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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
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联合国
粮食及
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Food
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of
the
United
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Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fourth Session

Rome, 30 March – 3 April 2009

Report of the Seed Association of the Americas

Agenda Item 8.4 of the Provisional Agenda

1. Information provided by the Seed Association of the Americas is attached.

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SAA was created in 2005, as a non- governmental organization that fully represents the interests of the Seed Industry in the Americas. Its main purposes are, to educate and support development, marketing and free movement of the seed within the Americas and advocate seed industry legislation and regulation issues to ensure plant property rights.

At present, SAA is composed of eight country members through their National Seed Associations: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, México, Paraguay, United States of America and Uruguay as Ordinary Members and the Latin-American Seed Federation as an Affiliate Member. There are also many seed companies applying to become Associate Members.

The headquarters is located in Montevideo, Uruguay and has an executive structure with four Working Groups: Education and Training; Trade and regulations; Technology, and Intellectual Property.

The objectives of the organization are to enhance seed trade, as follows: a) To promote and consolidate the integration between the members of the "Seed Chain" within the Americas, in order to share ideas and business, b) To facilitate discussion between public and private sector of SAA member countries to promote growth of the industry via legislative and regulatory harmonization, and the adoption of new technologies; c) To contribute to the achievement of the importance of training and education on IP issues as a critical support of future innovation in agriculture and d) To facilitate the regional attendance at intergovernmental organizations such as: UPOV, ISTA, FAO and OECD; d) To strengthen the relationships and communication with other regional seed associations such as: ISF, FELAS, AFSTA, APSA, EESNET, ESA.

The movement of seeds within the Americas has become essential to meeting the demand of farmers on the American continents and throughout the world. Phytosanitary regulations play the most vital role in the smooth and unfettered movement throughout the region. As the demand for high quality seed continues to grow, it is important that phytosanitary regulations impacting the import and export of seed are transparent and science based. Seed trade among countries of the region exceeds US\$ 3.7 billion annually.

With that in mind, the Association has become increasingly active, with a greater involvement of its members and related organizations. During 2008 a Workshop on Phytosanitary has taken place, where more than 80 delegates of the SAA member countries, from both public and private sectors together with COSAVE and NAPPO, discussed important topics for the international seed trade regarding phytosanitary regulations. Presentations and information from this meeting are available on our website: www.saaseed.org. The Association is now organizing the 2nd International Seed Congress to be held in Brazil next September, where the main topics to discuss and address are those related to phytosanitary regulations.

We consider that the following important topics identified in the Workshop should be addressed in the short term:

- Lack of clear system for re-export certification
- Requirements for experimental samples or germplasm
- Size of samples for testing
- Standards for diagnostic of pests and regulated non-quarantine pests
- Lack of communication and access to information from NPPO
- Slow process and delays in the phytosanitary certification
- Lack of resources for certification so accreditation/authorization system is needed
- Lack of harmonization in seed health laboratory testing

There were also some proposed actions that will contribute to a better regional integration and cooperation such as:

- Creation of a permanent "ad hoc" seed working group in COSAVE
- Re-activation of seed panel of NAPPO
- COSAVE and NAPPO's technical working groups will work jointly to address and propose solutions to the actual problem of re-export seed.
- SAA will include in the web site the links of the member countries NPPO, COSAVE and NAPPO to facilitate the information among the members.
- SAA will promote the development of a data base with the information of phytosanitary standards requested for seed movement intra and extra region.