



STATEMENT OF INITIATIVE

In 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres convened a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Today one out of ten people is undernourished, one out of four is overweight, many people cannot afford healthy diets, and food supply is under threat due to climate change and continued population growth. During recent months, in national, independent and the pre-summit discussions, the importance of seed as a foundational contributor to sustainable food production and being essential for nutrition and food security has become more and more evident.

The Private Seed Sector with its diversity of family owned, cooperatives, small, medium sized and multinational companies presented a Seed Declaration to recognize and value its unique and important contribution to food systems and to contribute to its transformation in assisting farmers to produce more in a sustainable and resilient manner on less land, with less inputs, by protecting biodiversity.

With this “Statement of Initiative” to build Seed Resilience the private seed sector takes further steps that help transform food systems and support achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Seed Resilience is “The adaptability and capacity to contribute to food and nutrition security by making accessible sufficient, diverse, locally adapted, improved, high quality varieties to all farmers taking into account environmental, health, social and economic aspects.”

With this initiative we would like to contribute to support the development of an inclusive and enabling environment, that includes seed legislation, variety release, plant variety protection, phytosanitary regulations, seed import, agricultural finance, and agricultural advisory and extension services.

Seed Resilience requires:

- **Embracing genetic diversity:** to continue to preserve, protect and improve seeds that thrive with less environmental impact, more adapted to changing climate, more nourishing and preserving biodiversity
- **Incentivizing innovation:** to encourage, diversify and protect plant breeding, through science based, risk proportionate, consistent, and predictable regulations and enabling policies
- **Elevating sustainable seed systems:** to further enhance seed choices and access for farmers
- **Securing seed trade:** to increase and diversify seed supply and enable robust seed markets

- **Expanding functioning markets:** to build and support value chains for farmers, society and the planet

In line with this, ISF has outlined four initiatives during its recent virtual congress to advance Seed Resilience with the support of its members from all over the world by:

1. Initiating and contributing through partnerships a "Network of Experience and Knowledge" on Seed Resilience
2. Setting up a renewed dialogue based on data collection on sustainable seed systems and their contribution to Sustainable Development Goals
3. Building a flagship project with partners for a sustainable seed system based on inclusiveness in a country
4. Publishing a best practice guide on access to improved varieties and sustainable crop management

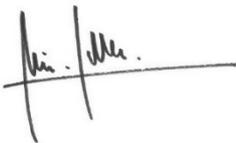
Through these initiatives and their implementation, ISF would like to open doors for new alliances and actions. We invite all interested parties to get engaged and to contact us.

During the ISF World Seed Congress 2022 in Barcelona, ISF will organize a Day of Seed Resilience, inviting stakeholders to showcase their contributions and present the progress of the initiative.

This engagement on Seed Resilience will be replicated every year until 2030 to show our commitment and contributions to the achievement of the SDGs and the transformation of our food systems.

Join us in this journey to a transformative contribution of ***Seed Resilience***.

Signed,



Michael Keller
Secretary General
International Seed Federation