

ISF CELEBRATES WITH IPPC THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLANT HEALTH (IDPH)

Nyon, Switzerland – The International Seed Federation (ISF) celebrates together with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) the first International Day of Plant Health (IDPH). This international day was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly to raise global awareness on plant health, including seed health, as the foundation for all life on earth.

“Plants are the foundation of life on earth and we are proud to share in this global initiative, doing our part in the seed sector to protect the world’s plant resources from pests and diseases. We will continue strengthening our stakeholder engagement to garner support to highlight the importance of healthy seed to plant health – because healthy seed is the precondition for healthy crops and crucial for agricultural production and the environment,” said Michael Keller, Secretary General of ISF.

The seed industry has been supportive of this initiative as a member of the steering committee of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) celebrated in 2020 until the first half of 2021. “The implementation of a specific day on the calendar to promote plant health is important to all actors involved in food production and consumer health,” said Keller. “As the voice of the seed sector, ISF strongly believes that seed health is inseparable to the achievement of important goals within the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN SDGs).”

The implementation of the International Day of Plant Health will carry on the message from IYPH and continue to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and boost economic development, for years to come. This celebration comes a week before the [ISF World Seed Congress](#), where the international trade of healthy, quality seed is also on the agenda at the biggest global gathering of the seed industry.

“Seed health is a very important topic for the seed industry. Quality seed is an expectation from growers. To meet these expectations, company seed health programs focus on the prevention, detection, and eradication of pathogens,” said Keller.

Keeping seeds, and consequently plants, healthy is crucial to ensure sustainable agriculture and food systems, as well as to protect the environment and ecosystems. ISF is working towards making the best quality seed accessible to all, to support food security and sustainable agriculture.

“We are looking forward to continuing to collaborate with FAO and IPPC on bringing the message of plant health to a wider audience. We do hope that this initiative will lead to further awareness and international collaboration between all actors in the food chain including governments and the seed sector on the importance of plant health,” he added.

The International Day of Plant Health Ceremony takes place on the 12th May 2022. ISF Seed Health Manager Dr Souza Richards will attend and speak on behalf of the seed sector. To register <https://www.fao.org/plant-health-day/en>

Contact

FRANCINE SAYOC
Communications Manager, ISF

+41 22 365 44 20
+41 22 365 44 21
f.sayoc@worldseed.org

About ISF

ISF is the voice of the global seed sector. It has represented the interests of its members since 1924, and represents 96% of the international seed trade today. 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.

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