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Monday 3 June 2018

OPENING CEREMONY SPEECHES

MR EDUARD FITO

ISF President


Today we have more than 1,700 delegates from 63 countries gathered here in Nice for the ISF World Seed Congress. It makes me tremendously proud to witness our industry thriving and engaging more people every year.

I am eager to start meetings to share ideas, thoughts, facts and figures about the future of this industry in our changing world.

Look back and see how far we’ve come, and look forward to become excited about how much still needs to be done to respond to the most pressing needs of the moment: making agriculture sustainable and feeding a growing world.

As we all know, this is quite a challenge, but through knowledge, hard work and passion, I have faith that we will succeed together.

Alright, we’re business people and we came here to do business. Nothing wrong with that. But that is only the beginning. We recognize that we have to bring more to the table. Our industry is unique because of its primary role in crop production and the support of agriculture and food security. I challenge all of us to keep this long-term vision and higher purpose in mind over the next three days.

Quality seeds, improved varieties, better crops... to provide these, we must invest in innovation in order to find the best characteristics in plants - combining yield, resistance to climate change, and adaptation to consumer tastes.

Plant breeders are not only scientists but also artists, and like musicians and writers, they combine new elements to offer novel varieties. Stimulating this diversity and the creation of more seed choice for farmers is the cornerstone of our industry.

The latest breeding methods are tools that enable us to accelerate innovation and get closer to achieving our vision. It allows us to continuously bring improved varieties to market because we know that mankind needs to produce food, feed and fibre in a sustainable way, with less impact the planet.

Now, you might say that we left hunger behind ages ago. But this is not completely accurate. In some places, it’s a shame to see humble districts where it becomes more likely to find diabetes and obesity in younger and younger children. While in the wealthier areas, there are less incidences of these medical issues. If I had 5€ in my pocket and a family to feed, would I buy few Kg of tomatoes or a pre-made meal? I say this to illustrate that the impact of the seed sector is crucial and far-reaching: we can contribute to good health and well-being of our citizens by supporting the production of quality and nutritious food.

One of the good things I always state is that this industry is inherently sustainable. We are able to generate resources to keep the wheels turning. I do not mean to say that we stand alone. There are many other players that have the same goals as us, and we welcome their partnership.

Universities, private and public research institutes, and NGO’s are greatly supporting the accomplishment of our mission. Partnerships and collaboration are so much more important today than ever before.
We are a small sector, at the very beginning of the value chain. Today we are able to generate resources to invest in R&D to keep our operations running.

And so, we enjoy a thriving and healthy business, the innovation of which has a great impact on society. But we also need to understand that this is a privilege we must not take for granted, and with it comes the weight of responsibility. And this understanding of responsibility has to be present through these days. When you sit with a supplier or a customer on the trading floor, bear in mind that the business you are about to close needs to be good for now and good for the future. I urge you to do business thinking about the bigger picture, the sustainability of the whole. Thus, respecting IP and being vigilant against illegal seed practices.

For me, personally... I cannot imagine this business without innovation. Whether we like it or not, agriculture around the globe faces new challenges every day. Both biotic such new diseases, and abiotic such as global warming. And we, the seed industry, play a significant role in bringing solutions. This is why one of the hottest topics in our debates is how to incentivize this innovation and, clearly, illegal seed practices stand in the way of our capacity to do so.

Losing our capacity for innovation hurts the breeders and the farmers who in the long run will see less and less novel varieties appearing in the catalogues. And indeed, if this slowdown in innovation happens, the consequences would reach far beyond our sector and put mankind's future in peril.

The roots of our industry go back to thousands of years ago, when the best plants were crossed to make better seeds, and the best traits were selected to make better varieties with every cropping season and so forth.

Innovation and entrepreneurship have since accelerated at a great pace, creating more and more value for farmers in their fields. For this reason it is critical that we always remember to safeguard innovation as the foundation on which our sector stands.

Seed holds limitless value and potential in the tiniest packaging or in a 25Kg bag. It is a fascinating thing. We are privileged to be working in a sector that takes care of developing, multiplying, distributing and trading such a unique product. But if we do not keep the tap of innovation open by setting responsible business models that create positive impact along the value chain, we might find red oceans or dry ocean beds instead of profitable, lasting blue seas. And the world does not deserve it. The future of agriculture cannot afford such a situation.

We are gathered here to share ideas and moments related to all these topics and more. Let these next days excite and inspire, and also solidify the understanding of your place in the seed world. Please, do me a favour and Enjoy this congress to make it special and always reflect on how you can contribute to make this fantastic industry even better.

Thank you.

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**MR ALAIN TRIDON, REPRESENTING M. DIDIER GUILLAUME**

French Minister of Agriculture and Food

“Dear Presidents of ISF and UFS,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to be here this morning for the opening of your world seed congress, to speak to you who have come from so many different places and backgrounds. I would like to welcome you to France.

It is an honor to host this congress in our country, which has greatly contributed to establishing several key worldwide industry bodies in your field.
Please accept the apologies of Didier GUILLAUME, French minister for agriculture and food. He had planned to be here, but he is unable to attend due to a meeting of the European Ministers of Agriculture in Romania.

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Positioned right at the beginning of agricultural and agri-food chains, seeds are key elements for meeting the economic and environmental challenges we face today and will face in the near or more distant future. Diversity in seed varieties will be essential in helping plants adapt to the consequences of climate change. Your sector has a major role to play in the necessary agro-ecological transition that all forms of agriculture throughout the world must undergo. Day after day, science is demonstrating that exposure to chemicals is having an impact on health, biodiversity, and more generally, the environment. Agriculture contributes to this exposure. Decreasing agriculture’s dependence on certain inputs is thus essential: this involves more biology and more agronomy.

France is fortunate to have an excellent seed sector, the world’s largest global exporter, generating sales of more than 3 billion euros and a trade surplus of close to 1 billion euros: this is very significant.

The French seed sector is based on competitive companies supported by high-performance public and private research. Your industry invests massively in research, which I welcome.

Please allow me to say a few words on 4 challenges:

1) Conserving plant breeding resources
2) Encouraging sustainable innovation
3) Maintaining a suitable intellectual property system
4) Strengthening the environmental aspect of breeding.

1. Conserving plant breeding resources

Conserving plant breeding resources is a high stake for the resilience of tomorrow’s agriculture which will require to adapt to climate change, as well as for meeting food, technological, and societal needs, and consequently, for your sector.

One of France’s ambitions is to develop a state-of-the-art national collection to preserve the diversity of the seeds and plants we will need to adapt agriculture to climate change, and to strengthen our contribution to exchanges related to the international treaty you know well: the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

In France, resource conservation is made possible through several networks led by public institutions, associations or professionals. This great diversity of players is both a source of strength but also a point of attention as they require strong coordination to provide lasting benefits.

We, the public authorities, together with the seed industry are committed to the long-term sustainability of these conservation networks.

2. Encouraging sustainable innovation

We are very aware that the competitiveness of the seed industry is largely related to the high level of investment committed to research and development.

You know better than I do that techniques evolve at a fast pace: genotyping, directed mutagenesis, etc. The speed at which these techniques are changing represents a challenge for the public authorities responsible for regulating them. While the challenge may be purely technical regarding assessment or control capabilities, there are other pressing challenges related to the public debate on these often divisive and sensitive topics.
It seems essential that these changes be assessed based on the sustainability of the ensuing production systems.

For genetic innovation to be acceptable, it is crucial that citizens be well-informed, but this is often a difficult subject.

And regardless of the reasons given, it is not acceptable that some of your companies' trials are periodically destroyed.

3. Maintaining a suitable intellectual property system

The level of investments made by the seed sector fully justifies the protection of breeders’ rights, provided that this protection does not confiscate natural assets.

We are thus very supportive of the plant variety protection certificate (PVPC), which we must further develop and adapt together to account for changes in breeding practices and assessment techniques.

However, these changes shall comply with the main founding principles of the plant variety protection systems that reconcile the protection of breeders’ rights with the overall vitality of plant breeding.

It is not advisable that the products of essentially biological procedures or native genes be patentable.

Within the scope of appeals made to the European Patent Office, the French Government has had the opportunity to present this position several times during meetings of agriculture ministers in Brussels.

4. Strengthening the environmental aspect of breeding:

You have worked successfully on yield and product quality. It is essential now to place varietal choice at the core of the production systems, in a context in which there is a smaller number of agro-chemical solutions available and a necessary decrease in the use of plant protection products.

In the European Union, the registration of seeds in the official catalog is a compulsory prerequisite for their distribution. For most crops, this registration is approved following tests on agronomic, technological, and environmental value, a system that represents a genuine asset for setting orientations to genetic progress. There is a need to better consider what impact the plant that results from breeding will have on its environment and the rotation of crops on the farm.

It is also essential to make progress in the creation of varieties adapted to organic farming, of heterogeneous materials and varieties with higher efficiency in water and nitrogen use. Indeed, assessing varieties in limiting conditions will make it possible to highlight the best performing materials and prepare for adaptations to climate change.

Another illustration: varieties with greater soil coverage will enable limiting the need for weeding. These are some illustrations of the major challenges regarding the environment for seeds in France. Taking them into account can be complex.

It is crucial that this environmental value become a competitive asset for your companies and assist in the necessary agro-ecological transition.

We will all have to face many challenges and issues in the years to come: seeds are a major lever and an essential link in the economic, societal, and environmental performance of our future production systems. This is also your vision, which I discovered on the ISF website: “A world where the best quality seed is accessible to all, supporting sustainable agriculture and food security.”

Thank you.”
Mr President, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you alongside our International federation in Nice, France’s 5th largest city, which benefits from an exceptional climate with over 300 sunny days per year.

Nice is the second most attractive tourism destination in France, right behind Paris: 4 million visitors come to discover this very pretty city every year. It is a true cultural crossroads between France & Italy, and Nice is also well-known for its gastronomy, which you will discover throughout the Congress.

