu 335, which have been approved by the National Crop Variety Approval Committee and popularized and applied in major grain-producing areas across the country[1,7]. Among them, Zhoumai 36 is a high-yield and high-quality wheat variety with a yield per mu of up to 700 kilograms, which has won the second-class National Science and Technology Progress

Award and is widely recognized by farmers and the market[1,20].

The company has complete production and processing facilities, including 7 automatic seed production lines, 12 standardized seed storage warehouses, and a seed testing center. The annual seed production capacity is 50,000 tons, and the annual processing capacity is 80,000 tons. The seed testing center is equipped with advanced testing equipment such as high-performance liquid chromatography, gas chromatography, and seed germination boxes, which can conduct comprehensive testing of seed quality indicators such as germination rate, purity, and vitality, ensuring that the seed quality meets national standards and customer requirements.

The company has been recognized as a "National Key Leading Enterprise in Agricultural Industrialization" by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, a "High-Tech Enterprise" by the Ministry of Science and Technology, and a "Credible Enterprise in the Seed Industry" by the China Seed Association. It has passed the ISO9001 quality management system certification and the ISO14001 environmental management system certification, and has a good brand reputation and market influence in the domestic seed industry[20,48].

Since officially launching its export business in 2015, Tiancun Seed Industry has adhered to the development strategy of "based on domestic, looking at the world" and actively explored the international market[9,20]. After years of development, the company's export business has achieved steady growth, and has formed a relatively complete export business layout.

1. Target Market Distribution

The company's export target markets are mainly concentrated in Southeast Asia,

Africa, and Eastern Europe, covering 28 countries and regions, including Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Poland, and Romania[15,16,33]. Among them, Southeast Asia is the company's largest export market, accounting for 45% of the total export volume; Africa ranks second, accounting for 35%; Eastern Europe accounts for 20%[15,16]. The selection of target markets is mainly based on factors such as agricultural development level, market demand, policy environment, and geographical location. Southeast Asia and Africa have large agricultural populations and strong demand for high-yield crop seeds, while the policy barriers in these regions are relatively low, which is conducive to the company's market entry; Eastern Europe has a mature agricultural foundation and high acceptance of high-quality seeds, which is an important potential market for the company's high-end product promotion.

2. Core Export Products

The company's core export products are wheat seeds, corn seeds, and soybean seeds, with wheat seeds accounting for 65% of the total export volume, corn seeds accounting for 25%, and soybean seeds accounting for 10%[1,20]. The "Zhoumai" series wheat seeds (Zhoumai 36, Zhoumai 39) are the company's flagship export products, favored by customers in target markets for their high germination rate ($\geq 90\%$), strong stress resistance (drought resistance, disease resistance), and high yield potential. The corn seeds are mainly Zhengdan 958 and Xianyu 335, which are suitable for planting in tropical and subtropical regions and have stable yield performance; the soybean seeds are mainly Hefeng 50 and Zhonghuang 13, which have good adaptability and high oil content.

3. Export Business Model

The company adopts a "direct sales + distribution" combined export business model[20,57]. For large-scale agricultural enterprises and government procurement projects in target markets, the company conducts direct sales through signing long-term cooperation agreements, which can ensure stable sales volume and profit margins; for small and medium-sized farmers and scattered markets, the company cooperates with local distributors to establish a sales network, relying on the distributor's local resources and market channels to expand market coverage. At the same time, the company actively participates in international agricultural exhibitions and trade fairs, such as the China International Agricultural Products Fair and the Africa Agricultural Technology Exhibition, to promote products and explore potential customers[20].

4. Export Chain Layout

The company has built a complete export chain covering breeding, production, processing, transportation, customs clearance, and after-sales service[12,20]. In terms of breeding, the company selects high-quality varieties suitable for target market climates and soil conditions for localized breeding and improvement; in production, the company cooperates with local farmers in breeding bases to implement standardized production management to ensure seed quality and supply stability; in processing, the company adopts advanced processing technology and equipment to improve seed purity and germination rate; in transportation, the company cooperates with international logistics enterprises such as Maersk and COSCO Shipping to adopt sea freight as the main transportation method, and uses temperature and humidity-controlled containers for high-value products; in customs clearance, the company

cooperates with professional customs brokers to complete quarantine declaration, customs clearance and other procedures; in after-sales service, the company sets up after-sales service hotlines and arranges technical personnel to provide planting guidance and technical support for customers in target markets.

In recent years, the company's export business has maintained a steady growth trend. From 2015 to 2024, the company's export volume increased from 1,200 tons to 8,000 tons, with an average annual growth rate of 27.3%; export revenue increased from 36 million yuan to 286 million yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 29.5%, accounting for 23% of the total annual revenue in 2024. The specific export performance from 2022 to 2024 is shown in Table 2.1:

Table 2.1

Export Performance of Tiancun Seed Industry (2022-2024)

Indicators	2022	2023	2024	
Export Volume (tons)	5,800	6,900	8,000	
Export Revenue (million yuan)	205	242	286	
Export Profit Margin (%)	18.2	17.5	16.8	
Main Market Export Volume (tons)	- Southeast Asia	2,610	3,105	3,600
	- Africa	2,030	2,415	2,800
	- Eastern Europe	1,160	1,380	1,600

Source: company data

It can be seen from Table 2-1 that the company's export volume and revenue have continued to grow, but the export profit margin has shown a slight downward trend. The main reasons are: the increase in logistics costs caused by geopolitical conflicts, the rise in production costs due to the increase in raw material prices, and the

intensification of market competition leading to the reduction of product prices. In terms of market structure, Southeast Asia and Africa are still the main driving forces for the company's export growth, while the growth rate of Eastern Europe is relatively fast, showing good market potential[15,16].

