

## **INFORMATION PAPER**

### **TITLE: ADVANCING GLOBAL SEED HEALTH AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES: ISF'S 2025 INITIATIVES**

#### **Introduction**

The International Seed Federation (ISF) represents the global seed industry and works with National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) and international partners to support science-based, risk-based and transparent phytosanitary measures for seed.

In 2025, ISF advanced practical initiatives that support consistent implementation of IPPC standards for seed movement and improve regulator–industry collaboration. This paper highlights selected activities of direct relevance to NPPOs ahead of CPM-20.

#### **Strengthening Risk-Based Phytosanitary Measures (Systems Approach Engagement)**

Through the Systems Approach Expert Group (SA EG), ISF continued structured technical engagement with participating NPPO experts under a systems approach pilot for cucumber seeds. The work aims to support harmonized conclusions on pests for which seed is (or is not) a pathway, and to identify corresponding mitigation options.

The objective is to strengthen confidence in practical, auditable measures that maintain appropriate phytosanitary protection while reducing unnecessary disruption to seed movement.

#### **Advancing Implementation of ISPM 38 and ISPM 45 (CG Phyto)**

Within CG Phyto, members exchanged national and regional experiences to identify recurring implementation challenges affecting seed movement, including prescriptive import conditions, additional declaration wording and inconsistent recognition of equivalence.

A structured workstream was initiated to prioritize key issues, develop practical content modules (including linkages between ISPM 38, PRA concepts and ISPM 45), and prepare briefing packages to support targeted technical dialogue with regulators in 2026.

#### **Seed Health Testing: Innovation, Communication and Fit-for-Purpose Use (CG Seed Health)**

ISF finalized and supported adoption and initial rollout of the ISF Statement on High-Throughput Sequencing (HTS) for seed health testing, and initiated targeted outreach planning to NPPOs, laboratories, RPPOs and international organizations.

Communication tools (infographics) progressed to support clear dialogue on seed health testing methods, including “The Evolution of Seed Health Testing” and “HTS – Potentially the Future of Seed Health Testing?”.

ISF also advanced work on biological relevance in molecular diagnostics to promote consistent interpretation of detection results, alongside a structured review of legacy guidance to maintain a coherent and current seed health reference library.

### **Improving Transparency and Operational Coordination**

ISF progressed deployment of a market access reporting tool to support structured documentation of phytosanitary trade issues and facilitate technical follow-up through ISF coordination groups.

ISF prioritized work on ePhyto implementation for seed by mapping current use, identifying practical challenges and preparing a member survey to capture improvement opportunities. ISF also developed a concept for an NSA-only phytosanitary contact list to enable faster informal coordination in urgent situations (where appropriate).

### **Conclusion and Call to Action**

ISF remains committed to supporting IPPC objectives by promoting practical, science-based approaches for the safe international movement of seed.

ISF welcomes continued engagement with NPPOs and IPPC partners to strengthen consistent, proportionate and transparent implementation of phytosanitary measures for seed.

ISF invites the CPM to take note of this report and looks forward to continued collaboration in shaping the future of phytosanitary systems for the seed sector.