



ISF Tree and Shrub Group (TAS)

The International Seed Federation (ISF) is a non-profit and non-political organization whose members are mainly national seed associations and seed companies. With members spread in close to 80 developed and developing countries, on all continents, ISF represents the majority of the world seed trade and plant breeders' community at a global level. ISF is the voice of the global seed sector and has official observer status in key international and intergovernmental organizations. ISF has several crop-based working groups and topic-oriented coordination groups. One of them within the ISF structure is the ISF Tree and Shrub Group.

ISF membership offers various benefits such as: fostering cooperation and collaboration amongst actors & members of the seed sector and with identified partners/ stakeholders, settlement of disputes through mediation, conciliation and/or arbitration, Liability insurance, Trade and arbitration rules, updates via the online members area. Learn more about ISF and its members at: <https://worldseed.org/about/what-we-do/>



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Who We Are

The ISF Tree and Shrub (TAS) Group consists of national associations and public and private companies which are active in the field of the tree and shrub seed trade. Currently 22 active members representing 18 countries are participating in this group and meet once per year for several days of conversations and excursions, hosted by one of the members in their home country. Generally, only ISF TAS members participate in the annual meetings and subsequent excursions; observers & external guests might be invited to join on an ad hoc basis. The chairperson of the group is elected among the members.

Purpose & Work

The TAS Group's primary focus revolves around matters pertinent to the sector, particularly concerning seed collection, treatment, and plant breeding. Additionally, this group plays a pivotal role in bolstering the ISF Working Groups by integrating crop-specific business insights into the broader global discourse on seed and plant material. In fostering a dynamic platform for dialogue, the Group convenes experts from diverse geographical locations, company scales, and crop specializations to engage in comprehensive multifaceted discussions, perspectives and solutions on topics such as:

- Horizontal issues impacting the work of the industry (plant breeding innovation, illegal seed practices, genetic resources, seed and plant health...)
- Access to market issues (including regional and national regulations on seed trade, measures to mitigate obstacles and improve movement of seeds and planting material)
- Seed crop information (based on data provided by members)
- Objectives for high quality seed production within the industry (e.g. guidelines and best practices)
- Latest developments in other international organizations (such as OECD forest schemes or ISTA seed testing rules)
- Technical matters relevant for the development and continuous improvement of the industry (technical and field visits...)
- Development of position paper to be heard as a coordinated voice of the industry
- Communication matters to raise on the importance of the industry in relation to global goals and challenges (e.g. UNSDGs)



Make Your Voice Heard!

ISF-TAS membership provides your company with a valuable opportunity to influence international organizations. Throughout the year, ISF TAS group members actively participate in meetings of prominent intergovernmental organizations such as the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), The International Union of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), the International Union for Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. These meetings focus on discussing regulations aimed at facilitating the trade of tree and shrub seeds. We have released several position papers addressing crucial trade-related topics such as amendments in the EU FRM directive, EU phytosanitary regulations, and international trade barriers. Our proactive engagement has led to the adaptation of several regulations in recent years. Currently, we are actively supporting the OptFOREST project, which addresses Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) issues in response to a changing climate.

Membership

Membership of the ISF Tree & Shrub Group comes with a small membership fee of 607 CHF (Swiss Francs) per year. Participation costs for the annual meeting are additional. Prospective new members have the opportunity to attend one meeting as an observer. We extend a warm invitation for you to join the group.



Next Event – New Mexico, USA

The annual meeting typically draws commercial tree seed professionals from across the globe, facilitating discussions on various pertinent issues concerning tree and shrub seeds. Reputable external speakers are invited to share presentations on relevant subjects, enriching the discourse. Furthermore, participants and their joining partners are invited to enjoy immersive excursions to explore tree stands, orchards, nurseries, arboretums, model forests, and other sites related to tree cultivation. Beyond the formal proceedings, companies leverage the event as an important networking opportunity and information exchange with fellow industry players.

Join us in the picturesque state of New Mexico, USA, from August 26th - 28th 2024 for what promises to be an unforgettable event!



Contact Us

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