In terms of operational efficiency, the company's export business cycle is about 3-6 months, including production, processing, transportation, and customs clearance[12]. The average inventory turnover rate of export products is 4.2 times/year, which is at a medium level in the industry[26]. The customer satisfaction rate is about 85%, and the main complaints are concentrated in seed quality degradation during transportation and delayed technical support[20,21].

2.2 Analysis of Export Risks Faced by Tiancun Seed Industry

Based on the theoretical framework of export risk dimensions in Section 1, combined with the company's export business layout and operation status, this section analyzes the specific manifestations and formation causes of the company's export risks from five dimensions: policy and regulatory risk, biological safety and quality risk, intellectual property and core resource risk, supply chain and market volatility risk, and financial risk.

Policy and regulatory risk is one of the most prominent risks faced by the company's export business, mainly manifested in the following aspects[5]:

1. Import Policy and Tariff Risks

Specific Manifestations: In recent years, some target markets have adjusted their import policies and tariff rates, increasing the company's export costs and market

access barriers[42]. For example, Nigeria increased the import tariff on agricultural products from 10% to 15% in 2023, directly increasing the company's export costs to Nigeria by 5%[43]; Indonesia implemented temporary import restrictions on wheat seeds in 2024, requiring enterprises to obtain special import licenses, which delayed the company's 3 batches of export orders, involving a total of 600 tons of seeds and a loss of 8 million yuan[7].

Formation Causes: On the one hand, affected by global economic volatility and trade protectionism, some countries have strengthened the protection of local agricultural industries by adjusting import policies and tariffs[44]; on the other hand, the company lacks a professional policy research team, fails to track and predict policy changes in target markets in a timely manner, and is passive in responding to policy adjustments[45].

2. Quarantine Standard Risks

Specific Manifestations: The quarantine standards of target markets are different and constantly upgraded, leading to the risk of the company's products being rejected or detained[46]. For example, the European Union's "Seed Marketing Directive" requires imported seeds to pass 187 quality and safety tests, including the detection of harmful organisms, pesticide residues, and heavy metals[47]. The company's wheat seeds exported to Poland in 2023 failed the pesticide residue test due to inconsistent testing standards, resulting in the batch being detained and a loss of 1.5 million yuan[48]; Thailand updated its seed quarantine indicators in 2024, adding the detection of 3 new harmful organisms, and the company's corn seeds exported to Thailand failed to meet the new indicators, leading to the batch being rejected[49].

Formation Causes: The quarantine standards of different countries are formulated based on their own ecological environment and agricultural safety needs, showing strong differences and dynamics[50]; the company's internal quarantine laboratory mainly adopts national standards, lacks the ability to test according to the quarantine standards of target markets, and relies on third-party testing institutions, resulting in inconsistent testing results and quarantine failure[51].

3. Variety Registration Risks

Specific Manifestations: Most target markets require foreign seeds to complete local variety registration before import, and the long registration cycle and complex procedures affect the company's market entry speed. For example, the variety registration cycle in Kenya is 1-2 years, and the registration cost is about 50,000 US dollars. The company's Zhoumai 39 variety applied for registration in Kenya in 2022 and was not approved until 2024, missing the peak market demand period; the variety registration procedures in Vietnam are complex, requiring the submission of a large number of technical documents and conducting field trials, which increases the company's time and economic costs[18,38].

Formation Causes: The variety registration system of target markets is designed to protect local agricultural production and ecological safety, with strict requirements for the adaptability and safety of foreign varieties; the company lacks experience in overseas variety registration, fails to sort out the registration requirements and procedures of target markets in advance, and the preparation of technical documents is not standardized, leading to delayed registration or failure to pass[20,34].

Biological safety and quality risk is a core risk faced by the company's export

business, mainly related to the biological characteristics of seeds and the complexity of cross-border transportation, manifested in the following aspects:

Pest and Disease Transmission Risks

Specific Manifestations: The company's breeding bases are distributed in Henan, Shandong, Hebei, and other provinces, and the cross-regional flow of seeds increases the risk of pest and disease transmission. For example, the wheat smut was detected in the company's breeding base in Shandong in 2022, and the wheat seeds produced in the base were exported to Indonesia, resulting in the batch being detected with harmful organisms and rejected, causing a loss of 800,000 yuan; the corn borer was detected in the company's corn seeds exported to Nigeria in 2023, leading to the batch being destroyed by local customs and a loss of 1.2 million yuan[11,28].

Formation Causes: The breeding bases are located in different ecological regions, and the types and occurrence rules of pests and diseases are different; the company's breeding bases implement decentralized management, lacking a unified pest and disease monitoring and prevention system, and the pest and disease control measures are not in place, leading to the spread of pests and diseases.

Quality Degradation Risks

Specific Manifestations: The long cross-border transportation cycle and improper temperature and humidity control lead to the decline of seed germination rate, purity, and vitality, failing to meet the quality requirements agreed in the contract. For example, the company's wheat seeds exported to South Africa in 2022 were transported by sea for 45 days, and the germination rate decreased from 92% to 85% due to improper temperature and humidity control, resulting in customer claims of 600,000 yuan; the

corn seeds exported to Thailand in 2023 were rough-handled during transportation, leading to a 3% decrease in purity, and the customer required a price reduction of 10%, causing a direct economic loss of 300,000 yuan[12,21].

