

Statement on the mission and vision of the international seed sector on Systems Approach for Seeds

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A STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION

MISSION

ISF is committed to creating a robust phytosanitary system that protects plant health and enables the global movement of seeds, ensuring farmers worldwide have access to healthy seeds of their choice. This not only enhances nutrition but also promotes sustainable agricultural practices, which are vital in mitigating the impacts of global climate change.

VISION

ISF's vision is to establish collaborative partnerships with National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to develop a Systems Approach for Seed as an alternative to current phytosanitary certification. This approach aims to prevent the introduction and spread of regulated pests while facilitating the international movement of seeds. By recognizing industry quality management systems for seed production and movement, we seek to ensure multilateral acceptance and enhance regulatory oversight. Our goal is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of global seed trade while maintaining stringent phytosanitary standards.



FOCUS ON THE SEED PRODUCTION SYSTEM AS A WHOLE

ISF proposes a risk-based solution where seeds produced in an NPPO-approved production system can be imported and re-exported with a phytosanitary certificate, without specifying individual pests.

Under a Systems Approach for Seed, phytosanitary actions focus on the pathways of pest introduction and spread into seed production sites rather than individual pests. By monitoring these pathways, we can protect against multiple pests with similar biology and epidemiology and proactively manage emerging pests.

Industry quality management systems (QMSs) serve as risk mitigation frameworks that address these pathways through multiple phytosanitary actions. A QMS integrates all elements of the industry process, including seed production, processing, and testing, in a coherent manner. Key components of a QMS include organization and staff, tracking and tracing, audits, and continuous improvement. The effectiveness of a QMS lies in its frequent monitoring of all phases of seed production,

harvest, and post-harvest. This enables regulatory oversight and immediate corrective actions in partnership with NPPOs to prevent pest intrusions at an early stage, providing increased transparency on industry practices.

Current phytosanitary policies and pest-risk analyses are pest-oriented. Demonstrating the efficacy of pathway-focused risk mitigation using a pest list is essential. We aim for the recognition of a global pest list based on pests that are both seed-transmitted and economically significant, understanding that not all pests on this list will be relevant to every country.

Auditing by certifying NPPOs and the requirement for participants to implement a QMS will form the foundation for confidence in the Systems Approach for Seed.

Multilateral recognition of the Systems Approach for Seed will result in predictable and efficient international seed movement, enabling greater adaptability and responsiveness to national, regional, and global challenges.

CALL TO ACTION!

EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN REGULATORY AUTHORITIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL SEED SECTOR IS CRUCIAL FOR THE SUCCESSFUL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A MULTILATERALLY ACCEPTED SYSTEMS APPROACH FOR SEED.

THIS JOURNEY TOWARDS BUILDING TRUST, ENHANCING COLLABORATION, AND ACHIEVING A MORE RESILIENT AND EFFECTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR PLANT PROTECTION AND SEED QUALITY REQUIRES OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORT.