Overview of the Regulatory Framework in Seed Trade

2nd World Seed Conference
FAO, Rome, Sept. 8-10, 2009

Joseph Cortes
Global Seed Program
Seed Science Center
Iowa State University
Global Seed Program activities in over 70 countries since 1992
World Seed Export
Million USD, 2007

Source ISF
International Regulations for Seed Trade

Certification: OECD-AOSCA
Variety/Identity Purity

Seed Testing: ISTA

Phytosanitary Measures
IPPC-SPS
NPPO

Plant Variety Protection: UPOV
Seed Certification

- **AOSCA**
  - 7 countries

- **OECD Seeds Scheme**
  - 57 Countries

- **National Certification**
  - Optional/Non-mandatory

- **National Certification**
  - Compulsory/Mandatory
Seed Testing

ISTA
182 Laboratories
74 countries
Plant Variety Protection

UPOV Convention
67 Countries
Phytosanitary Measures

IPPC - NPPO
SPS
Regional Harmonization of Seed Regulatory Frameworks to Facilitate Trade

— Variety release system
— Certification/accreditation system
— Plant variety protection
— Phytosanitary measures
Regional Variety Release System

› Central America (6 countries)
  — Approved and implemented for 5 crops

› Expanded MERCOSUR (6 countries)
  — Technical agreement for 5 crops
Regional Variety Release System

- **EAC**
  - Approved a common catalog

- **SADC (14 countries)**
  - Approved a common variety release system in June 09

- **ECOWAS (17 countries)**
  - West Africa approved a common variety release system in Dec 08
Regional Seed Certification and Testing

- **Central America**
  - Common seed certification standards

- **Expanded MERCOSUR**
  - Common seed certification standards
  - Seed certification accreditation (implemented)
  - Seed testing using ISTA Rules (implemented)

- **Andean Pact**
  - Common seed certification standards—7 crops (pending)
  - Seed testing using ISTA rules (pending)
Regional Seed Certification/Accreditation

- **ECOWAS (17 countries)**
  - Common seed certification standards
  - Seed certification accreditation

- **EAC**
  - Common seed certification standards
  - Seed certification accreditation for persons and/or entities

- **SADC (14 countries)**
  - Common seed certification standards
  - Seed certification accreditation
  - Seed testing using ISTA Rules
Plant Variety Protection (UPOV)

AFRICA

- OAPI PVP System for African francophone countries
- SADC PVP Draft Protocol (15 countries) 5 with national PVP legislation
- ARIPO developing protection for plant varieties
Phytosanitary Measures

- Central America
  - Quarantine pest lists based on science
- MERCOSUR
  - Quarantine pest lists based on science
  - Seed import/export manuals developed
- Andean Pact (pending)
  - Quarantine pest list based on science
  - Seed import/export manuals developed
  - Phytosanitary accreditation
Phytosanitary Measures

- **ECOWAS (17 countries)**
  - Quarantine pest list based on science (in preparation)
  - Seed import-export manuals (in preparation)

- **SADC (14 countries)**
  - Quarantine pest lists based on science
  - Seed import/export manuals
Phytosanitary Measures

Asia Pacific: India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam

— Quarantine pest list based on science
— Seed import-export manuals developed
— Phytosanitary accreditation
Do Regional Regulatory Frameworks Contribute to the Expansion of Seed Trade?
# Quarantine Pest Reduction for Phytosanitary Certification of Seeds Based on Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Selected Crops</th>
<th>Initial Pests</th>
<th>Final Pests</th>
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<tr>
<td>MERCOSUR</td>
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<td>Asia Pacific Countries</td>
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<td>Andean Pact</td>
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<tr>
<td>SADC</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>26</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Central America

- After 2 years of harmonized seed agreements, intra-regional trade increased 23% (FELAS)
MERCOSUR

- Increased the intra-regional seed trade
- For the first time Paraguay and Bolivia began exporting soybean seed to Brazil
- Uruguay minimized problems with rice seed exports to Brazil
To improve seed trade, particularly in developing countries, we need to work **FASTER**, and we need to work **BETTER**.