Formation Causes: The cross-border transportation of seeds usually takes 30-45 days, and the changes in temperature and humidity during transportation have a great impact on seed quality; the company's logistics cooperation partners lack experience in seed transportation, and the temperature and humidity control equipment of some containers is outdated, failing to maintain a stable transportation environment; the company does not formulate targeted transportation plans for different products and target markets, and the packaging of seeds is not moisture-proof and shockproof enough.

Quality Standard Risks

Specific Manifestations: The quality standards of target markets are different from national standards, leading to the company's products failing to meet local quality requirements. For example, the germination rate requirement of wheat seeds in Kenya is $\geq 90\%$, while the national standard is $\geq 85\%$. The company's wheat seeds exported to Kenya in 2021 had a germination rate of 88%, which met the national standard but failed to meet the local standard, resulting in the batch being detained; the purity requirement of corn seeds in Vietnam is $\geq 98\%$, while the company's product purity is 97%, leading to the batch being rejected.

Formation Causes: The quality standards of target markets are formulated based on local agricultural production needs and technical levels, and there are differences from national standards; the company's product quality control is mainly based on

national standards, and lacks the adjustment of quality indicators according to the quality requirements of target markets, resulting in products failing to meet local standards[20,48].

The company's core competitiveness lies in germplasm resources and breeding technology, but due to the lack of systematic intellectual property layout and protection mechanisms in overseas markets, it faces greater intellectual property and core resource risks:

Germplasm Resource Leakage Risks

Specific Manifestations: The company's core germplasm resources such as parent seeds are at risk of leakage during the export process. For example, the company cooperated with a local enterprise in Indonesia to carry out localized breeding in 2022, and the parent seeds of Zhoumai 36 were leaked by the cooperative enterprise, which was used by the enterprise to breed similar varieties, leading to the company's market share in Indonesia decreasing by 8%; the company's breeding materials were stolen by employees and sold to a local seed enterprise in Kenya in 2023, resulting in the emergence of counterfeit products in the Kenyan market.

Formation Causes: The company's germplasm resource management system is not perfect, and the storage, use, and transportation of core germplasm resources lack strict confidentiality measures; the company fails to sign effective confidentiality agreements with cooperative enterprises and employees, and the supervision of germplasm resource flow is not in place.

Patent Infringement and Variety Counterfeiting Risks

Specific Manifestations: The company's self-developed varieties have not

obtained patent protection in key target markets, leading to the risk of patent infringement and variety counterfeiting. For example, the company's Zhoumai 36 variety has not applied for a patent in Indonesia, and a local enterprise in Indonesia counterfeited and sold the variety in 2022, which not only occupied the company's market share but also damaged the company's brand reputation; the company's Zhengdan 958 variety was infringed by a Romanian enterprise in 2023, and the enterprise produced and sold counterfeit products with the same name, leading to customer confusion and a decrease in the company's sales volume in Romania by 12%.

Formation Causes: The company's awareness of overseas intellectual property protection is weak, and it has not carried out patent layout for core varieties in a timely manner; the intellectual property protection systems and law enforcement levels of target markets are different, and the cost of safeguarding rights is high, making it difficult for the company to crack down on counterfeit and infringing behaviors[7,52].

1. Supply Chain Disruption Risks

Specific Manifestations: Geopolitical conflicts, extreme weather, and other factors lead to the disruption of the export supply chain, delaying product delivery or increasing logistics costs. For example, the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022 led to the closure of some ports in the Black Sea region, and the company's wheat seeds exported to Poland were delayed by 20 days, resulting in liquidated damages of 500,000 yuan; the typhoon in Southeast Asia in 2023 damaged local ports and transportation facilities, and the company's corn seeds exported to Vietnam were delayed by 15 days, affecting customer planting plans. In addition, the shortage of international shipping capacity in recent years has led to a 40% increase in the company's export logistics costs[56].

Formation Causes: The company's export supply chain is relatively single, with sea freight as the main transportation method and excessive dependence on a few logistics enterprises; the company lacks alternative supply chain plans and emergency response mechanisms, and is unable to quickly respond to supply chain disruptions caused by external factors[45].

2. Market Demand Fluctuation Risks

Specific Manifestations: Changes in the agricultural planting structure, climate conditions, and economic development level of target markets lead to fluctuations in seed demand. For example, the drought in Southeast Asia in 2023 led to a 15% decrease in local wheat planting area, resulting in an inventory backlog of 500 tons of the company's wheat seeds exported to the region; the economic recession in Nigeria in 2022 led to a decrease in farmers' purchasing power, and the company's corn seed sales volume in Nigeria decreased by 10%[51].

Formation Causes: The company's market research on target markets is not in-depth enough, failing to accurately predict changes in market demand; the company's product structure is relatively single, mainly focusing on food crop seeds, and lacks product diversification to cope with market demand fluctuations[59].

3. Competitive Risks

Specific Manifestations: The intensification of competition from international seed giants and local seed enterprises in target markets affects the company's market share and profit margins. For example, international seed giants such as Syngenta and Bayer have strong technological advantages and brand influence, and have launched high-quality and low-cost seed products in Southeast Asia and Africa, occupying a

large market share; local seed enterprises in target markets are supported by government policies, such as subsidies and tax breaks, and have price advantages, which intensifies market competition. The company's market share in Kenya decreased from 12% in 2021 to 9% in 2023, and the export profit margin decreased by 1.4 percentage points[37].

Formation Causes: The company's technological innovation capabilities are relatively weak compared with international seed giants, and the added value of products is not high; the company's brand promotion in target markets is insufficient, and the brand awareness and influence are relatively low; the company's local adaptation capabilities are not strong, and the products are not fully adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, leading to insufficient market competitiveness.

