

# European Seed Association



## European Seed Industry -

### Providing the Seed for all forms of Agriculture

Europe's plant breeders, seed producers and seed merchants represented by ESA, the European Seed Association, every year provide farmers with a wide choice of seeds for a multitude of different purposes and uses. Different geographical and climatic areas, different soil conditions, disease and pest pressures, in short - different production environments require specific solutions, i.e. specific and special seed from the best suitable varieties developed for all possible uses, markets and tastes.

To supply such high value added products with numerous inbuilt characteristics which are important for farmers, food producers, for industrial or specific technical uses and many more, breeders have always made use of specific technologies as well as the best available genetic material for all specified markets – and still do. The ever increasing number of varieties listed in national as well as the European Catalogues of varieties shows that in fact plant breeding contributes to genetic diversity.

The European seed industry is committed to provide the best possible products for all its customers.

Their needs, expectations and choices trigger specific research and development, breeding and finally seed production programs all over the world. The seed industry's research expenditure share in relation to its turnover with approximately 15% is one of the highest of all industries and gives proof to this commitment.

ESA and its members will serve all markets, all customers and all forms of agricultural without discriminating against one or other production system provided the economic and legislative conditions permit. We remain committed to this principle.

The choice for conventional, GM or organic agricultural production is not ESA's to make – it is one for farmers, feed and food producers and final consumers provided the products are safe and neither harmful to the environment nor to public health.

For this choice, fair and equal regulatory conditions for all forms of seed and agricultural production are indispensable.

Only with such conditions will the European seed industry be able to generate the necessary return of its high investments in new technologies and plant breeding and can continue its commitment to supply every farmer with the seed of his choice.