

ISF VIRTUAL CONGRESS 2021:

“OUR JOURNEY TO RESILIENCE STARTS WITH SEED”

Congress program

This year, more than 200 seed companies and national seed associations – representing thousands of associations, small- and medium-sized businesses, family-owned companies, cooperatives, and multinational companies – have signed a [Seed Sector Declaration](#) committing to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and demonstrating their diverse contributions towards sustainable food systems.

Some weeks ahead of the pre-summit of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021, the ISF Virtual Congress is our additional contribution to the ongoing dialogue. Seed is widely recognized as a key contributor to agricultural production and food systems. The role of seed has gained more recognition during the COVID-19 pandemic, where food supply and ensuring the harvests of tomorrow are even more under stress than usual.

The ISF Virtual Congress 2021 is a unique platform for reflecting together on the role of seed in building resilient local and regional food systems and promoting sustainable agriculture: the need for thriving seed systems, efficient seed trade and supply, crop diversification, plant breeding innovation, accessibility for smallholder farmers, and a healthy interrelation between formal and informal seed systems.

The event brings together industry leaders and external partners in a dynamic setup of international panels, keynote speeches, showcase of innovations, and live interactions – open to all via an online platform.

Audiences

This 3-day virtual event welcomes all seed professionals, ISF partners, media, and all those interested in the topic of food and agriculture – and more particularly, seed. Participation is at no cost.

DAY 1

OPENING CEREMONY 5 JULY, MON, 13:00-14:00

Objectives of the session

1. Providing an update on ISF’s engagement to sustain the movement of seed and to reinforce the role of seed as a crucial input to food production
2. Opening the debate with opinion leaders on the future of food systems after COVID-19

Speakers

- Introduction and opening by Francine Sayoc, ISF Communications Manager
- “Seed is essential: our engagement in 2020-2021 to support global seed supply and innovation” - Donald Coles, President, ISF
- “The private seed sector as foundational contributor to resilient food systems” - Michael Keller, Secretary General, ISF
- Live Q&A with Donald Coles and Michael Keller – Moderated by Francine Sayoc
- Introduction of the Keynote Speaker – Claire Doole

- *“Role and engagement of the private sector during the UN Food Systems Summit”* - Peter Bakker, CEO WBCSD, Chair of the Private Sector Guidance Group UN Food Systems Summit, Member of the Advisory Board UNFSS,
- Live Q&A with Peter Bakker – Moderated by Claire Doole

“UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT AND THE MANY ROLES OF SEED”

PANEL SESSION I – 5 JULY, MON, 14:00-15:00

At the beginning of 2021, the seed sector actors including family-owned, small and medium size companies, cooperatives, multinationals, as well as national and regional seed associations from all around the world signed a joint Declaration as part of its engagement in the UN Food Systems Summit 2021. Over its long history, the seed sector has helped unlocked enormous advances in food production since the domestication of food crops. Yet today, still too few of the world’s farmers can access improved, quality and diversified seeds, which corresponds best to local diets and to improve the diversity of diets. In an ideal world, they would be able to make informed seed choices and build strong functioning seed systems that link formal and informal markets to have access to diversified crop for environmental, health and socio economic reasons.

Key focus

1. The role of improved seed varieties and how to build the conditions to create crop diversification
2. The engagement of the seed sector through the Declaration
3. A review of the current state of farmers' access to innovation and technology and the opportunities for public-private collaboration

Speakers

1. Ruramiso Mashumba, Farmer and Entrepreneur - Zimbabwe, World Farmers Organisation
 2. Mary Ann Sayoc, President, Philippine Seed Industry Association and Public Affairs Lead, East-West Seed
 3. Franck Berger, CEO, Limagrain Vegetable Seeds
 4. Erik Fyrwald, CEO, Syngenta
- Moderator: Claire Doole

“THE SCIENCE BEHIND YOUR SALAD”

CHANNEL WORLD SEED, HOSTED BY **BASF** – 5 JULY, MON, 15:00-15:30

[The Science Behind Your Salad](#) is a podcast for the whole world. We're not only in search of the best food on the planet, we'll be telling the stories behind how that food is grown. We'll meet the scientists searching for the next innovative breakthroughs in food production, we'll hear about new technology already revolutionizing the way crops are grown and the stories of the growers. And we'll meet the farmers, those pioneers striving to do one of the biggest jobs on earth, putting food on our plates every day in the face of huge challenges.