The UFS team, along with the ISF team, has gone the extra mile these 18 past months to make sure that your stay here goes as smoothly as possible. I have no doubt that on this welcoming backdrop, your professional meetings will be very productive.

Before we begin, I’d like to draw your attention on the French seed industry:

- France is the biggest seed producer in Europe for many species: maize, wheat, sugar beets, oilseeds, ornamentals, fodder crops, potatoes.
- 382,000 hectares are devoted to seed multiplication, which are produced by 19,000 breeders, including some in organic farming.
- The industry’s turnover amounts to 3.3 billion.
- There is a great diversity of companies (cooperatives, family businesses, international firms etc.) which employ 12,000 people all across the country.
- 13% of the turnover is invested into Research & Development.
- France is the world’s leading exporter with 50% of French seed production being exported all over the world.

If you’d like to discover more about our industry, I invite you to go over booth 644, our “French Seed Rendez-vous” stand, which reunites 6 partners specialized in research and distribution, as well as multiplication and breeder’s rights.

I’ll quickly go over the French context: as you may know, our government supports the development of agro-ecology: a concept that fundamentally aims at producing more and better with less resources.

The seed industry plays a fundamental role in this perspective and demonstrates everyday its tangible contributions.

This 70th International Congress is also important for UFS, which will celebrate its 10-year anniversary next November. French seed companies have joined forces in order to be better-known, renowned and to bring their strong contribution in debates about major issues such as R&D, the protection of our varieties and our role in a sustainable and responsible agriculture.

We are proud of the dialogue we have with the public authorities, the stakeholders and the general public as we promote our beautiful profession, in the challenging context of growing defiance and separation between food producers and consumers. I welcome you in Nice and wish you a lot of success in your meetings."
MR DAVID MALAN  
Chair of South African National Organizing Committee

“Good morning, ladies and gentlemen! As you will hear in South Africa where you will go next year “Sawubona” meaning “I see you all”. I can see the excitement on your faces and that you all can’t wait to come to South Africa.

It is my privilege to invite you to the Congress next year. You heard from Franck Berger that he succeeded to get you all here. This is now my responsibility to get all of you to South Africa next year and I will do my best to achieve that goal.

It is my privilege to reveal our logo and theme for next year. I would like to highlight a few things from this logo. In the background you see Cape Town and the Table Mountain. Table Mountain is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. We are extremely proud about it, and you will get to see it next year. The theme of our Congress is “Shared Roots, Greater Heights”. It is well documented that mankind originated from Africa. But more importantly, there are the two groups of people that migrated down from through southern tip of Africa, that you see on the left hand side of the logo, and the sun people that you see on the right. The khoi people were herders and hunters, the sun people were also hunters but also gatherers of fruits and seed, re-sowing seeds and harvesting them. So in a way, that makes them one of the first seed men in the world. Next year when you go there, we will trace these shared roots leading us to greater heights. We hope you will embrace that.

In the memory of Nelson Mandela, we will host next year’s Congress in the Ubuntu spirit. Ubuntu is a Nguni word representing the African concept meaning “I am what I am because of what we all are”. This is pretty much in line with the seed industry – ISF and SANSOR can only exist because of you the members. So preparing this Congress, we want to embrace the spirit of Ubuntu and we want that all of us embrace that togetherness. As a group we can achieve goals that an individual cannot. We will strive towards that spirit.

Of course we want you to come to South Africa, whatever your motivations are. You can come and see our mountain, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, or maybe you want to explore Cape Town, or enjoy the wine region around Cape Town. Come! Or maybe you want to come to experience our wildlife! We have an abundance of that.

Most of all, we want you to come to South Africa to come and explore opportunities. Meet old friends and new acquaintance. Africa is a high growth continent. You will get the opportunity to explore the new horizons in South Africa and also in the rest of Africa. It’s predicted that in 2100, 40% of the world population will live in Africa. So for you seedmen, there are huge opportunities for development.

Now I want to show some important information with you. We have a booth here. (Unlike Mr Berger I don’t know the number of our booth but you will find it thanks to the South African flag.) Go to that booth, get the information that you want, about visas, hotels and the venue. Also pick up your African beaded gift. Everyday there is an open hour, between 4 and 5pm, during which you can taste some South African drinks, with and without alcohol. Come and enjoy this.

But most important, drop your business card! At the end of the 3 days, we will have a draw for 2 dream luxury holidays in South Africa. There are only 2 conditions: first one being that you come to the WSC2020, second condition is that you have to attend the Gala Dinner on Wednesday night.

About the registration for next year, we have agreed with ISF that we will conduct a legacy project, to give back to the communities in South Africa. We will target a group of impoverished children to become beneficiaries. To enable us to do this, we will use a small percentage of the registration fee. You will get further information in the coming months.

Another information is that next year, the 1000th person to register to the Congress we win a third dream luxury holiday. Please make sure you enrol for the Congress!

Thank you very much! Come and enjoy South Africa! Join us on 8-10 June 2020 in Cape Town!”
Bonjour cher Délégué, soyez les bienvenus en France,

Dear Delegates, welcome to all of you in France. The number of participants has reached a record level, but what is more important is that we are here together to further discuss our priorities to allow all of us as the global seed sector to keep our "license to operate".

First of all I would like to deeply thank the French Seed Union as the National organizing committee (NOC) for the outstanding cooperation and support. In a couple of months you will celebrate 10 years of existence, and it is wonderful to see what you have achieved together and your contribution to the whole seed sector in the world. I am particularly happy for this and – let's be frank, a little proud – as a previous member of the Board of Directors of the French Seed Union.

This year's theme is "where knowledge flows"- nearby the sea with its flowing waves we could be tempted to think about relaxing in the sun and enjoying life, what we should not forget to do by the way. Our theme is about how we work together, how we share experiences, how the private and public sector are engaging and more.

For us, the seed people of the world, being a breeder, producer or trader we have one shared vision to "make quality seeds accessible to all to support sustainable agriculture and food security". This is our mantra.

Today I would like to embed our vision in a broader picture and link it to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Many of us are not aware of the SDGs and the goal to achieve them in 2030, however these principles form the foundation of the public policies everywhere to address many urgent matters for our planet! And in an ever evolving context this cannot be done alone. This should be a joint effort, and this can only be achieved together with the private sector.

From the 17 SDGs, many of them are linked to our priorities and to our work we are doing as breeder, producer and trader throughout the day. It is about ending poverty, zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, decent work and economic growth, climate action, life on land, and partnerships. Today it is not about endorsing them, rather it is about trying to show where we yet contribute and where we could contribute further. We are looking also to be included in the further elaboration of these goals.

When we look at the overall global food system, we see a vastly complex and multi-layered picture like the one on the screen. This is the reality in a big part of the world. There are different challenges to be taken into account when it comes to building a sustainable food system. This is influenced by the climate, regulations, trade issues, consumer demands, etc. The value chain is very diverse with a lot of different actors and there is no one size fits all solution. The food systems starts with seed, the most critical input to crop production. Our capacity to provide improved varieties directly influences the output. We can contribute at our level but we cannot do it alone. We need to do it together.

Going back to the vision, we see that many of the SDGs are related. This not only shows our contribution today but also the important role we occupy in the past, present and future. Hopefully also in the policies surrounding our sector this can find due recognition.

I would like to go further in this by structuring my talk around the themes of commencement, cooperation, contribution and commitment.

The commencement of the seed sector is closely linked to France, the importance of which is even visible on this old stamp on the left side. It is "la Semeuse", depicting a woman sowing seeds on the field. In France, this image is iconic. And yes, we are since hundreds of years engaged in bringing best seed to
the farmers, and France and its seed people can be proud of their contribution and role in the structuring of the seed sector. There is a kind of commencement in 1640 when we had first catalogues and good seeds were offered. The genealogical selection introduced by Vilmorin was the next step to scale up the capacities for selection, and one of the first breeding programs that had specific impact on consumers was the sugar increase in sugar beets in the middle of the 18th century by Desprez. I would like to mention the first tomato hybrid came from Vilmorin.

There is another spotlight I would like to put on the French seed sector: its critical role played in the creation of FIS and ASSINSEL, the breeders associations that merged into ISF. And you see many dates here, all of which are previous congresses in France. This is a record for one country in terms of organizing a congress.

It was not only the companies but also the personalities, who drove the creation of the associations throughout nearly 100 years. And today we have 4 French past presidents here with us, and I would like to welcome them: Louis Duval, Francois Desprez, Bernard Le Buane and JC Gouache. Thank you. By the fact that we have nearly 230 seed people from France, let us all clap our hands to thank them for their contribution and also for the many sponsorships from French companies for the Congress here today. Speaking about numbers, we are here Coming together to trade, engage and network. Nearly 1700 delegates are present from 63 countries, and I would like to thank you all for following us around the world.

This year again it is also worthwhile to point out that the key role of ISF is to bring together the diversity of the seed sector including the geographical diversity to foster cooperation. It is great to see that we have the Seed Association of Senegal being our newest member and its president is here. National authorities in charge of seed in Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan joined us to align with our vision, to contribute to the movement of seed, and to bridge their country with the international seed sector. Cooperation with partners is increasingly important as seed is the starting point of agricultural production. Who is our first partner everywhere in the world? It is the farmer and therefore I am very happy to welcome Theo de Jager, the president of the World Farmers Organisation. It is great to be part of the farmer-driven climate agenda through the Climakers initiative. Seed people and farmers are working collaboratively on the ground, and everywhere seed companies are supporting, training and engaging with farmers.

Many things happened in 2018 and I invite you to read the exhaustive Outcome report of ISF which was sent to the members with the program of the ISF World Seed Congress 2019. I cannot mention all of the activities, but I would like to thank you for the trust that you give us to drive your key objectives, allowing you to do business around the world.

