

Statement:

ISF RESPONSE TO THE CALL TO ACTION BY THE FOOD AND LAND USE COALITION

The International Seed Federation, as the global representative of the seed sector, acknowledges the Call to Action by the Food and Land Use Coalition (www.foodandlandusecoalition.org/a-call-to-action-for-world-leaders/) and the call for solidarity by the UN Secretary General in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, preventing a global food security crisis while battling COVID-19 requires the united efforts of all actors in the food system. By working **together**, we can ensure the supply of healthy, safe and affordable food during and beyond these uncertain times.

Seed is a critical agricultural input and the starting point of crop production, therefore access to quality seed for all farmers is a commitment of the seed sector. As we protect the stability of our food supply chain in this period of unprecedented challenges, seed companies all over the world continue to operate as an essential service and are fully engaged in providing seed to farmers for the upcoming planting season. It cannot be business as usual. Despite the challenges we are currently facing on the logistical front, we remain persistent in our mission.

On behalf of the seed sector and its over 8000 members, which include breeders, producers and traders of small, medium and large scale, local, regional and international cooperatives, companies and associations, we remain committed as ever to our role as one of the contributors to the food supply chain.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution, **therefore more than ever we need now to find ways towards stronger cooperation and coordination to build the best environment for food security and sustainable agriculture.**

The seed sector would like to bring focus to the importance of three key areas to help achieve an enduring food system:

1. Keep the supply of seed flowing across the world – maintain open trade for seed, allowing us to provide locally adapted healthy quality seed.
2. Encourage governments, international organizations, private sector, farmers and NGOs to work hand in hand to build together the needed seed systems at the local and regional level for farmers of all sizes, and especially smallholder farmers, to access healthy quality seed.
3. Enable further plant breeding innovation and its use to increase productivity, adapt to climate change, achieve sustainable, resilient food systems and meet consumer needs.

We need to plant the seeds of recovery now, therefore any action, proposal or engagement that will emerge during the next weeks and months, must take into consideration that seeds can offer important solutions.

We trust that we as one agricultural sector will overcome the challenges in front of us. Achieving global food security requires a coordinated approach among governments, NGOs, businesses, farmers' groups and the value chain to be able to support those who grow our food.