There's no denying it: Pretty much any part of your favourite salad started with a seed. Seeds are at the core of any successful crop, but so much has to go right to maximize their potential and minimize threats. Young plants face pressure from their environment, insects, and several enemies that go unseen by the average eye. So, how can we help? Join us as we explore the history of agricultural insurance, seed treatments.

Speakers

1. Jennifer Riggs, Global Seed Treatment Research & Development Team Lead, BASF
2. Nicola Cannon, Associate Professor of Agriculture for the Royal Agricultural University
3. Michael Keller, Secretary General, ISF

"TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE FROM FARM TO FORK: HOW SEED COMPANIES ARE CRUCIAL FOR IMPACT"

CHANNEL WORLD SEED, HOSTED BY **WORLD BENCHMARKING ALLIANCE** – 5 JULY, MON, 15:30-16:00

The World Benchmarking Alliance measures private sector action to food systems transformation along the value chain. Each sector has a role to play, starting with the seed sector contributing to the environmental, nutritional, and social aspects.

Speakers

1. Viktoria de Bourbon de Parme, Food Transformation Lead, World Benchmarking Alliance
2. Alice Ingabire, Lead, Access to Seeds Index
3. Tomas Zaborowski, Head of Sustainability Excellence, Bayer Crop Science
4. Beatrice Elohor, Technical Sub Committee member of the Executive Council, National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG)
5. H  l  ne Khan Niazi, International Agricultural Manager, ISF

DAY 2

“INTERNATIONAL SEED TRADE AND COVID-19: KEY LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE”

PANEL SESSION II – 6 JULY, TUE, 11:00-12:30

Like many other sectors the global seed sector had an unprecedented year with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the seed sector did not stop. In fact, ISF members around the world remained very active in producing, breeding, and trading quality seeds.

In an effort to get a detailed picture of the impact of COVID-19, the OECD, in cooperation with the Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and with assistance from the International Seed Federation (ISF) and Asian Pacific Seed Association (APSA), carried out an analysis of such impact on the seed supply chain on the Asian continent. This roundtable aims to provide a better understanding of the global seed production chain and to spark a discussion on the current challenges and what policy responses can be carried out to safeguard the seed supply chain.

Key focus

1. Seed supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19
2. Possible consequences of a disrupted seed production chain to the global seed and food supply chain
3. The key benefits of a global seed production and supply chain and positive impacts on resilient food systems; Policy considerations - what kind of responses could be given from governments to ensure the seamless seed supply chain even in times of crisis

Speakers

Keynote presentation: Csaba Gaspar, Programme Manager, OECD Seed Schemes

Panel discussion

1. Lee Ann Jackson Head of the Agro-food Trade and Markets Division, OECD
2. Arthur Santosh Attavar Chairman & Managing Director, Indo-American Hybrid Seeds (India) Pvt. Ltd.
3. Szabolcs Ruthner, Regulatory Affairs Manager, ISF
4. May Chodchoey, Secretary General, APSA

Moderator: Marcel Bruins, Consultant, Bruins Seed Consultancy

CIMBRIA COMPACT PROCESSING PLANTS – THE 1ST PLUG & PLAY PLANT IN A CONTAINER

CHANNEL WORLD SEED, HOSTED BY CIMBRIA – 6 JULY, TUE, 12:30-13:00

Cimbria introduces its latest innovation in the processing industry: the world’s very first plug-and-play Compact Processing Plant, which is fully assembled in a container, for a wide range of seeds, grains and pulses applications.

Speakers

1. Franz Franer, Key Account Manager & Cluster Lead Americas, Cimbria Heid GmbH, Austria
2. Andreas Fröhlich, Cluster Lead DACH & Balkans, Cimbria Heid GmbH, Austria

“ADDRESSING EMERGING PLANT DISEASES TO ACHIEVE RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS”

PANEL SESSION III – 6 JULY, TUE, 13:00-14:00

Predictable international movement of seed is critical to ensure food security. This predictability is under threat due to the number of emerging diseases affecting plant health. International organizations (I.e. WTO and IPPC), national governments and the private sector are committed to reduce the impact of these emerging threats on food production and ultimately food security. Emerging diseases reveals the weakness on a debilitate food systems by calling attention for greater resilience. Seed health is an integral part to food production, because healthy seeds are a prerequisite for a sustainable and resilient food systems. The seed sector wants to work closely with other actors on food production and governments to promote multi-sectoral responses on how to reduce these risks. The main topic of discussion will be the current challenges on restrictive regulation on the movement of seeds in the international arena, the impact of emerging pests and how emerging diseases play a part on the current challenges facing the seed industry.