We continuously cooperated with national seed associations through nomination, and the more and more regular and proactive preparation of actions, positions and outreach. This outreach is linked also to more and more support from ISF on communication activities, as many of our members are requesting more and more active presence in media and social media. The world is changing, and along with it the way of addressing and promoting topics should follow the change and ISF has to endorse it. The implementation at the national level is critical and therefore I would like to express my thanks to all actors on the ground. Let's be clear: ISF, Regional Seed Associations and National Seed Associations are complementary and each of us has its role to play. Coordination is therefore so crucial.

We had specific activities in nearly 25 countries including meetings with governments, value chain, trainings and participation in annual meetings. We spend far beyond 1000 hours in official or informal meetings of international organisations to represent you and promote your interests as the global voice of the seed sector.

What we are looking for, and this is linked to several SDGs, is to provide seed choice to all farmers including subsistence farmers. Following the position paper of last year we engaged in several countries, and one example was the recent participation in the 2nd Seed Connect Meeting in Nigeria, where we discussed the need to provide Nigerian smallholder farmers with quality seed. Several factors are influencing the capacity of the seed sector to make quality seed accessible. It is about breeding programs in the country, the seed production or simply also the distribution system of seed. Very often this needs to go along with clear seed policies and regulation to build sustainable access but it is also about information to farmers. Through extension officers or engagement like the one being done in Ethiopia by Fair Planet, allowing
farmers to see, touch and feel quality seed and compare it with traditional varieties through special plots of field trials. We need to go further in this engagement including the discussion with foundations engaged in this area such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation who are also present here. I would like also to give a special mention here to the World Seed Partnership.

One thing we as the seed sector will never stop to do is to innovate. This is in our DNA. Since the beginning, plant breeding innovation is at the heart of our work. Today the private sector is investing in breeding to address the needs and preferences of consumers like taste, or nutritional quality, as well as topics like drought or salinity, disease resistances and pests. The SDGs for 2030 are ambitious and if we are not able to continue on this path of innovation by using the latest breeding methods, we will be limited in our capacity to contribute. The policies around the world need to respond to a more and more globalized world. We are looking for science- and risk-based regulations to enable us to address today's challenges. Everywhere discussions on regulations on the latest breeding methods are taking place. Several countries in South America are stepping ahead by putting in place consistent regulations that allow the seed sector to use the different tools. The topic is also high on agenda in Japan, South Korea and Australia. ISF and its members are engaged to allow breeders around the world to be able to use gene editing to address the challenges of the world.

However is it not sad to see that Europe through the decision of the European Court of Justice put on hold breeding initiatives using gene editing? This is not only a threat to the future capacity of the seed sector to provide the best solutions to farmers but it also impacts public breeding activities. Therefore it is so important to see the joint call of many organisations within the value chain and public research to review this situation and review the legislation. ISF and its members are engaged and ready to support the excellent work done by the European Seed Association for change.

Latest statistics are showing the continuous increase of seed trade around the world. Even in regions where not a lot of trade occurs, like Africa, the figures are going up. Seed trade and movement of seed clearly highlights the important actions in our daily work on quality stewardship to provide pest-free seed, as the opposite would put not only our business model at stake but negatively impact farmers too. Therefore, countries who want to ensure the movement of healthy seed, are engaged in the establishment of clear standards on phytosanitary measures. The implementation of the International Standard on Phytosanitary measures is a top priority for ISF. Besides training models and material we are engaging with our network worldwide to promote its implementation. ISF also took the initiative for a harmonized phytosanitary system allowing all our companies to operate in a clear and consistent frame.

How can I not speak on the International year of Plant health 2020, which will be a key focus of our activities! I am proud to reveal to you the recently adopted logo and to inform you that FAO accepted ISF as the representative of the private sector in the Steering Committee. Let's all demonstrate our way of doing and commitment to pest-free movement of seed.

To further contribute to the SDGs and to different goals, we need to have a sustainable business model. Sustainable agriculture needs a sustainable business model, and for the private seed sector to have an incentive for investments is a must. Therefore we need the right set of intellectual property protection. We are engaged in many countries around the world to promote UPOV 91 which provides the right balance between access and use in line with the ISF position on IP from 2013. In many countries in the world the IP system for seed is under pressure. More than ever we need to engage as a sector to safeguard our business.

Every year it is a ritual on the agenda to talk about conservation, access and use of genetic resources. Several SDGs are related, and there is a target for 2020 which is to maintain the genetic diversity in food production. I will not come back again and again on our commitment on genetic resources. Later today we will have an exchange with Alwin Kopse on the current discussion on the multilateral system on access and benefits sharing under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture. We need today as in the past a business friendly solution. At the same time there is a responsibility to find an agreement among the countries. We as the private sector are not negotiating but we are constantly contributing through proposals and information to support the discussions and give the perspective of the private sector. Although progress has been painstakingly slow, you can count on us that the sector will fervently continue to support and contribute. The discussions should end with the Governing Body in November. It is now!
Still on the topic of our contribution to the SDGs, the seed sector has been engaged for a couple of years in the fight against illegal seed practices. The position papers last year, the collaboration with several partner associations and international organisations scaled up our efforts to confront these practices. And yes, ISPs exist throughout the world and we looked closely at some countries to get a clearer picture. ISPs are impacting the livelihood of farmers and our joint capacity to combat hunger or poverty. A farmer buying illegal seed which does not germinate or is not adapted to the climate zone is losing yield and consequently income. We continuously increase the communication and have put in place specific Task Forces to learn how we can learn from each other. The elaboration of best practices will be a new level of engagement during the next month.

Therefore ISF will continue its multifaceted engagement on food security and sustainable agriculture, and raise our voice when SDGs are discussed. The private sector should be heard!

Now I can only count on your continued cooperation, contribution to provide farmers with quality seed, your commitment to our joint vision, and let’s commence now. This goes as well for trade as I know you are more than eager to start!

…and of course do not forget to enjoy this lovely place.

Seed is life.”
Monday 3 June 2019

BREEDERS COMMITTEE

Attendance: 106 participants  
Chair: Marc Cool

Roundtable  
Moderator: Claire Doole  
Panellists: Shereen Zorba (UNEP), Theo de Jager (WFO), Mike Gumina (RiceTec), Catherine Dagorn (GNIS)

“Two years after the Paris Agreement, where does the seed sector stand?”

Three students from the chair of breeding at UniLaSalle Beauvais introduced the effort that they can see and foresee in their respective country, particularly threatened by climate change: Viet Nam, Pakistan and Ecuador.

The seed sector is at the beginning of the food value chain and a key component of the agricultural sector. Panelists brought their point of view on the role of the seed sector in addressing tomorrow’s challenges, especially climate change. Seed companies have to innovate, in a greater and faster way, to bring solutions to farmers. The way that the latest breeding methods are going to be regulated in some parts of the world, and especially in Europe, puts in question the ability of the seed sector to deliver the seeds that farmers need. Not only farmers in Europe may be affected by this over-regulation, but also smallholder farmers in developing countries because seed companies from Europe, and especially France, are playing a greater role in Africa and Asia.

ISF is communicating more around the role of the seed sector towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) developed by the United Nations in 2016. Seed companies already contribute a lot in favour of SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), etc. It is now a matter of communication to get our contribution known at the international level. Public policies are not going to be enough to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. The private sector has to play a greater role in addressing climate change and has to take the right initiatives now.

Update: Priorities of the Committee

Presenter: Marc Cool, Chair of the Breeders Committee

The Breeders Committee has focused its work on redefining its leading role towards the two sub-committees (SAC, IPC) and the working group (PBI). The Breeders Committee is the entry point when it comes to relationships with the external actors: international organizations as well as NGOs. ISF has signed a partnership with Plant Breeders Without Borders and is a member of Climakers, an alliance initiated by the World Farmers Organization to address climate change.

Update: Plant Breeding Innovation: latest developments

Presenter: Bernice Slutsky, Chair of the ISF Plant Breeding Innovation Working Group

In the last 2 years, the PBI WG focused on developing position papers, communication material and organizing meetings with governments with a focus on the goal of science-based policy alignment. Now ISF sees its role as bringing technical and knowledge support to countries that wish to address
the topic of plant breeding innovation. In collaboration with the national seed associations, contacts are established with China, Japan, Korea, Central America and the APEC. A common set of talking points was developed with the International Grain Trade Coalition and further work is scheduled together. The following technical documents are going to be developed by ISF in the coming months: talking points on detection methods, paper on non-target edits, talking points on unique identifiers, guide on evaluation of genome edited plants, and the importance of classical mutagenesis to plant breeding.

**Update: Intellectual Property Committee**

*Presenter: Antonio Villarroel, Chair of the ISF Illegal Seed Practices Working Group, member of IPC*

Following a survey conducted in 2017 to check the satisfaction and needs of ISF members toward the current IP system, the IPC is focusing on promoting the UPOV Convention 1991 Act. A mapping of the various actions taking place in non UPOV countries helped the IPC to focus its work on some key countries. Contact with foreign organizations and the national seed associations will be developed in the coming months. The IPC agreed on the need to develop communication tools.

Definition of an EDV is still under discussion at UPOV level. ISF will actively participate in the seminar taking place on 30 October 2019 to present its understanding of the Explanatory Note on EDV adopted in 2017.

In countries which are not yet a member of UPOV, the definition of subsistence farmers to apply the exception to the payment of royalty is often the issue. Thus ISF would like to endorse a study made by Plantum and Oxfam which aims at defining an occasional sale of protected varieties and thus exempting subsistence farmers from having to pay a royalty on their farm saved seed. This could be turned into a position paper to be adopted next year.

