

Press Release

WORLD SEED CONGRESS 2016 DRIVES INDUSTRY ISSUES IN SOUTH AMERICA

The International Seed Federation (ISF) is “a powerhouse that pushes the seed industry forward”, according to ISF President Alvaro Eyzaguirre who opened the ISF World Seed Congress in Punta del Este, Uruguay on 15 May 2016.

The Federations’ flagship event attracted over 1100 delegates from 64 countries who will spend the next four days collaborating on solutions to the challenges facing the global seed industry through panel discussions and roundtable events, as well as building business networks.

In his opening speech Mr Eyzaguirre praised the work of the ISF Secretariat and ISF members for “harnessing and channeling their energy to champion change where it matters” which he said had been facilitated by the increased sense of purpose provided by the new ISF Mission and Vision, launched at the 2015 World Seed Congress.

Welcoming delegates to Punta del Este, Uruguyan Vice Minister of Agriculture Mr Enzo Benech highlighted the opportunities created by the ISF World Seed Congress to establish and strengthen relationships, and raise the region’s profile – particularly with the addition of the thematic day to the Congress program ‘Spotlight on South America’.

Concluding the Opening Ceremony, ISF Secretary General Michael Keller described ISF’s proactive approach to establishing a clear position in five key areas in line with the ISF Strategic Objectives, agreed by the Board of Directors in October 2015.

Mr Keller framed the seed industry’s responsibility as a story which starts with the conservation and use of genetic resources through innovation in plant breeding, and ends with the movement of seed around the world to support sustainable agriculture and contribute to food security.

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About ISF

ISF is the voice of the global seed industry. It has represented the interests of its members since 1924 and today represents 96% of international seed trade. With a global reach extending to members around the world and official observer status in intergovernmental and international organizations, ISF is uniquely positioned to assist in the development of government policy and business strategy. www.worldseed.org