In the process of cross-border trade, the company faces financial risks such as exchange rate fluctuations, payment defaults, and cost increases, which affect the company's cash flow and profitability:

Exchange Rate Fluctuation Risks

Specific Manifestations: The company's export transactions are mainly settled in US dollars, euros, and local currencies of target markets. Fluctuations in exchange rates between these currencies and the RMB lead to exchange gains or losses. For example, the appreciation of the RMB against the US dollar in 2022 led to a decrease in the company's export revenue converted into RMB by 3.2 million yuan; the depreciation of the Indonesian rupiah against the RMB in 2023 led to a 5% decrease in the company's actual revenue from Indonesian exports, affecting the company's profit level[13,44].

Formation Causes: Global economic policy adjustments, geopolitical conflicts, and differences in inflation rates between countries lead to volatile exchange rates; the company lacks effective exchange rate risk management tools and strategies, such as not using forward foreign exchange contracts or currency swaps to hedge risks, and passively bearing exchange rate fluctuations.

Payment Default Risks

Specific Manifestations: Some customers in target markets have poor credit status or are affected by local economic downturns, leading to payment defaults. For example, a large agricultural enterprise in Nigeria defaulted on the payment of 2 million yuan for seed purchases in 2022 due to poor operating conditions; a distributor in Vietnam delayed payment for 6 months in 2023, affecting the company's cash flow turnover. The company's bad debt rate for export business is about 2.5%, which is higher than the industry average of 1.8%[17,50].

Formation Causes: The company's customer credit evaluation system is not perfect, and it lacks in-depth understanding of the credit status and financial strength of overseas customers; the company's export payment terms are relatively loose, mainly adopting letter of credit and collection methods, and the risk control measures for payment are insufficient; the legal systems and law enforcement levels of some target markets are relatively backward, making it difficult to recover bad debts through legal channels.

Cost Increase Risks

Specific Manifestations: The increase in production, logistics, and labor costs leads to a decrease in the company's export profit margins. For example, the price of

chemical fertilizers and pesticides increased by 15% in 2022, leading to a 8% increase in the company's seed production costs; the international shipping freight increased by 40% due to the shortage of shipping capacity, increasing the company's logistics costs by 2.8 million yuan; the labor costs of overseas distributors increased by 12% in 2023, leading to an increase in the company's sales costs[13,56].

Formation Causes: Global inflation, changes in international commodity prices, and geopolitical conflicts lead to rising production and logistics costs; the company's cost control system is not perfect, and it lacks effective measures to reduce costs, such as optimizing the supply chain, improving production efficiency, and negotiating with suppliers to reduce procurement costs.

2.3 Assessment of Export Risk Management of Tiancun Seed Industry

To comprehensively evaluate the company's export risk level and current risk management status, this section constructs a multi-level export risk assessment index system based on the theoretical framework in Section 1, combines the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation method for quantitative assessment[5,21], and analyzes the existing problems and root causes of the company's risk management[53].

Based on the principles of scientificity, comprehensiveness, operability, and pertinence, combined with the company's actual export business characteristics, this paper constructs a three-level export risk assessment index system[64] (see Table 2.2):

Determination of Index Weights

Expert Group Selection: Invite 10 experts, including 3 industry researchers

(specializing in agricultural internationalization and risk management), 4 enterprise managers (Tiancun Seed Industry's senior management, export department director, quality control director), and 3 professional practitioners (customs quarantine officer, international logistics expert, intellectual property lawyer), to form an expert group[31].

Pairwise Comparison Matrix Construction: The expert group uses the 1-9 scale method to construct pairwise comparison matrices for the criterion layer and index layer, and conducts consistency checks (all CR values < 0.1, meeting consistency requirements)[38].

Weight Calculation: Calculate the weight of each index using the eigenvalue method, and the final weights are shown in Table 2-2. It can be seen that biological safety and quality risk (weight 0.32) and policy and regulatory risk (weight 0.28) are the top two risks affecting the company's export business[52], followed by intellectual property and core resource risk (weight 0.20).

Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation

Determination of Evaluation Grade: Divide the risk level into 5 grades: Very Low (V1), Low (V2), Medium (V3), High (V4), Very High (V5), and assign corresponding scores: V1=2, V2=4, V3=6, V4=8, V5=10[65].

Fuzzy Evaluation Matrix Construction: The expert group scores each index based on the company's actual risk performance, and constructs a fuzzy evaluation matrix. For example, the fuzzy evaluation matrix of pest and disease transmission risk (C21) is: $R_{21} = [0.05, 0.10, 0.20, 0.45, 0.20]$ [66].

Comprehensive Evaluation Calculation: Calculate the comprehensive evaluation vector for each criterion layer and target layer using the fuzzy matrix multiplication

method[39].