Key focus

1. Perspectives from seed industry, government and research
2. Impact of emerging pests and how emerging diseases play a part on the current challenges facing the seed industry
3. Current challenges facing the seed industry due to restrictive regulation on the movement of seeds in the international arena

Speakers

Overview on the impact of emerging diseases to seed movement and trade - by Rose Souza Richards

Panel discussion:

1. Nico Horn, Director, EPPO
2. Frank Claessens, Vice President of Operations, BASF Vegetable Seeds
3. Jean Ristaino, Professor – Entomology and Plant Pathology Department, NC State University
4. Michael Leader, Seed Regulatory Lead, Bayer

Moderator: Rose Souza Richards, Seed Health Manager, ISF

“BUSINESS OUTLOOK OF THE SEED SECTOR IN BRAZIL”

CHANNEL WORLD SEED, HOSTED BY SEEDNEWS – 6 JULY, TUE, 14:00-14:30

Hosted by ISF media partner SEEDNews, a leading publication of the seed sector in Brazil and Latin America, this session will focus on the seed business environment and legal framework for the main crops in Brazil: soybean, maize, forage and vegetables.

Panelists

1. Paulo Campante, ABRASEM
2. Marcelo Pacote, ABCSEM
3. Marcos Roveri, UNIPASTO
4. André Schwening, ABRASS

Moderator: Silmar Teichert Peske, Publisher, SEEDNews

"SYNGENTA SEEDCARE CELEBRATING THE PAST, INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE"

CHANNEL WORLD SEED, HOSTED BY SYNGENTA – 6 JULY, TUE, 14:30-15:00

Successful crop production starts with the seed. Syngenta Seedcare leads in innovation to support the seed maximising its genetic potential so that you get the most out of your investment.

We are proud to welcome the Seedcare global leaders to our discussion today to learn about some of Seedcare's latest chemistry and biological innovations and the 10 Year VIBRANCE® fungicide anniversary, all supported by our growing Seedcare Institute network.

Join the Seedcare team to hear how Seedcare supports you and your business with our three-pillar offer P.A.S. (Products – Application – Services) which delivers value to you, our customers BEYOND SEED PROTECTION™."

IMPORTANT: Use seed treatment products safely. Always read the label and product information before use.
 © 2021 Syngenta®. All rights reserved. The information contained in this publication is proprietary. It may not be photocopied or reproduced in any form. VIBRANCE® and the SYNGENTA logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company."

Speakers

1. Jonathan Brown, Head of Syngenta Seedcare, Syngenta Seedcare, Basel, Switzerland
2. Kristel Burgemeister, Head of Seedcare Institute, Syngenta Seedcare, Basel, Switzerland
3. Palle Pedersen, Head of Product Management Seedcare, Syngenta Seedcare, Basel, Switzerland
4. Andreea Popa, Head Global Key Account Seedcare, Syngenta Seedcare, Basel, Switzerland

"MORE DATA, BETTER SEED" WITH QSORTER® TECHNOLOGY"

CHANNEL WORLD SEED, HOSTED BY QUALYSENSE – 6 JULY, TUE, 15:00-15:30

QualySense AG presents its QSorter® technology which offers solutions in breeding and seed processing to produce high-purity seeds. Learn how QSorter® can help seed companies recover wasted seeds or produce premiums during seed processing; and aid scientists to work better and faster through high-speed single kernel phenotyping. QualySense AG is a Swiss-based company and a global leader in high-speed single-kernel analytical and sorting solution for seeds, grains and beans.