The Illegal Seed Practices WG organized a task force on Mediterranean countries (Turkey, Italy, Spain) composed of the national seed associations and some key stakeholders such as Breeders Trust, the Anti Infringement Bureau and Ciopora. After analysing the regulatory framework in these countries, the aim is to collect case laws and to draft good practices and recommendations including preventive measures to help authorities to target infringements. A communication campaign was launched during the Congress, including a specific disclaimer to tick when registering to the Congress and large posters on ISP in the trading area.

**Breeders Rights: The key to the flow of innovation**

*Presenter: Peter Button, Vice Secretary General, UPOV*

UPOV protection is key to stimulate innovation at the seed company level. The beneficiaries of these innovations are multiple: from the farmers to the consumers. Figures show that when a country ratifies and implements the UPOV Convention 1991 Act, consumers get a greater outcome. This was visible in Vietnam and Canada in the last years.

Another way to enhance the adoption of UPOV 1991 Act at the national level and to encourage breeders to protect easily their varieties is the system PRISMA. Since 2 years, PRISMA is getting more and more popular with seed companies and the flow of application is expected to increase even more with the applications being free of charge until the end of 2019. The crops coverage and the number of languages available is also enhancing the willingness of companies to use it. In May 2019, 32 applications were received. Every month, UPOV sees more and more applications.
**Update: Sustainable Agriculture Committee: latest developments**

*Presenter: Anke van den Hurk, Chair of the Sustainable Agriculture Committee*

The Sustainable Agriculture Committee is largely focusing on the access and benefit sharing policies around genetic resources. Indeed, the next Governing Body of the ITPGRFA (meeting in November 2019) will determine whether a new Standard Material Transfer Agreement will apply to the seed companies in 2020. ISF developed a communication guide to help NSA and seed companies to address the topic with their national authorities. This guide is available on demand and on the Members Area.

Many expectations have yet to be addressed for the contracting parties of the ITPGRFA to reach an agreement on a new SMTA. It seems that the dual system (annual subscription fee or payment at commercialization) will remain as a possible choice for companies when accessing material from the multilateral system. However there is no decision taken yet on the rates of payment. Many other modalities still have to be discussed before and in November, such as the remaining rights and obligations after the end of a SMTA, the status of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development, the possibility and the modalities to expand the scope of the ITPGRFA to all crops for food and agriculture.

Another topic related to the ITPGRFA is the implementation of its Article 9 on Farmers’ Rights. A special group is working since 2 years on providing national examples of the implementation of Farmers’ Rights. ISF encourages all seed associations to make a submission to the ITPGRFA Secretariat explaining how UPOV Convention (setting Breeders Rights) and ITPGRFA are not in opposition but should be implemented in a mutually supportive way.

**The funding strategy of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)**

*Presenter: Alwin Kopse, Head International Affairs and Food Security, Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture*

Alwin Kopse is the Swiss representative at the ITPGRFA level and Co-Chair of the WG Funding Strategy of the ITPGRFA. In these times of hard negotiations around a new SMTA to get greater benefit-sharing, it is important to get an understanding of the funding strategy of the ITPGRFA. The funds gathered through benefit sharing and annual country contributions (as well as donations for example from ISF, ESA, GNIS) serve the implementation of the programs of the ITPGRFA (Global Information System for ITPGRFA, sustainable use program, Farmers’ Rights...).

The objectives of the funding strategy are: to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement activities under this Treaty / to give strategic guidance to the Governing Body / to advise on resource mobilization efforts and on leveraging funding and developing synergies between different funding sources and partners / to periodically establish a funding target.

The funding target has been recently revised, with an objective to raise an additional USD 1 billion per year during the next 10 years in order to fulfil 100% of the targets of the Global Plan of Action.

The seed sector is an important enabling partner for the treaty implementation, and benefits from the objectives of the treaty (conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA) through its access to the MLS. The seed sector was thanked for all the financial efforts already made and will play a key role in the sustainable funding of the ITPGRFA by the engagement companies will take toward the new SMTA and the possibility to become a Subscriber.
Tuesday 4 June 2019

PHYTOSANITARY COMMITTEE

Attendance: 110 participants
Chair: Rob Keene

**Update: Priorities of the Committee**

Presenter: Rob Keene, Chair of the Breeders Committee

The Phytosanitary Committee has been active on supporting the implementation of ISPM 38 on the International Movement of Seeds as well as with IPPC initiatives such as ePhyto and the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020. In the last year, the IPPC invited ISF to develop ISPM 38 training materials and provide training sessions during their IPPC Regional Meetings which were very well received. ISF continues to engage with the IPPC as a member of the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group and the IYPH Technical Advisory Board. In addition, ISF was recently invited to be a member of the FAO IYPH Steering Committee.

**Systems approach – step toward a predictable, efficient framework for international seed movement**

Presenter: Merel Langens, Global Manager Industry Affairs at BASF Vegetable Seeds

Within a period of a year, the ISF Systems Approach WG has been extremely effective in promoting the benefits of a Systems Approach for Seed as an alternative to the current process of phytosanitary certification. This was made evident by the IPPC’s recent approval to develop an Annex to ISPM 38 on the design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds. The industry has now prioritized efforts to develop a paper describing the industry’s view on how the Systems Approach for Seed could operate. This paper will be used to achieve alignment within the industry, for discussions with NPPOs, national/regional seed associations and seed companies as well as a reference to support the development of the Annex.

**ePhyto – an effort to drive efficiency and harmonization in the exchange of phytosanitary certificates**

Presenter: Craig Fedchock, Senior Advisor at the International Plant Protection Convention

ePhyto is an IPPC project to facilitate the electronic exchange of phytosanitary certificates (including re-export certificates). ePhyto is anticipated to replace inefficient processes in place, reduce fraudulent certificates, simplify any re-issuing of phytosanitary certificates, and reduce the amount of paper utilized. The “ePhyto Solution” consists of both a Hub and a GeNS. The GeNS is a generic, national system that produces, sends, and receives electronic phytosanitary certificates. The GeNS will be used by countries that do not have their own national system to do that. The Hub is a system that the GeNS and other national systems will connect to. The Hub will then facilitate the exchange of ePhytos between all of the systems connected. The ePhyto Solution will be fully operational by the end of July.

Benefits of the ePhyto Solution exist for both countries that are new to the electronic exchange of certificates as well as to countries that are already exchanging electronic data using national systems and bilateral agreements.
**Update: Subcommittee on Vegetable Seed Health & Regulatory Matters**

*Presenter: Frank Claessens, Vice President of Operations Vegetable Seeds at BASF Vegetable Seeds*

The Subcommittee is restructuring to manage the increased complexity of seed health and challenges with current resources. The strategy, structure, resource management, project management, and stakeholder management have all been identified as areas to optimize in the future. Initial thoughts on future structure were provided, although further refinement is to take place prior to a final proposal in the revised ISF Internal Regulations to be approved by the Board of Directors during the ISF mid-terms.

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**SEED APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE**

*Attendance: 132 participants*  
*Chair: Klaus Schlünder*

**Update: Priorities of the Committee**

*Presenter: Klaus Schlünder, Chair of the Seed Applied Technologies Committee*

SAT-Com continues to develop SAT-Com News as a platform to communicate on committee activities, seed treatment, outreach, and best practices. The newsletter is produced 3 times per year with a distribution list that continues to grow as interested individuals contact the secretariat. SAT-Com has also prioritized the outreach efforts for the position paper on the Movement of Treated Seeds as well as on gathering information related to regulatory discussions on microplastics. SAT-Com recently finalized joint efforts on the development of ISF/CLI Stewardship Guidelines on Seed Treatment and Handling of Treated Seeds. These joint guidelines harmonize terminology, provide the seed industry's point of view, and align with the existing ISF Seed Treatment guidelines which ISF will continue to refer its members to.

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**Highlighting ISF's efforts to improve the movement of treated seed**

*Presenter: Luc Dormoy, Seed Treatment Portfolio Manager at Limagrain*

The SAT-Com Movement of Treated Seeds WG is developing a strategy and associated training materials for the outreach on the position paper adopted in Brisbane. The current training materials were utilized in the session to clarify terms and definitions, simplify the key messages in the position paper, and highlight the key concepts for a working regulatory system that differentiates regulations on the movement of STP, the application of STP, the movement of treated seeds, and the release in the environment by sowing treated seed.

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**Quality improvement of seed treatment in Europe**

*Presenter: Udo Heimbach, Retired; previously Deputy Director of the Institute for Plant Protection in Field Crops and Grassland of the Julius Kühn Institute*

Studies using a standardized test method incorporating the Heubach Dustmeter were presented that concluded that risks of dust drift can be effectively reduced by seed treatment facilities utilizing several approaches including using seed cleaned prior to seed treatment, sufficient aspiration during treatment, as well as good coating techniques, stickers, and a sufficient thick inert outer coating layer with no a.i. Farmers can further reduce the risk by using adequate low dust drift sowing techniques or filters, careful handling of treated seed, and using high quality seed at low sowing rates.
SAT-Com has been following the current situation and regulatory environment surrounding microplastics. Although having many benefits for seed treatment (dust-control, abrasion, PPP release, etc.), polymers in seed treatments are now being reviewed by EU regulators as having a potential negative impact to the environment. Potential regulation of microplastics in seed treatments in the EU could be implemented 5 years after an “Entry into Force” date, with labeling requirements even earlier. With current timelines and consultation periods, a ban of synthetic (non-biodegradable) polymers used in seed treatment and (encapsulated) PPPs is likely from 2025/2026 onwards, with some suggesting that it could even come quicker. As no acceptable alternative exists for today’s polymers, considerations must be made for costs and time for development and registration. It will be important for these to be considered by regulators in the form of deferred “Entry into Force” dates or with exemptions. In addition, any regulations on labeling or restrictions can further impact the movement of treated seeds.