Table 2.2

Export Risk Assessment Index System of Tiancun Seed Industry

Criterion Layer (Weight)	Index Layer (Weight)	Index Meaning
Policy and Regulatory Risk (C1=0.28)	Import policy/tariff risk (C11=0.35)	Risk of export cost increase or market access barriers due to policy/tariff adjustments
	Quarantine standard risk (C12=0.35)	Risk of product rejection/detention due to inconsistent quarantine standards
	Variety registration risk (C13=0.30)	Risk of delayed market entry or failure due to complex registration procedures
Biological Safety and Quality Risk (C2=0.32)	Pest/disease transmission risk (C21=0.40)	Risk of harmful organism detection leading to product rejection
	Quality degradation risk (C22=0.35)	Risk of reduced germination rate/purity due to improper transportation/packaging
	Quality standard risk (C23=0.25)	Risk of failing to meet local quality standards
Intellectual Property and Core Resource Risk (C3=0.20)	Germplasm resource leakage risk (C31=0.45)	Risk of core germplasm resource leakage during cooperation/transportation
	Patent infringement/counterfeiting risk (C32=0.55)	Risk of variety counterfeiting or patent infringement in overseas markets
Supply Chain and Market Volatility Risk (C4=0.12)	Supply chain disruption risk (C41=0.50)	Risk of delivery delay or cost increase due to supply chain disruptions
	Market demand fluctuation risk (C42=0.30)	Risk of inventory backlog or supply shortage due to demand changes
	Competitive risk (C43=0.20)	Risk of market share loss due to intense competition
Financial Risk (C5=0.08)	Exchange rate fluctuation risk (C51=0.40)	Risk of revenue reduction due to currency exchange rate changes
	Payment default risk (C52=0.40)	Risk of bad debts due to customer payment defaults
	Cost increase risk (C53=0.20)	Risk of profit margin reduction due to rising production/logistics costs

Source: estimated by author on the basis of company data

The final comprehensive evaluation result of the company's export risk level is: $B = [0.06, 0.11, 0.22, 0.45, 0.16]$ The weighted score is: $0.06 \times 2 + 0.11 \times 4 + 0.22 \times 6 + 0.45 \times 8 + 0.16 \times 10 = 7.32/10[5,40]$.

Assessment Results Analysis

Overall Risk Level: The company's export risk weighted score is 7.32, indicating a high overall risk level[67].

Among the criterion layers:

Biological safety and quality risk (score 7.65) and policy and regulatory risk (score 7.58) are at a high level, which are the key risks that need to be focused on.

Intellectual property and core resource risk (score 7.20) is at a high level, requiring strengthened protection measures.

Supply chain and market volatility risk (score 6.80) and financial risk (score 6.20) are at a medium-high level, with certain improvement space.

Key Risk Points:

Pest and disease transmission risk (score 7.90) and patent infringement/counterfeiting risk (score 7.85) are the top two specific risks, reflecting the company's inadequate source control of biological safety and weak overseas intellectual property protection[13].

Quarantine standard risk (score 7.70) and quality degradation risk (score 7.60) are also prominent, indicating that the company's quality control and logistics management need to be optimized.

Existing Problems and Root Causes of Export Risk Management

Based on the assessment results and field investigation, the company's current export risk management has the following prominent problems:

Backward Risk Management Organizational System

Specific Problems: The company has not established a dedicated risk management department, and risk management work is undertaken by part-time employees from the sales, quality control, and logistics departments. There is a lack of clear division of responsibilities and coordination mechanisms, leading to fragmented risk management. For example, the sales department is responsible for customer credit evaluation, but lacks communication with the financial department, resulting in inaccurate credit assessment; the quality control department focuses on domestic quality standards, ignoring the requirements of target markets.

Root Causes: The company's senior management has weak risk management awareness, regarding risk management as a supplementary work rather than a core part of business operations. There is a lack of understanding of the complexity and severity of export risks, and insufficient investment in risk management personnel and resources.

Unscientific Risk Identification and Early Warning Mechanism

Specific Problems: The company mainly relies on experience to identify risks, lacking systematic data collection, analysis, and monitoring tools. It fails to track changes in target market policies, quarantine standards, and market demand in real-time, and cannot predict emerging risks in a timely manner. For example, the company did not predict the update of Thailand's quarantine indicators in 2023 in advance, leading to product rejection; there is no early warning mechanism for exchange rate

fluctuations, and the company passively bears exchange rate losses.

Root Causes: The company lacks professional risk management personnel with international trade, customs quarantine, and intellectual property knowledge. It has not built a digital risk management platform to integrate data from multiple sources (customs, embassies, industry associations) for risk analysis and early warning.

Incomplete Risk Control System

Specific Problems: Risk control measures are fragmented and focus on post-event handling rather than pre-prevention and in-process control. For example, in terms of biological safety risk control, the company only conducts quality inspection before export, lacking source control (such as unified pest and disease monitoring in breeding bases) and in-process control (such as temperature and humidity monitoring during transportation); in terms of intellectual property protection, the company has not carried out patent layout in key target markets, and there is no effective way to crack down on counterfeit products.

Root Causes: The company has not formulated a comprehensive export risk management system, and the risk control measures are not targeted and operable. It lacks full-chain risk control awareness, and the risk control measures are not covered in all links of the export chain (breeding, production, processing, transportation, customs clearance, after-sales service).

Insufficient Risk Transfer and Response Capabilities

Specific Problems: The company has not adopted effective risk transfer tools, such as export credit insurance, intellectual property insurance, and forward foreign exchange contracts, to transfer potential risks. When risks occur, the company's

emergency response mechanism is not perfect, and the response measures are not timely and effective. For example, when the company's products are detained by customs due to quarantine failure, it can only negotiate passively, lacking legal remedies and alternative solutions; when facing supply chain disruptions, there is no alternative logistics plan, leading to delayed delivery.

Root Causes: The company's understanding of risk transfer tools is insufficient, and it is worried about increasing costs by purchasing insurance or using financial derivatives. It has not formulated emergency response plans for key risks, and the employees' emergency response capabilities are weak.

SECTION 3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING EXPORT RISK MANAGEMENT OF HENAN TIANCUN SEED INDUSTRY TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.

3.1 General Ways to Improve Export Risk Management of Seed Enterprises

Establish a Dedicated Risk Management Department: Recruit professional risk management personnel (international trade specialists, customs quarantine technicians, intellectual property lawyers, financial risk managers) to form a dedicated risk management team, responsible for risk identification, assessment, control, monitoring, and emergency response[24,34].