Speakers

1. Francesco Dell'Endice, Founder and CEO, QualySense AG

DAY 3

"GENE EDITING REGULATION AND GLOBAL POLICY UPDATE"

CHANNEL WORLD SEED, HOSTED BY SEED TODAY – 7 JULY, WED, 12:00-12:30

ISF Regulatory Affairs Manager Szabolcs Ruthner joins Seed Today Editor Chris Lusvardi to discuss the latest information about gene editing regulations and provide an update about important policy issues for the global seed industry. Clear, predictable, science-based and risk-based policies and regulations, as well as their effective

implementation, are seen as essential to developing quality seeds that are accessible to all and to give farmers access to a full range of choices and solutions to contribute to achieving sustainable food production systems.

Speakers

1. Szabolcs Ruthner, Regulatory Affairs Manager, ISF
2. Chris Lusvardi, Editor, Seed Today

“A DIALOGUE WITH CORTEVA ON THE FUTURE OF FOOD AND AG”

CHANNEL WORLD SEED, HOSTED BY CORTEVA – 7 JULY, WED, 12:30-13:00

How transparency, open innovation and sustainability can show a new connection with the needs of society.

Speakers

1. Eric Dereudre, Global External Affairs Director, Corteva
2. Jozsef Mate, Head of communication, Europe, Corteva

“TRADE: AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD SYSTEMS”

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION – 7 JULY, WED, 13:00-13:30

Keynote speaker: Doaa Abdel-Motaal, Senior Counsellor, World Trade Organization

“THE FUTURE OF THE SEED BUSINESS – OUR CONTRIBUTION TO RESILIENCE”

PANEL SESSION IV – 7 JULY, WED, 13:30-14:30

Amid the global pandemic, the seed sector proved its critical role and was more than ever engaged in its mission to make high quality seed accessible to all farmers while meeting the challenges of a changing world. At the same time, the sector understands that the mounting pressure of climate change renders the work of farmers harder. Beyond the pandemic, environmental sustainability continues to be a task for all. From nature positive agriculture to regenerative agriculture, many concepts are under review in high level policy discussions, on top of this later this year the COP 26 will further tackle the discussions around climate change. Business leaders will share their vision on their efforts of engagement on the upcoming challenges.

Key focus

1. Vision of seed business leaders on the engagement of their company related to sustainability and resilience in a changing business environment
2. Engagement with all the stakeholders to increase the development of a sustainable value chain.
3. Exchange on the role of the seed sector in the international discussions related to climate change and other sustainability goals

Speakers

1. Truels Damsgaard, CEO, DLF
 2. Lorena Basso, CEO, Semillas Basso
 3. Marco van Leeuwen, Managing Director, Rijk Zwaan
 4. Eric Dereudre, Global External Affairs Director, Corteva
- Moderator: Claire Doole

“SEEDS! THE DIVERSITY OF WONDER”

**CHANNEL WORLD SEED, HOSTED BY IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY – 7 JULY, WED,
14:30-15:00**

Join Iowa State University Seed Science Center on a journey around the world to discover the grand collaboration between nature and humanity to feed, clothe, and beautify the world. The film series was developed to engage and inspire youth, the public, and the policy makers on the beauty and value of seeds to society. With an introduction from film director and producer Walker Lambert and ISU Seed Science Center Director Dr. Manjit Misra.

Speakers

1. Walker Lamber, film director and producer, Pierce Mill Media
2. Dr Manjit Misra, Seed Science Center Director, Iowa State University

Film showing

1. “Let Seed Be Thy Medicine”
1. “A Day Without Seed”

“THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY TO DISCUSS SEED & SCIENCE – WHICH IS YOUR BEST OPTION?”

CHANNEL WORLD SEED, HOSTED BY SEED WORLD – 7 JULY, WED, 15:00-15:30

Marcel Bruins, Seed World Group’s European Seed Editor, is joined by science advocates David Zaruk (Brussels, Belgium) and Kevin Folta (Gainesville, Fla.) for a lively discussion. Bruins will present the speakers with common claims and questions activist use in the fight against science in the global seed industry, such as GMO, NBT’s, food system sustainability and other game-changers in seed and agriculture. Hear language and ideas to help you improve your engagement and knowledge to truly make a difference in science communication. This will be an experience you don’t want to miss. With two different approaches to handling these industry-shaping topics, who will win you over?

Speakers

1. David Zaruk, Professor at Odisee University College, environmental-health risk analyst and risk communications consultant
2. Kevin Folta, Professor at University of Florida, host of Talking Biotech, and science communicator
3. Shawn Brook, President, Seed World Group