VEGETABLE & ORNAMENTAL SECTION

Attendance: 88 participants
Chair: Vicente Navarro

Priorities of the Section

Presenter: Vicente Navarro, Chair of the Vegetable & Ornamental Section

There are four priorities for the V&O Section: facilitating the global movement of seeds, preventing intellectual property (IP) infringement, supporting innovation, and engagement with society.

The vegetable seed sector is greatly exposed to market access problems (incl. phytosanitary issues) due to its nature; with more than 50 different crops being produced in countries other than where treatment, packing and sales take place. Facilitating the free movement of seeds is probably one of the most difficult things that the sector is facing especially when the enacted non-tariff measures are not science based, but serves a form of market protection.

Key note speech “Opportunities for innovation and business”

Presenter: Vicente Navarro, Chair of the Vegetable & Ornamental Section

Evolving trends in society and the many things they demand for are actually opportunities for the industry to innovate and for businesses to act on.

The industry should not ignore these factors. Fulfilling the expectations of society creates the sector’s licence to operate. Sustainability is a driving force; it comes back clearly in the ‘one life, one planet’ concept, but if one looks closely it comes back in almost all trends and demands. Engagement is key for the industry. If players of the sector aren’t capable of getting acceptance for our business model with society, then people will be more negative towards the seed industry regardless of the value that we create. It’s really important to step up and engage with a broader audience, because if the sector won’t protect its license to operate, then who will?
The French vegetable seed market

Presenter: Loïc Boucher, Cluster France Sales Manager at HM Clause

Consumer trends are changing and this highly influences breeding and the seed sector. Consumers especially young consumers today are indulgent, meaning they need to fully live the experience of discovery and fun-seeking. They take care of their health, are well educated, seeking for values such as organic food, antioxidants and vitamins or super foods. It is an interesting mix of authenticity and modernity. The vegetable consumption in France slightly increased and consumers tend to buy products from smaller markets. The proportion of the hypermarket is decreasing, but still considerable. On the production side 50% of the smallest vegetable farms represents only 5% of the total acreage, while 20% of the largest farms represent 70% of the acreage.

The future will bring many new challenges but also opportunities for the sector; new distribution channels such as specialized e-commerce or blockchain, limitation of chemical solutions, and urban farming.

Organized seed multiplication system in France

Presenter: Anne Gayraud and Emmanuelle Laurent, Director of Administration at GNIS

French farmers who want to produce seeds need to have a contract with a seed company. The minimum requirements are discussed and decided collectively within the French seeds Interbranch (GNIS) between seed growers and seed companies. All the seed production contracts have to be notified to GNIS.

The GNIS agreement for seed field mapping has been working since 1999. The software allows an easy mapping of the seed fields and an automatic calculation of the isolation distances between fields. Meetings are organized between seed companies and expert seed growers to validate the mapping. The system allows the management of possible problems of isolation before planting the crops and thus ensures the quality/purity of the seeds produced in France.

Agrial, multi-specialist cooperative optimizing the food chain for its members

Presenter: Guillaume Dumiot, Seed Unit Director at Agrial

The role, structure and the business model of French cooperatives was presented through a company example.

The cooperative is basically farmers united as a group to create, secure and safeguard the value of their farms through a high-performance cooperative agricultural and food group. To achieve this, the cooperative has solid, balanced governance. It is concerned about the level of service provided and the decision-making power of its members.

It is founded on a democratic structure: one man, one vote. Every member can be elected and take on the responsibilities of the company’s governance. In accordance with cooperative regulations, members are at the same time the company’s associates (owners of the social capital), suppliers and customers. They manage the group democratically.

It has set up a system of governance adapted to its farming and food processing businesses. It is characterised by: a balance between representation of the territories and representation of the productions.
Seed industry working with smallholder farmers: the Fair Planet example

**Presenter: Shoshan Haran, Founder and General Manager, Fair Planet**

During her previous jobs in the private seed industry, Shoshan Haran understood that seeds were the basis for the food supply in the world, but they were not accessible to smallholder farmers in developing countries.

To bridge this gap, she founded Fair Planet, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to increase food production and provide new economic opportunities for smallholder farmers in developing countries, through access to high-quality vegetable seeds. They established an extensive network of pre-competitive collaboration with leading seed companies: Limagrain-Hazera, Syngenta, Enza Zaden, East-West Seed, Bayer and BASF. Through this network, which is open for all seed companies who wish to join, Fair Planet has access to a vast collection of vegetable seed varieties.

Fair Planet is leading successful and breakthrough efforts to increase food availability as well as economic opportunities for smallholder farmers in Sub Saharan Africa.

To date, The Fair Planet initiative has significantly improved crop productivity and income generation of more than 50,000 smallholder farmers’ households in Ethiopia, improving the livelihood of their families, more than 250,000 people, in a transformative manner.
Wednesday 5 June 2019

FIELD CROP SECTION

Attendance: 71 participants
Chair: Ellen Sparry

Priorities of the Section
Presenter: Ellen Sparry, Chair of the Field Crop Section

Apart of the horizontal topics where the Section provided a great deal of contribution an ad-hoc working group has been formed to investigate potential topics to work on. The selected topic was the seed sector’s contribution to sustainable crop production. This was considered too broad to tackle at once therefore it was broken down to sub-points. At the moment the ad-hoc working group is identifying the concrete actions that are need to be taken to provide a draft proposal for the mid-term meeting for the full section.

The French field crops seed market
Presenter: Catherine Lamboley, Commercial Lead France, Bayer and Pascal Mombled, Semences de France, CEO

France is proud to be the largest seed producer in Europe representing 250,000 hectares, 180 crops and 14,000 seed multipliers. Half of the produced seeds are being exported to the other EU countries or third countries making the sector a huge contributor to the French agricultural trade balance.

Seed sector is the key foundation to meet society’s expectations. France is committed to the agroecology program by 2025 with the ambition to change production models combining economic and environmental performances. However the French seed sector needs to face a few challenges such as reduction of crop protection products, society expectations and climate change.

International agricultural outlook on commodity markets
Presenter: Jonathan Brooks, Head of Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division, OECD

A decade after the food price spikes of 2007-8, conditions on world agricultural markets are very different. Production has grown strongly across commodities, and in 2017 reached record levels for most cereals, types of meat, dairy products, and fish, while cereal stock levels climbed to all-time highs. At the same time, demand growth has started to weaken.

The weakening of demand growth is expected to persist over the coming decade. Population growth will be the main driver of consumption growth for most commodities, even though the rate of growth is forecast to decline further. Moreover, per capita consumption of many commodities is expected to be flat at a global level. This is notable for staple foods such as cereals as well as roots and tubers, where consumption levels are close to saturation levels in many countries.
Several paths for sustainable production methods

Presenter: Jean-Paul Bordes, General Director, ACTA

The main question that needs to be answered is, what will be the new production system in the future? There is no easy answer since agriculture faces societal, economic and also environmental challenges. Production systems are in transition. The sector needs more sustainability and more production to meet the global demand however climate change weakens production systems. Crop management, both conventional and organic, requires support to face the risks. There is also an important role of society and consumers in the markets, creating an impact on agricultural systems. The bottom line is that through innovation agriculture will surely progress.

Fall armyworm management in the context of seed security

Presenter: B. M. Prasanna, Director, CGIAR Research Program MAIZE & Global Maize Program

Fall armyworm is one of the most destructive crop pests in Africa. It is polyphagous, but with a major preference for maize. It has strong migratory capacity, short life cycle (several generations during the same crop season), high fecundity that makes its pest control very difficult. While it has caused the greatest devastation in Africa, fall armyworm is now a major global concern. To combat FAW, integrated pest management is needed using all available tools; biological control, pesticides, native resistance, transgenetic resistance and agro ecological management.

An international consortium including 44 private and public partners was founded synergizing the efforts across Africa and Asia. It is clear that there is no one specific solution that fits all agro-ecologies and socio-economic contexts. The technologies/management practices for FAW management have to be effective, practical, low-cost, and sustainable, and based on robust science/evidence.

R&D is key for developing and deploying sustainable solutions for FAW management in the short-term, medium-term and long-term. On top of that there is a need for well-coordinated responses at the national, sub-regional and continental levels.

FORAGE & TURF CROP SECTION

Attendance: 76 participants
Chair: Darrell Dziver

Priorities of the Section

Presenter: Darrell Dziver, Chair of the Forage & Turf Crop Section

The Section is focusing on topics related to the facilitation of trade around the world. A pest list on alfalfa is underway and the GM database of ISF has been updated with forage and turf crops. Collaboration with ISTA in trying to define a test to detect the presence of perennial ray-grass in annual ray-grass is also continuing. The work of the Forage and Turf Section Board will focus on the phytosanitary issues in some key countries, in collaboration with the Phyto Committee.
Jean-Louis Durand, INRA researcher, highlighted the research ongoing at the sown grassland level with 50 other colleagues. Sown grassland is an important market for French agriculture and quite sensitive to climate change. Solutions for adaptation have to be found. Through collaboration with some French seed companies, INRA is focusing on breeding drought adapted plants. In the research project CLIMAGIE, breeders succeeded so far in reducing the negative impact of climate change in summer and autumn. Thanks to the latest technologies available in the INRA research centres and the research on mixtures of grassland, new possibilities will be proposed to farmers to address climate change. Jean-Louis Durand highlighted the importance of conservation of genetic resources, which are the key to address tomorrow’s challenges.

Laurent Victor, with the help of the GNIS presented the latest data regarding French market. The cattle production is slightly decreasing since the last 30 years. France comprises 14 breeding companies active in Forage and Turf which register every year around 58 new varieties. Figures on the French seed market and trade are available on the presentation slide deck to be downloaded from the Congress website. The expectations for the coming years are the following ones: less grass and more legumes (legumes market share: 13% in 2000, 30% in 2017), more mowing species (such as annual & Italian ryegrass, alfalfa) and less grazing leys, implementation of drought bypass strategies, more and more multi-species mixtures, higher proportion of legumes in mixtures (80% of grasslands).

