



ESA European Seed Association

Seed health: a *“conditio sine qua non”* for Plant health

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The European Seed Industry



Global seed market: € 30 bn

Basis input for Agriculture: € 300 bn

Foundation for Food/Feed industry: € 3000 bn

European seed market: > € 7 bn

Export value EU (2008) : € 3 bn

Import value EU (2008): 2.3 bn

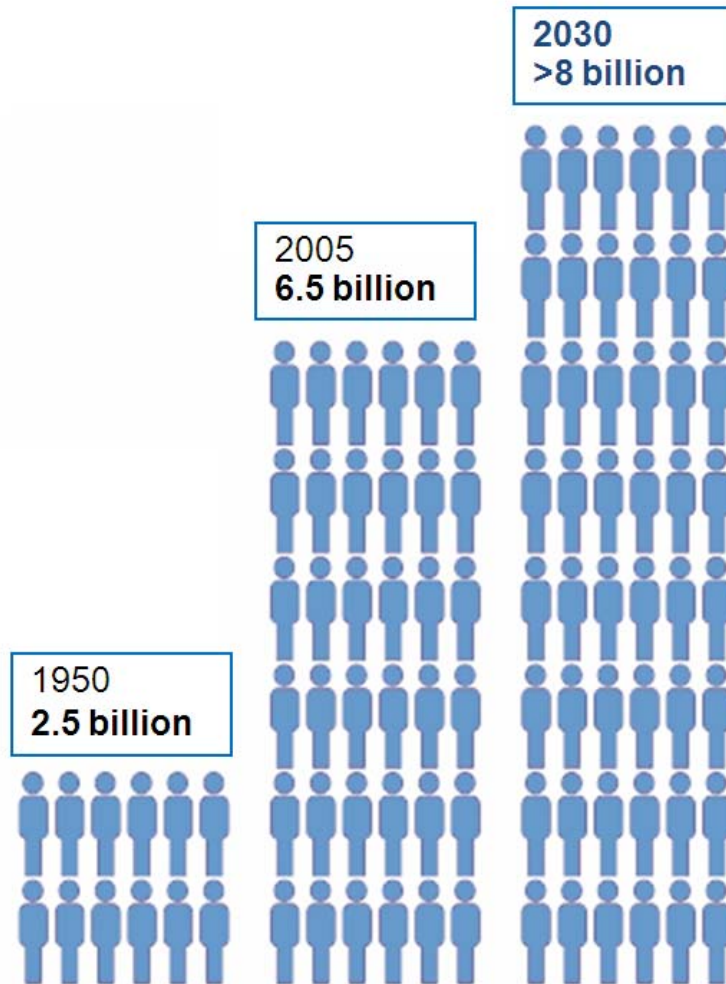
EU seed industry employs > 30.000 persons