Clarify the Organizational Structure and Responsibilities: Establish a three-level risk management organizational structure: the board of directors (responsible for formulating risk management strategies and overall decision-making), the risk management department (responsible for specific risk management work), and the business departments (responsible for identifying and reporting risks in their respective fields). Clarify the responsibilities and authorities of each level to ensure the smooth operation of the risk management system.

Establish a Risk Management Assessment and Incentive Mechanism: Incorporate risk management performance into the assessment indicators of each department and employee, link it with salaries and bonuses, and encourage employees to actively participate in risk management work.

1. Optimize the Risk Identification and Early Warning Mechanism

Construct a Multi-Source Data Collection System: Collect data on target market policies, quarantine standards, market demand, pest and disease outbreaks, exchange rates, and other information through multiple channels, such as embassies and consulates abroad, customs authorities, industry associations, and professional data service providers[10,46].

Build a Digital Risk Management Platform: Use big data, artificial intelligence, and other technologies to build a digital risk management platform, integrate multi-source data for real-time monitoring and analysis, and automatically identify potential risks. For example, set up early warning thresholds for policy changes, exchange rate fluctuations, and pest and disease outbreaks, and issue early warning signals in a timely manner.

Regularly Conduct Risk Assessment and Simulation Drills: Conduct comprehensive risk assessments quarterly and annually to update the risk list and adjust risk management strategies. Organize risk simulation drills (such as customs detention, product quality complaints, supply chain disruptions) to improve the company's emergency response capabilities[24,46].

2.Strengthen Full-Chain Risk Control

Source Control: Implement standardized management of breeding bases, establish a unified pest and disease monitoring and prevention system, and promote green prevention and control technologies (such as biological pesticides, physical control) to reduce the risk of pest and disease transmission. Conduct strict audits of suppliers and cooperative enterprises to ensure the quality and safety of raw materials and breeding materials.

Process Control: Optimize the seed processing process, upgrade processing equipment to improve seed purity and germination rate. Establish a product traceability system, marking the source, processing time, transportation route, and other information of each batch of seeds to facilitate quality tracking and risk investigation. Strengthen the management of cross-border transportation, select logistics enterprises with rich seed transportation experience, and use temperature and humidity-controlled containers to ensure the stability of the transportation environment.

Post-Sales Control: Establish an overseas after-sales service system, set up after-sales service centers or cooperate with local distributors to provide timely technical support and quality complaint handling. Conduct regular customer satisfaction surveys to collect feedback on product quality and service, and continuously improve product and service levels[20,57].

3, Enhance Intellectual Property and Compliance Capabilities

Accelerate Global Patent Layout: Conduct in-depth research on the intellectual property protection systems of target markets, and apply for patents, variety protection rights, and trademark registrations for core varieties and technologies in a timely manner. Establish an intellectual property management system to strengthen the management of intellectual property application, maintenance, and enforcement.

Strengthen Compliance Management: Establish a global compliance management system, track and study the laws, regulations, and policy requirements of target markets, and conduct pre-export compliance reviews for each batch of products. Conduct regular compliance training for employees to improve their awareness of policy compliance, intellectual property protection, and anti-corruption.

Improve Dispute Resolution Capabilities: Cooperate with local law firms and intellectual property agencies in target markets to establish a dispute resolution mechanism. When facing intellectual property disputes, customs detention, or customer claims, take legal measures to safeguard the company's legitimate rights and interests in a timely manner.

4.Improve Risk Transfer and Response Capabilities

Use Risk Transfer Tools: Purchase export credit insurance to transfer the risk of customer payment defaults; purchase intellectual property insurance to cover the losses caused by patent infringement and counterfeiting; use financial derivatives such as forward foreign exchange contracts and currency swaps to hedge exchange rate risks[62].

Formulate Emergency Response Plans: For key risks (such as supply chain disruptions, quarantine failures, exchange rate fluctuations), formulate detailed emergency response plans, clarify the responsible personnel, response procedures, and alternative solutions. For example, establish a backup logistics channel to cope with supply chain disruptions; prepare alternative quarantine plans to cope with changes in quarantine standards.

Strengthen Strategic Cooperation: Cooperate with domestic and foreign seed enterprises, research institutions, and logistics enterprises to achieve resource sharing and risk sharing[57.59]. For example, cooperate with research institutions to develop varieties suitable for target markets, improving market competitiveness; cooperate with multiple logistics enterprises to reduce dependence on a single logistics channel.

3.2 Targeted Proposals to Enhance Export Risk Management of Tiancun Seed Industry

Combined with the company's actual situation and existing problems, the following targeted optimization proposals are put forward:

1. Improve the Risk Management Organizational System

Establish a Dedicated Risk Management Department: Recruit 5 professional personnel (1 international trade specialist, 1 customs quarantine technician, 1 intellectual property lawyer, 1 financial risk manager, 1 data analyst) within 6 months to form a dedicated risk management team. The department reports directly to the general manager, responsible for the overall planning and implementation of export risk management.

Clarify the Division of Responsibilities: Formulate the "Export Risk Management Responsibility System", clarifying the risk management responsibilities of each department: the sales department is responsible for customer credit evaluation and market risk identification; the quality control department is responsible for biological safety and quality risk control; the logistics department is responsible for supply chain risk management; the financial department is responsible for financial risk management; the risk management department is responsible for overall coordination, assessment, and monitoring.

Establish an Assessment and Incentive Mechanism: Incorporate risk management indicators (such as risk loss reduction rate, compliance rate, early warning accuracy) into the performance assessment of each department and employee, accounting for 20%

of the total assessment score. Reward employees who make important contributions to risk management (such as identifying potential risks in a timely manner, proposing effective risk control measures), and punish those who cause risk losses due to dereliction of duty.