Regarding the production, 44 seed companies produce 29,000 tons of seeds per year with the help of 4,711 multiplier farmers.

Cover crops are becoming more and more important following an obligation from the European Union. Now, cover crops mixtures represent around 30% of the cover crop market in France and their advantages for soil nutrition and soil biological activity. New agronomic solutions are being explored around companion plant for wheat and for oil seed rapes.

Francesco Mattina, Vice President of the CPVO explained that the Strategic Plan 2017-2021 comprises: making PVR the natural choice for the protection of IP related to plant varieties; being an innovative, people-driven organisation promoting EU values. There are many examination offices around Europe dealing with the DUS examinations for Forage and Turf crops. Brexit will impact the future of the Crossnacreevy station in Northern Ireland. The latest news are that ongoing DUS tests will be conducted until 31 October 2019. New applications from outside UK are not accepted anymore.

Francesco Mattina reported some issues related to distinctness. The VCU trials often show breeding progress but that one cannot always be found as a distinct variety. The Technical Protocols contain relatively few characteristics. On 19/03/2019 the Administrative Council of the CPVO has adopted the revision of the Lolium TP (CPVO-TP/004/2) to introduce, for L. perenne only, Electrophoresis in an annex which allows to use this additional tool. Figures on the application number and countries of origin of applicants are available on the presentation to be downloaded on the Congress website.
TRADE AND ARBITRATION RULES COMMITTEE

Attendance: 97 participants
Chair: Hamdi Ciftciler

Priorities of the TARC:

Presenter: Hamdi Ciftciler, Chair of the Trade and Arbitration Rules Committee

The committee does not see the need for a review of the ISF Rules, the translations in Russian and Chinese are accomplished and several training will take place in Europe and in China later this year or early 2020. One of the main topics for the near future is recently started discussion to review the procedure for arbitration by putting in place a more centralised system with regards to recent cases and to keep the high standard of arbitration’s and the recognition of the system.

Update on trade and arbitration

Presenter: Michael Keller, ISF Secretary General

Michael Keller reminded the audience of the importance of the ISF Trade and Arbitrations Rules, which are included in thousands of contracts every year. Several cases took place during the recent month, and ISF Secretariat were several times involved to insure the participants of the neutrality of the system, the well-functioning of the system but also to importance to participate in each step of the procedure. And the step of mediation should be used.

Industry panel 'The future of the international seed industry: vision of business leaders.'

Moderator: Claire Doole
Panellists: Liam Condon (Bayer), François Desprez (Maison Florimond Deprez), Santosh Attavar (Indo American Hybrid Seeds), Sanqiao Jiang (Winall Hi-Tech Seed)

Business leaders representing the diversity of the private seed sector talked about the future of the industry, touching upon topics like sustaining innovation to respond to current issues like climate change and food security, facilitating trade in an environment of increasing global tension and protectionism, and gaining social acceptance and license to operate in order to continue the delivery of high quality seeds. From small and medium enterprises, to family-owned businesses, to international companies, all industry representatives emphasized the need to access the latest breeding methods to answer to the challenge of feeding the world.

Participants said the ECJ decision leaves companies with little choice but to carry out research on gene editing in friendlier parts of the world and expressed concerns that the EU legislation could influence how the latest plant breeding methods are regulated in other countries. Similarly, many African countries take their regulatory lead from Europe. However, many countries had few organized discussions on the topic of new plant breeding methods, and that there is concurrence from the industry standpoint that they are beneficial.

The panellists expressed the importance of framing the discussion on innovation in terms of the economic, social and environmental components of sustainability, as these are what the average consumer cares about. Future will be with less crop protection and less pressure on natural resources to produce food. There is a the huge potential of digitalization to achieve more precise and targeted production.

The panel also discussed the impact of trade and movement of seed, noting that seed security is one of the foundations of food security and the starting point of raising agricultural production at the national level. They called for constant engagement between industry and government to achieve consistency and alignment on a global level regarding policies governing seed movement.
LIST OF PRESENTATIONS


• Opening Ceremony
  • 3 June BERGER
  • 3 June MALAN
  • 3 June KELLER

• Open Meeting of the Breeders Committee
  • 3 June BUTTON Breeders Committee
  • 3 June COOL Breeders Committee
  • 3 June KOPSE Breeders Committee
  • 3 June SLUTSKY Breeders Committee
  • 3 June VAN DEN HURK Breeders Committee
  • 3 June VILLARROEL Breeders Committee

• Open Meeting of the Phytosanitary Committee
  • 4 June CLAESSENS Phytosanitary Committee
  • 4 June FEDCHOCK Phytosanitary Committee
  • 4 June KEENE Phytosanitary Committee
  • 4 June LANGENS Phytosanitary Committee

• Open Meeting of the Seed Applied Technologies Committee
  • 4 June DORMOY Seed Applied Technologies Committee
  • 4 June HEIMBACH Seed Applied Technologies Committee
  • 4 June PRONK Seed Applied Technologies Committee
  • 4 June SCHLÜNDER Seed Applied Technologies Committee

• Vegetable & Ornamental Crop Section
  • 4 June Nice intro slides Vegetable Ornamental Section
  • 4 June BOUCHER Vegetable Ornamental Section
  • 4 June GAYRAUD Vegetable Ornamental Section
  • 4 June HARAN Vegetable Ornamental Section
  • 4 June MALAN Vegetable Ornamental Section
  • 4 June NAVARRO Vegetable Ornamental Section
  • 4 June RUTHNER Vegetable Ornamental Section

• Field Crop Section
  • 5 June BORDES Field Crop Section
  • 5 June BROOKS Field Crop Section
  • 5 June MOMBLED FieldCropSection
  • 5 June PRASANNA Field Crop Section

• Forage & Turf Crop Section
  • 5 June DURAND Forage & Turf
  • 5 June DZIVER Forage & Turf
  • 5 June MATTINA Forage & Turf
  • 5 June VICTOR Forage & Turf
Wednesday 5 June 2019

ISF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Attendance: 148 participants  
Chair: Eduard Fito, ISF President

1. CALL TO ORDER, ISF ANTI-TRUST GUIDELINES AND ROLL CALL

Eduard Fito called the General Assembly to order at 16:00 and reminded the audience that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the ISF Anti-trust Guidelines.

Roll call:
ISF Secretary General Michael Keller took the roll call.
The following members were present or represented by proxy:

- Ordinary members: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, China Taiwan, Hong Kong, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay.
- Associate members: France: Bayer Crop Science, Groupe Limagrain, SICASOV; Germany: KWS SAAT; Iran: Abtin Gostar Sabz; Lebanon: Agrimedica; Netherlands: Monsanto Holland BV; Spain: Geslive AIE; Switzerland: Syngenta Crop Protection, Monsanto International; Thailand: East-West Seed; United States: Corteva Agriscience, Monsanto.

The number of votes represented was 234 for Ordinary members and 46 for Associate members, making a total of 280 (or 83.0 %) as the total of votes for the Federation was 337, with a required quorum of one third. The General Assembly (GA) was therefore validly constituted.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The amended agenda was circulated with the ISF World Seed Congress documents. The General Assembly adopted the agenda without any additional comments.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1 Adoption of the 2018 accounts

The Chair gave the floor to the Treasurer Christoph Betschart, who presented the 2018 closed accounts as circulated, page 29 in the Congress documents and as shown on screen.

The results showed a loss for the year. The Treasurer highlighted the reserves percentage remaining within the guidelines fixed by the Board of Directors.

*There were no questions or comments on the 2018 accounts.*
3.2 Auditor’s Report

Christoph referred to the Congress document (p. 30 of the Congress Program) which was the review report made by the auditor Fidacor who had reviewed the financial statements of ISF and found that the operating results were in accordance with the law and the company’s articles of incorporation and with the laws of Switzerland.

3.3 Discharge to the Board of Director and the Secretary General

The Chair asked the members if they agreed to give discharge to the ISF Board of Directors and the ISF Secretary General. There was no opposition, no abstention.

*The General Assembly unanimously approved the 2018 accounts and discharge was given to the ISF Board of Directors and the ISF Secretary General accordingly.*

4. ISF MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Election of new ISF members

The Chair referred to the list of applications in the amended Congress documents and shown on screen. There were no additional comments.

- Ordinary members Observer for two years: Union Nationale Interprofessionnelle des Semences – UNIS (Senegal)
- Associate members: Trust Seeds Company Limited (Jordan); World Side Seed (Russia); INARI Agriculture (USA); BASF – Corporation Seeds and Traits (USA); Bayer AG Crop Science (USA); Apadana Giti Seeds (Iran); Ekoniva-Semana (Russia); Amalia SAL (Lebanon)
- Affiliate members: Baker McKenzie (Australia); State Seed Fund (Azerbaijan); Center of Plants Systems Biology and Biotechnology (Bulgaria); Solvay (France); Delair (France); Staphyt (France); Computomics (Germany); Phenome Networks (Israel); Center for the development of seed production (Uzbekistan); Bayer AG (USA); Yield Systems Oy (Finland); Itaka SRL (Italy); Almar Packaging (South Africa); QualySense AG (Switzerland); Michelman (USA); African Youth for change Sierra Leone (Sierra Leone).

*The General Assembly unanimously elected the above members with warm applause.*

4.2. Discontinuation of ISF membership

The Chair expressed his satisfaction at the new members welcomed on board, but expressed his regret that some members had to be discontinued, as per the Congress program, for reasons of resignation or non-payment. Nonetheless, he clearly highlighted ISF’s ongoing efforts to keep and maintain members.