R&D spending: 10-15% of Turn Over

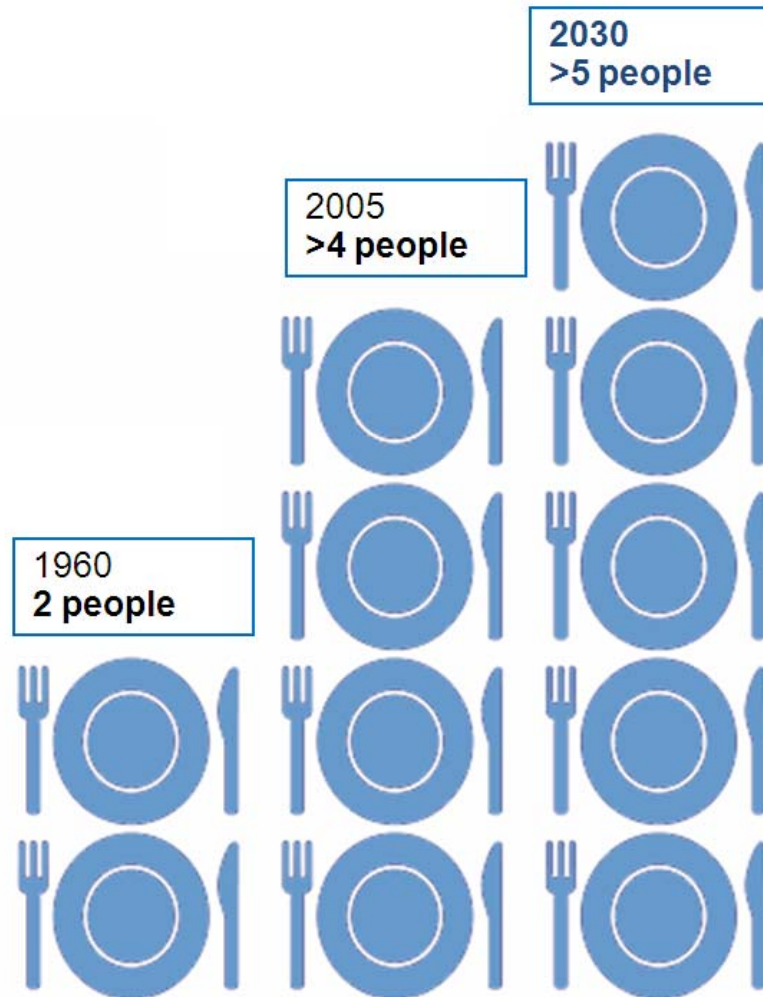


Demand is driven by population growth and land scarcity

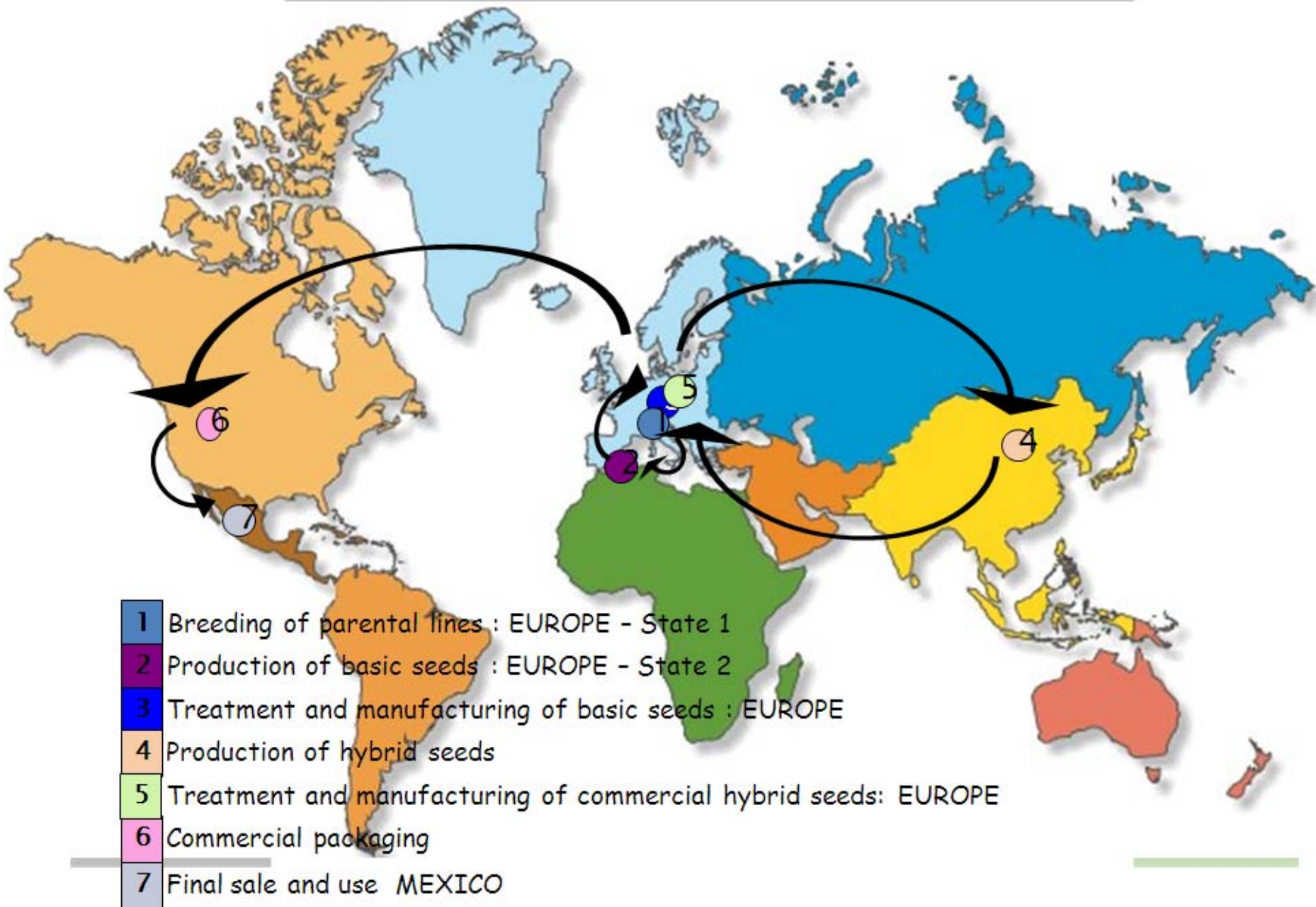
World population



People fed per hectare



The global seed industry of today





Why good seed health practices?



- Basis for healthy crops
- Social responsibility of seed industry
- Customer satisfaction
- Company image
- Claim avoidance
- Smooth global seed movements
- Legal obligations





Priorities for Plant Health Regulations



The current Plant Health Regulations contribute a lot to today's EU plant health status, but there are **aspects to improve**:



- Pathway specific approach for seeds
- Regular review of harmful organisms
- Use the expertise of the industry
- Allow delegation under official supervision
- Harmonization of implementation
- Integration of plant health and quality inspections
- Facilitate Export and Re-export

Pathway specific approach

Current regulations are based on requirements for
'plants for planting' → 'seeds for planting'

Measures for seeds for planting to consider:

- » Practical risks of seed transmission
- » Preventive measures during seed production
- » Alternative measures such as variety resistance
- » Seed disinfection and treatment options
- » Crop protection options





Regular review of harmful organisms



- Current EU list of Harmful Organisms is very long
 - Contains organisms of limited practical risk for pathway seed
 - Regular reviewing is needed:
 - » PRA's of Harmful organisms
 - » Need for Protected Zones
 - A reduced list means more focus:
 - » Increased surveillance for the relevant HO's
 - » Increased capacity for monitoring of potential new risks
- from emergency measures to emergency prevention**





Collaborate with the Industry



- Seed companies employ experts:
 - » Seed pathology
 - » State of the art seed production practices
 - » Integrated approach inside/outside EU
- Combine expertise of industry with experts of NPPO's, EPPO:
 - » Pest risk assessment of seed transmitted pests