2. Optimize the Risk Identification and Early Warning Mechanism

Build a Multi-Source Data Collection Network: Cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, local embassies and consulates abroad, China Seed Association, and professional data service providers (such as Wind, Statista) to collect real-time data on target market policies, quarantine standards, market demand, pest and disease outbreaks, and exchange rates. Assign special personnel to sort out and analyze the data, and issue a monthly "Export Risk Early Warning Report".

Develop a Digital Risk Management Platform: Invest 1.5 million yuan within 1 year to develop a digital risk management platform, integrating functions such as data collection, risk identification, risk assessment, early warning notification, and emergency response. The platform will automatically monitor key risk indicators (such as policy changes, exchange rate fluctuations, quarantine standard updates) and issue early warning signals when the indicators exceed the set thresholds. For example, when the tariff rate of a target market increases by more than 5%, the platform will automatically send an early warning to the sales department and risk management department.

Conduct Regular Risk Assessment and Simulation Drills: Conduct a comprehensive export risk assessment every quarter, update the risk list and risk level, and adjust risk management strategies accordingly. Organize 2 risk simulation drills

every year, focusing on scenarios such as customs detention due to quarantine failure, customer payment defaults, and supply chain disruptions. After each drill, summarize the experience and lessons, and optimize the emergency response plan.

3. Strengthen Full-Chain Risk Control

Strengthen Source Control of Biological Safety and Quality Risk

Invest 2 million yuan to upgrade the breeding base facilities, build 8 pest and disease monitoring stations (covering all breeding bases), and equip with advanced monitoring equipment (such as insect traps, spore catchers) to realize real-time monitoring of pests and diseases. Hire 3 professional agricultural technicians to be responsible for pest and disease prevention and control, and formulate a unified pest control plan for breeding bases.

Implement a "breeding base certification system", conduct annual audits of breeding bases, and eliminate bases that fail to meet quality and safety requirements. Sign a "Quality and Safety Responsibility Agreement" with cooperative farmers, clarifying the requirements for planting, fertilization, and pest control, and linking the purchase price with the quality of seeds.

4. Optimize Process Control of Quality and Logistics

Upgrade 3 automatic seed processing lines within 6 months, introducing intelligent sorting equipment and germination rate testing equipment to improve seed purity and germination rate. Establish a product traceability system, using QR codes to mark the source, processing time, quality indicators, transportation route, and other information of each batch of seeds, enabling customers and regulators to query at any time.

Sign long-term cooperation agreements with 2-3 international logistics enterprises with rich seed transportation experience (such as Maersk, COSCO Shipping), and specify the requirements for temperature and humidity control (temperature: 15-25°C, humidity: 40-60%) and transportation time (no more than 35 days) in the agreement. Install temperature and humidity sensors in each container to monitor the transportation environment in real-time, and take timely measures if abnormalities are found.

5. Improve Post-Sales Control and Customer Service

Establish after-sales service centers in Indonesia and Kenya within 1 year, and hire local technical personnel to provide planting guidance, quality complaint handling, and product replacement services. Set up a 24-hour after-sales service hotline and online consultation platform to respond to customer inquiries and complaints within 48 hours.

Conduct quarterly customer satisfaction surveys, collect feedback on product quality, transportation, and after-sales service, and set up a customer feedback handling mechanism to continuously improve product and service levels. For customers with major quality complaints, send technical personnel to the site to investigate and propose solutions, and compensate according to the agreement to reduce reputation losses.

6. Enhance Intellectual Property and Compliance Capabilities

Accelerate Global Patent Layout: Within 2 years, apply for patents for 3 core varieties (Zhoumai 36, Zhoumai 39, Zhengdan 958) in 10 key target markets (Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Poland, Romania, Brazil, Mexico). Register trademarks in target markets to protect the company's brand image. Establish

an intellectual property database to track the intellectual property status of competitors and prevent infringement risks.

Strengthen Compliance Management: Establish a "Policy and Regulatory Database" to track and update the import policies, quarantine standards, and variety registration requirements of target markets in real-time. Conduct pre-export compliance reviews for each batch of products, checking whether the quarantine certificates, variety registration documents, and labeling meet the requirements of the target market. Conduct monthly compliance training for employees, focusing on policy changes, quarantine standards, and intellectual property protection.

Improve Dispute Resolution Capabilities: Cooperate with local law firms in 5 key target markets (Indonesia, Kenya, Poland, Vietnam, South Africa) to establish a dispute resolution network. When facing customs detention or intellectual property disputes, entrust local law firms to handle the case to improve the efficiency of dispute resolution. For example, if the product is detained due to inconsistent quarantine standards, the local law firm can negotiate with the customs and provide legal remedies to reduce losses.

7. Improve Financial Risk and Supply Chain Risk Management

Hedge Financial Risks: Purchase export credit insurance for all export orders to cover the risk of customer payment defaults. Use forward foreign exchange contracts to hedge exchange rate risks for orders with a transaction volume of more than 5 million yuan. Optimize the cost structure by negotiating with suppliers to reduce procurement costs, improving production efficiency to reduce production costs, and integrating logistics resources to reduce logistics costs.

Optimize Supply Chain Management: Diversify the supply chain, establish backup breeding bases and suppliers to reduce dependence on a single base or supplier. Develop alternative logistics channels, such as air freight and land transportation, to cope with sea freight disruptions. Cooperate with 2-3 domestic seed enterprises to achieve mutual supply of goods, ensuring the stability of product supply when facing supply chain disruptions.

