

Key Messages

October 2023

Appropriate Seed Regulations

Seeds Canada has invested significant resources in the current Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM) process as part of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Forward Regulatory Plan. The SRM process is an opportunity to reimagine seed regulations in a modern, evolving Canadian seed landscape. While the Seed Regulations have served us well in the past, they were initially designed for a system that looks markedly different from the one we have today.

- **Canada's seed regulations need modernization and continuous improvement.**
- **The seed sector needs access to the latest technologies and the ability to integrate them into its operations. Seed legislation must enable and encourage this.**
- **The clearest path to modernizing and future-proofing Canada's seed regulations within the SRM process is establishing an inclusive industry advisory body (ISSB) to advise CFIA on seed-related policy and advance standards for approval and implementation.**

The ISSB advisory body will

- Represent the diversity of those operating in the seed space.
- Be tasked with reviewing and updating seed regulatory standards and advising on seed policy and regulations, including those parts of the regulations that are incorporated by reference and subject to periodic updates, as well as any changes to externally delegated responsibilities.
- Contribute to an environment of continuous improvement in seed regulation.

The remaining SRM consultation should focus on critical issues of broad industry interest, including variety registration and domestic crop quality assurance requirements.

Seeds Canada does not support an extension of the SRM consultation timeline beyond 2025.





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Sustainability and Seed

Seed is the first step on the path to on-farm sustainability. It has significant potential to influence a crop's ability to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

- The genetic material contained in seeds can influence a crop's response to its environment and management.

Seed-related technologies reduce the risk of poor yield and quality, limit seed-borne diseases and provide the best start to planting.

- These include seed treatment and seed testing, which ensures an optimized and accurate delivery of crop protection products,

Seeds Canada believes sustainable agriculture is critical to the future success of Canadian agriculture, the seed sector, and our members' operations.

- In April of 2023, Seeds Canada released the first draft of our Sustainability Action Plan. It established sustainability as a top strategic priority. The Action Plan identifies four key actions, which include
 - Advocate for genetic innovation and how seeds contribute to sustainability.
 - Be a catalyst, a facilitator and a supporter of conversations and initiatives on sustainability in the seed sector.
 - Partner for impact.
 - Develop resources to support members in adopting best practices for sustainable production and delivery of seed and seed technology.

Seeds Canada values partnerships in this area. We recognize the needs that farmers and grain marketers have for us as a supplier of a critical input in crop production.

Visit us at seeds-canada.ca to learn more about Seeds Canada and our members or contact lnewton@seeds-canada.ca.