 - » Defining preventive and pest risk management measures
 - » Defining best practices of seed inspections
 - » Defining protocols for seed health testing, etc.
- Measures defined with stakeholders have 'double' strength

Allow delegation under official supervision



- ISPM's allow 'delegation under official supervision'
- Seed Marketing Directives facilitate this
- Apply same principles for Plant Health:
 - » Professional operators having auditable systems
 - » Reduction of official inspections
 - » Facilitate direct inspection regime for other operators
- Possibilities:
 - » Field inspections during active growth
 - » Sampling and laboratory testing
 - » Issuing of Plant Passports and Certificates
- NPPO's also become 'auditors' in addition to 'inspectors'



Harmonization of implementation



- Lack of harmonization creates internal EU trade barriers
 - » Testing of imported seeds
 - » Validated seed testing protocols
 - » Plant passport requirements
 - » Internal EU Phytosanitary Communication document
- For harmonization of testing protocols collaboration of ISHI and EPPO is suggested



Integration of plant health and quality inspections



- All operational inspections by one authority
- Increased efficiency and cost saving
- Increased level of quality
 - » Plant health inspections part of integrated quality view
 - » Better alignment with seed marketing legislation
- One authority to get acquainted with auditing approach



Facilitate Export and Re-export



- EU import requirements
 - » In 'international' format
 - » Accessible via searchable web-based database
- Science-based requirements by 3rd countries when importing seeds from EU member states
- Legal basis and international acceptance for movement of products produced in one ms exported to a 3rd country via another ms
- Legal basis for electronic documents:
 - » Phytosanitary Certificates
 - » Field Inspection reports



GSPP Tomato seeds



Why good seed health practices?



Seed health

=

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for Plant health