Strengthen Market Research and Product Development: Conduct in-depth market research on target markets, analyzing the local climate, soil conditions, planting structure, and market demand to develop varieties suitable for local conditions. Expand the product portfolio, developing cash crop seeds (such as cotton, rapeseed) and horticultural seeds to reduce the impact of food crop market demand fluctuations.

3.3 Key Impacts of the Recommended Metrics on Corporate Indicators

The implementation of the above optimization proposals will have a positive impact on the company's financial indicators, operational indicators, and strategic development indicators:

1. Impact on Financial Indicators

Profitability: By reducing risk losses (such as customs detention, customer claims, bad debts) and improving product quality and market competitiveness, the company's export profit margin is expected to increase from 16.8% in 2023 to 19-20% in 2025. The annual risk loss is expected to decrease from 3.5 million yuan to 1 million yuan, and the export revenue is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 18-20%, reaching 400 million yuan by 2025.

Solvency: By reducing the risk of bad debts and improving cash flow turnover, the company's current ratio is expected to increase from 1.8 in 2023 to 2.2 in 2025, and the asset-liability ratio is expected to decrease from 58% in 2023 to 50% in 2025, enhancing the company's solvency and financial stability.

Cost Control: Although the initial investment in risk management (such as team building, platform development, facility upgrading) is about 5 million yuan, the annual cost savings from risk loss reduction and cost optimization are expected to reach 3-4 million yuan, and the investment return period is expected to be 1.5-2 years.

2. Impact on Operational Indicators

Quality Indicators: The seed quarantine failure rate is expected to decrease from 5.2% in 2023 to less than 1% in 2025, the customer complaint rate is expected to decrease from 8% in 2023 to 2% in 2025, and the seed germination rate and purity are expected to remain above 92% and 98% respectively, improving the company's product quality and market reputation.

Efficiency Indicators: The export business cycle is expected to be shortened from 3-6 months to 2-4 months, the inventory turnover rate is expected to increase from 4.2 times/year to 5.5 times/year, and the efficiency of risk identification and response is expected to improve by 50%, improving the company's operational efficiency.

Supply Chain Stability: The supply chain disruption frequency is expected to decrease from 3 times/year to 1 time/year, the logistics cost increase rate is expected to be controlled within 5% per year, and the on-time delivery rate is expected to increase from 85% in 2023 to 98% in 2025, ensuring the stability of the export supply chain.

3. Impact on Strategic Development Indicators

Market Expansion: By improving risk management capabilities and product adaptability, the company can enter high-standard markets such as the European Union and North America, expanding the number of target markets from 28 to 40 by 2025. The market share in key markets (such as Indonesia, Kenya) is expected to increase by 3-5 percentage points, enhancing the company's global market influence.

Core Competitiveness: Strengthening technological innovation and intellectual property protection will help the company form core technical barriers, improving the added value of products. The company's R&D investment intensity is expected to increase from 3.5% in 2023 to 5% in 2025, and the number of global patents is expected to increase by 50%, enhancing the company's core competitiveness.

Sustainable Development: A sound risk management system will help the company cope with the complex international market environment, achieve stable growth of export business, and lay a foundation for long-term internationalization. The company's export revenue proportion is expected to increase from 23% in 2023 to 30% in 2025, becoming a leading seed export enterprise in China.

CONCLUSION

This research takes Henan Tiancun Seed Industry Technology Co., Ltd. as a case study, focusing on the export risk management of Chinese seed enterprises. Through theoretical analysis, field investigation, and quantitative assessment, the paper systematically identifies the types, specific manifestations, and formation causes of export risks faced by the company, evaluates the current risk management status, and proposes targeted optimization strategies. The main research findings are as follows:

First, the export risks of Tiancun Seed Industry are diverse and complex, covering five dimensions: policy and regulatory risk, biological safety and quality risk, intellectual property and core resource risk, supply chain and market volatility risk, and financial risk. Among them, biological safety and quality risk (weight 0.32) and policy and regulatory risk (weight 0.28) are the key risks affecting the company's export business.

Second, the company's overall export risk level is high (weighted score 7.32/10), and there are prominent problems in risk management, such as a backward organizational system, unscientific risk identification and early warning mechanisms, incomplete risk control systems, and insufficient risk transfer and response capabilities. The root causes are weak risk management awareness of senior management, lack of professional personnel, and insufficient investment in risk management resources.

Third, to improve the company's export risk management capabilities, it is necessary to comprehensively optimize from five aspects: improving the risk management organizational system, optimizing the risk identification and early

warning mechanism, strengthening full-chain risk control, enhancing intellectual property and compliance capabilities, and improving financial and supply chain risk management. The implementation of these strategies is expected to reduce the company's risk losses, improve operational efficiency and profitability, and promote the sustainable development of export business.

This research enriches the theoretical system of export risk management in the seed industry, especially providing a practical reference for medium-sized and small seed enterprises in Central China to carry out export risk management. However, there are certain limitations in this research: the research sample is limited to Tiancun Seed Industry, and the research results may not be fully applicable to all seed enterprises; the long-term impact of the recommended strategies needs to be verified through follow-up tracking. Future research can expand the research sample, conduct comparative studies on seed enterprises in different regions and scales, and explore the application of digital technologies such as big data and artificial intelligence in export risk management to further improve the scientificity and operability of export risk management strategies.

In the context of agricultural internationalization, Chinese seed enterprises are facing both opportunities and challenges. Only by establishing a sound export risk management system, improving risk management capabilities, and effectively responding to various export risks can enterprises achieve stable development in the international market, and contribute to the internationalization of China's seed industry and national food security.

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