

Phytosanitary Issues Affecting Seed Trade: U.S. Perspective

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Seed Export Issues

- › **Seed Testing Discrepancies:** molecular methods yield inconsistent and conflicting results between NPPOs
- › **Technically unjustified additional declarations** (seed not a pathway for many pests that are regulated on seeds)
- › **Unharmonized seed treatment options**
- › **PRA issues:** Seed risk overestimated (seed QM practices not considered); seed PRAs receive lower priority; large backlogs
- › **Problems with sampling small seed lots for testing purposes**
- › **Testing of seeds at ports of entry for pests not communicated to the exporting country**
- › ...

▶ Seed Imports (into the U.S.)

- ▶ Seed lots are inspected at the POE; shipments can be rejected based on visual symptoms. Problems occur if rejections are for potential new pests where risk is not characterized. E.G. Phomopsis and spinach seed
- ▶ Rapid increases in seed imports is causing concern to the U.S. NPPO in terms of potential increased phytosanitary risk. Hence the need to explore other approaches to deal with regulating seed imports (NSHAPP, ReFreSH, etc.)

▶ Seed Re-Exports:

- ▶ Interpretation of “other significant phytosanitary information”
- ▶ Need for standardized language for additional declarations
- ▶ Need SAA to support IPPC proposal to make modifications to ISPM 12

Overall Issues

- ▶ Encourage NPPOs to remove pests for which seed is not a pathway from their regulatory requirements
- ▶ Encourage NPPOs to harmonize their regulatory requirements for the same pests (ISPM 38)
- ▶ Encourage NPPOs to share their seed testing methodologies to minimize testing result discrepancies
- ▶ Encourage NPPOs to use ISPM 38 guidance on seed pathway analysis and recognition of seed quality management and production practices in their PRAs

Thank you for your attention!