- Associate members: Global Seeds Co. (India); Agrimap Seeds (Jordan); Agrofirma Sumy-Nasynnya (Ukraine); Bayer Crop science (France); Monsanto (Netherlands); Monsanto International (Switzerland); Monsanto (USA); Menagri (Lebanon); Resignation: PT Selektani (Indonesia); Germisem Sementes (Portugal)
- Affiliate members: Mousavi Trading (Iran); Excellence Through Stewardship (USA)
  Resignation: Santa Marina y Steta (Mexico)
- Tree and Shrub members: Beijing Greenlink (China); Lesy SR,ÖZ Semenoles (Slovakia)
- Mushroom group members: Lambert (USA)
  Resignation: Limgroup (Netherlands)

*The General Assembly took note, did not add any comments.*
5.1. Members of the Board of Directors

The Chair referred to the amended Congress document (p.31) which was shown on screen:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RE-NOMINATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian <strong>PFLUG</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-large / Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weibo <strong>SONG</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-large, permanent seat / China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW NOMINATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brent <strong>STIRLING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-large / New Zealand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The General Assembly unanimously elected the proposed members with warm applause.*

### 5.2 Sections

**5.2.1.** The Board of Directors proposed to waive the six-year uninterrupted duration for Vicente Navarro, as Chair of Vegetable and Ornamental Section Board (art. 14.5 ISF articles of association)

**5.2.2.** Section Chairpersons

The Chair referred to amended Congress documents and proposed the following chairs for re-nomination:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RE-NOMINATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vicente <strong>NAVARRO</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Vegetable &amp; Ornamental Crop Section</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The General Assembly unanimously elected the proposed members with warm applause.*

### 5.3. Committees

**5.3.1.** Committee Chairpersons

The Chair referred to amended Congress documents and proposed the following chairs for re-nomination:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RE-NOMINATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamdi <strong>CIFTCILER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Trade &amp; Arbitration Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The General Assembly unanimously elected the proposed members with warm applause.*
The Chair referred to amended Congress documents and proposed the following chairs for new nomination:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RE-NOMINATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael LEADER Chair, Phytosanitary Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The General Assembly unanimously elected the proposed members with warm applause.

5.4. ISF vice-president

The ISF President referred to the Board of Directors’ proposal to the General Assembly for the election of Marco Van Leeuwen as ISF Second Vice President.

The General Assembly unanimously elected Marco Van Leeuwen as ISF second Vice-President with warm applause.

Marco van Leeuwen promised strong engagement and cooperation during the next years, where the seed sector has many challenges ahead. ISF is and will be a critical player to continue to give all of us the licence to operate.

6. APPROVAL OF THE REVISED ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION

The version with amendments from Plantum, clean up and grammatical improvements was showed on the screen and Michael Keller presented it. All amendments were up for a final vote, except the amendment dropped by Plantum on Art. 4.2 third paragraph on Arbitration chambers.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the amended version.

7. FUTURE CONGRESSES: 2023/2024

The Board of Directors proposes Turkey as the host of the ISF World Seed Congress 2023. And The Netherlands as the host of the ISF World Seed Congress 2024.

The General Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal.

Niels Louwaars in the name of Plantum expressed his thanks to ISF for the trust to organise the ISF World Seed Congress 2024 where ISF will celebrate its 100 years in the Netherlands. He promised enthusiasm from the Dutch members and a memorable moment.

Ali Ustun emphasized how proud the Turkish seed sector is to host after Antalya the ISF World Seed Congress in Turkey. He highlighted the full engagement not only of the seed sector but also the local authorities like the Chamber of Commerce to support the preparation and to make it an unforgettable event.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair gave the floor to David Malan to give an update on next year ISF World Seed Congress 2020.

David Malan invited all delegates to come as numerous as in Nice to Cape Town. He congratulated the French colleagues for a great Congress. Now the ISF World Seed Congress 2020 is coming soon, and it will be a unique opportunity to discover Ubuntu and dive into the theme of “shared roots, greater heights”.

RE-NOMINATION

Michael LEADER Chair, Phytosanitary Committee
South Africa is wonderful open country with lots of business opportunities and he hopes that many delegates from Africa will join to strengthen the seed business between Africa and the world.

The Chair invited the President of the NOC 2019 to provide some last words on the ISF World Seed Congress 2019. Franck Berger thanked all delegates from around the world for coming to the wonderful city of Nice. It was a very intensive Congress and for the host country it was a great endeavour together with ISF. He spotted the strong contribution of French companies in sponsorship but also the multiple contributions of knowledge during the meetings. It is a joint success and will certainly stay for a long time in the memory of the French seed sector and hopefully also in the memory of all delegates from around the world.

Thank you all.

9. GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLOSE

The Chair closed the meeting at 17:27.
**GENERAL**

- **Tribute to the Departed**

Niccolo Morelli was a recognized seedsman from Italy and an Honorary Life Member since 1985. He was deeply committed to the seed industry and many of us had the honor of knowing, Niccolo attended a record breaking number of Congress (over 50) and was President of FIS from 1980-82.

By his action he contributed to the development of the seed sector through his participation in various committees and was an ambassador of the Italian seed sector in his role of Chairman of the National Organising Committee of the 1982 Congress in Venice.

- **35th ISF Golf Championship**

33 players took part in the 35th ISF Golf Championship at Open Golf Club – Opio Valbonne.

The winners were Ms. Vanessa Schofield for the ladies’ score and Mr. Edouard Negre for the gentlemen’s score.

- **Countries represented at ISF World Seed Congress 2019**

Delegates and accompanying persons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Delegates</th>
<th>Accompanying Person</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1409</td>
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</table>

(Additional participants in the exhibit booths: 104)
Host countries of future ISF World Seed Congresses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>SOUTH AFRICA</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>TURKEY</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SPAIN</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>MEXICO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Social Media highlights

In 2019, ISF continued its social media efforts using the hashtag #WorldSeed19 to promote the World Seed Congress, as well as live-tweeted from the event. Below is a series of numbers which help depict the reach of the congress hashtag:

Numbers were captured 2-6 June

Top Tweet : June 2019

International Seed Federation @SeedFed
Key takeaways from our panel today: There is more we can do together, the seed sector plays a key role in #foodsecurity & #climatechange, we need to lead and set the direction for the future, and finally: Better seed. Better life.

#WorldSeed19 #Seedislife
pic.twitter.com/mCY9p3o75P

Impressions : 14,974
Total engagements : 76
Retweets : 12
Hashtag clicks : 3
Link clicks : 4
Profile clicks : 7
Likes : 14
Detail expands : 9
Replies : 1

Top Facebook post : June 2019

The ePhyto Solution project is built to facilitate the electronic exchange of phytosanitary certificates. Certificates have an impact on pest spread, trade flow and trade costs. Learn more.

YOUTUBE.COM

The IPPC ePhyto Solution
The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has initiated an innovative project called the ePhyto Solution. The IPPC ePhyto Solution aims to...

Reach : 1,723
Reactions (comments, likes, shares) : 65
Post clicks : 247

Top LinkedIn update : June 2019

Day one of #WorldSeed19 is complete! Thank you for joining us today to talk Plant Breeding Innovation, Sustainability, and Illegal Seed Practices. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow!

Impressions : 3,719
Reactions : 93
Post clicks : 247
ISF BODIES AND PERSONALITIES 2019-2020

As per elections in Nice, June 2019. For up-to-date lists, please contact the Secretariat.

ISF Board of Directors

(*) The figures indicate the years of election and re-election (m.a.l. means member-at-large)

PRESEDENT

Eduard Fito 2018
Semillas Fito SA
Calle Selva de Mar, 111
08019 Barcelona
Spain

VICE-PRESIDENT

Donald Coles 2017-2018
Valley Seeds
295 Maroondah Link Highway
Yarck, Victoria 3719
Australia

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

3 Marco van Leeuwen 2019
Rijk Zwaan
P.O. Box 40
2678 ZG De Lier
Netherlands

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

Jean-Christophe Gouache 2018
Limagrain
Rue Henri Mondor
63360 Saint-Beauzire
France

TREASURER

Christoph Betschart 2018
Fenaco Genossenschaft
P.O. Box
8401 Winterthur
Switzerland

BREEDERS COMMITTEE

Marc Cool 2018
Corteva
P.O. Box 1000
Johnston, Iowa 50131
United States

VEGETABLE AND ORNAMENTAL CROP SECTION

Vicente Navarro 2013 - 15 - 17 - 2019
BASF
Napoleonsweg 152
6083 A3 Nunhem
Netherlands

FORAGE AND TURF CROP SECTION

Darrell Dziver 2014 - 16 - 2018
BrettYoung
Box 99 St Norbert Postal Station
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3V 1L5
Canada

Field Crop Section

Ellen Sparry 2018
C&M Seeds
6180 5th Line
Palmerston, Ontario N0G 2P0
Canada

PHYTO SANITARY COMMITTEE

Michael Leader 2019
Bayer Cropscience
12/600 St Kilda Road
3004 Melbourne
Australia

SEED APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE (SAT-COM)

Klaus Schlunder 2014 - 2016 - 2018
KWS SAAT SE
Grimsehlstrasse 31
37574 Einbeck
Germany

TRADE AND ARBITRATION RULES COMMITTEE

Hamdi Ciftciler 2015 - 17 - 2019
May Seed Turkey
Samanli Mh Yigitler Cd No. 28 Bursa
16275 Yildirim
Turkey

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Santosh Attavar 2018
Indo American Hybrid Seeds (India) Pvt Ltd
7th km Banashankari Kengeri Link Rd
Channasandra, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Post
Bangalore, Karnataka 560098
India

Miguel Alvarez Arancedo 2018
Bayer Crop Science
Maipu 1210
1006 Buenos Aires
Argentina
Franck Berger 2018
Limagrain
Rue Henri Mondor
63360 Saint-Beauzire France

Riadh Gabsi 2016 - 2018
UTICA
Rue Ferjani Bel Haj Ammar
Cite El Khadhra
1053 Tunis Tunisia

Roberto Guarnieri 2014 - 16 - 2018
Continental Semences SpA
Via Monzato 9
43029 Traversetolo (Parma) Italy

Mike Gumina 2016 - 2018
RiceTec Inc.
13100 Space Center Blvd., Suite 300
Houston, TX 77059 United States

David Malan 2018
Klein Karoo Seed Production
1 Kooperasie Str.
6620 Oudtshoorn, Western Cape South Africa

Christian Pflug 2017 - 2019
Corteva
Rua Alameda Itapecuru 506
06454-080 Barueri, Sao Paulo Brazil

Mary Ann Sayoc 2016 - 2018
East-West Seed Company, Inc.
Km 54, Cagayan Valley Road, Sampaloc
San Rafael, 3008 Bulacan Philippines

Weibo Song 2017 - 2019
China National Seed Group Corp.
15/F Sinochem Tower, A2, Fuxingmenwai Street
Beijing 100045 China

Osamu Sugimura 2018
Takii & Co., Ltd
180 Umekoji Inokuma Shimogyo Ku
600-8686 Kyoto Japan

Brent Stirling 2019
Cropmark Seeds
P.O. Box 16-574
8441 Christchurch New Zealand

ISF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Antonio Calvelo 1990
BIOSEM
Av. Corrientes 127, 6° Piso, Of. 606
1043 Buenos Aires Argentina

Gilbert Gouin 1996
Sodisem
69 rue d’Alleray
75015 Paris France

Paul King 1996
New Agriventures, Inc.
P.O. Box 164
Pain Court, Ontario N0P 1Z0 Canada

Owen J. Newlin 1996
3524 Grand Avenue #401
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-4341 United States

Jean-Louis Duval 2000
15, rue de Dagny
77240 Cesson France

Jürg Hauenstein 2000
Schluchebärg
8197 Rafz Switzerland

Gisbert Kley 2002
Im Heidekamp 2
59555 Lippstadt Germany

Peter Lange 2002
Tiedexer Tor 2
37574 Einbeck Germany

Dietrich Schmidt 2004
Golden West Seed Research Co. Inc.
12052 Linda Flora Drive
Ojai, CA 93023 United States

Christopher Ahrens 2006
Lundsford Farm
Lundsford House
Etchingham, East Sussex
TN19 7QH United Kingdom

Bernard Le Buanec 2006
24, Rue Treiz-an-Douric
29100 Douarnenez France

Selwyn Manning 2007
24B Crosdale Place
Christchurch 8042 New Zealand

Orlando de Ponti 2012
Gen. Foulkesweg 68E
6703 BW Wageningen Netherlands

TREES AND SHRUB SEED GROUP

Dave Richardson 2016 - 2018
Forestart Ltd
The Seed Unit, Ladymas Lane, Hadnall
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY4 4AL United Kingdom
John Gilbert 2014
Germinal Holding Ltd
Commercial Road
Banbridge, Co. Down BT32 3ES United Kingdom

Anton van Doornmalen 2014
Rijk Zwaan
P.O. Box 40
2678 ZG De Lier Netherlands

Tim Johnson 2016
Illinois Foundation Seeds, Inc.
25 Executive Drive, Suite F
Lafayette, Indiana 47905 United States

Gerard Meijerink 2018
Gaam Meijerink Consultancy
Papenveer 41
1691 Et Hauwert Netherlands

Stephen Smith 2018
506 4th Street
Box 404
Polk City Iowa 50226 United States
### Members of Section Boards and Committees

#### MEMBERS OF SECTION BOARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIELD CROPS SECTION</th>
<th>VEGETABLE AND ORNAMENTAL SECTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Sparry, Chair</td>
<td>Vicente Navarro, Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Samuel Gaste</td>
<td>1 Andreas Mueller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Michael Gohn</td>
<td>2 Kim Nielsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Eugenio Gonzalez</td>
<td>3 Santosh Attavar</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Suleyman Yavuz Ilgun</td>
<td>4 Franck Berger</td>
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<td>5 Jean–Paul Krattiger</td>
<td>5 Fabrizio Ceccarelli</td>
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<td>6 Nigel Moore, Vice–Chair</td>
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<td>8 Yoshihiro Konno</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Franco Brazzabeni</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Mike Gumina</td>
<td>12 Weihong Tian</td>
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<td>13 Pavel Horcicka</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18 Xiaobo Zhu</td>
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*President – Ex officio*

*1st Vice–President – Ex officio*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORAGE AND TURF CROP SECTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darrell Dziver, Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adger Banken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jiri Barta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soeren Halbye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Malin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emrah Ozdemir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Zingoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Lever, Vice-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Gilbert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BREEDERS</th>
<th>TRADE AND ARBITRATION RULES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marc Cool, Chair 2018</td>
<td>1 Hamdi Ciftciler, Chair 2015-17-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Ellen Sparry, Vice-Chair 2019 CA</td>
<td>2 Roque Caivano 2017 AR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Anke van den Hurk (SAC) 2019 NL</td>
<td>3 Fabrizio Ceccarelli 2017 IT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Leon Broers 2019 DE</td>
<td>4 Gerald Cheynet 2019 FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Stevan Madjarac 2019 US</td>
<td>5 Tomas Cullen 2019 AR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Mary Ann Sayoc 2019 PH</td>
<td>6 Qilong Duan 2019 CN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Bert Schrijver 2019 NL</td>
<td>7 Darrell Dziver 2019 CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Ali Ustun 2019 TR</td>
<td>8 Riadh Gabsi 2019 TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 José Ré (IPC) 2018 US</td>
<td>9 Brian Lever 2019 ZA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Miguel Alvarez Arancedo 2018 AR</td>
<td>10 Michael Malin 2019 US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Yutaka Fukunaga 2018 JP</td>
<td>11 Aykut Ozbugday 2019 TR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Olivier Lucas 2018 FR</td>
<td>12 Tim Teague 2019 AU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Jian Zhang 2018 CN</td>
<td>13 Corinna Wurmstein 2019 DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Johan Warringa 2019 NL</td>
<td>14 Manni Yang 2018 CN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 (Vacancy)</td>
<td>15 (Vacancy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President, Ex officio</td>
<td>President – Ex officio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Vice-President, Ex officio</td>
<td>1st Vice-President – Ex officio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: The figures indicate the year of election and re-election. According to the ISF Articles of Association, art. 15.2, in the BC and SAT–Com, the Chairperson is not included in the count, whereas in the other committees the Chairperson is included in the count.

For up-to-date lists, please contact the ISF Secretariat.
### MEMBERS OF OTHER COMMITTEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phytosanitary</th>
<th>Seed Applied Technologies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Michael Leader 2019 AU</td>
<td>Klaus Schluender, Chair 2014-16-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Pierre Amouroux 2019 FR</td>
<td>Luc Dormoy 2019 FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Gabriela Andrade 2019 BR</td>
<td>Rick Turner 2019 US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Isabella Bezuidenhout 2019 ZA</td>
<td>Bekir Artam Atalay 2018 TR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Fabrizio Ceccarelli 2019 IT</td>
<td>Jeff Daniels 2018 US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Marian de Beuze 2019 NL</td>
<td>Philippe Lesigne 2018 BE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Mark Johnson 2019 NZ</td>
<td>Alfonso Diaz 2019 UY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Nathan Lyu 2019 CN</td>
<td>Boualem Saidi 2019 DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Dieter Ruecker 2019 DE</td>
<td>Palle Pedersen 2018 CH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Natalia Fernandez Eraso 2018 AR</td>
<td>Morten Boisen 2018 CH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Claudio Feulner 2019 CA</td>
<td>Rowdy Smith 2018 US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Scott Heuchelin 2019 US</td>
<td>Veronique Heyes 2019 UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 (Vacancy)</td>
<td>Robert Pronk 2019 NL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frank Claessens, Permanent Observer Seed Health

**President, Ex officio**

**1st Vice-President, Ex officio**

**President – Ex officio**

**1st Vice–President – Ex officio**

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MEMBERS OF OTHER COMMITTEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE</th>
<th>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Anke van den Hurk, Chair 2019 NL</td>
<td>1 José Ré, Chair 2018 US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Paul Olson, Vice–Chair 2018 DE</td>
<td>2 Lukeshni Chetty 2019 ZA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Miguel Alvarez Arancedo 2019 AR</td>
<td>3 Judith de Roos 2019 NL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Lukeshni Chetty 2019 ZA</td>
<td>4 Claudia Hallebach 2019 DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Thomas Nickson 2019 US</td>
<td>5 Arvind Kapur 2019 IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Mary Ann Sayoc 2019 PH</td>
<td>6 Laurens Kroon 2019 NL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Wenhui Ma 2018 CN</td>
<td>7 Serdar Mart 2019 TR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Emin Donmez 2019 TR</td>
<td>8 Antonio Villarroel 2019 ES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Claudio Feulner 2019 CA</td>
<td>9 Liyang Zhang 2019 CN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Frank Michiels 2019 BE</td>
<td>10 Magali Pla 2019 FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Alexandra Bonsch 2019 DE</td>
<td>11 Tom Hamilton 2019 US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Jasmina Susic 2019 ES</td>
<td>12 Jean Donnenwirth 2019 FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Michael Muschick 2019 CH</td>
<td>13 Stevan Madjarac 2019 US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Jim Gaffney 2019 US</td>
<td>14 Alessandra Fajardo 2019 BR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Laetitia Authenac 2019 FR</td>
<td>15 (Vacancy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chairs of Section Boards and Standing Committees are ex officio Members of the Board of Directors*

*Chairs of SAC and IPC are ex officio Members of the Breeders Committee*

*For up-to-date lists, please contact the ISF Secretariat*