

MEDIA ADVISORY**WORLD SEED CONGRESS 2026**
LISBON, PORTUGAL

WHAT: The global seed sector will convene for the [ISF World Seed Congress 2026](#) to address the challenges reshaping global agriculture, with expert-led panels on the global outlook for seed markets, the future of new plant breeding techniques, the journey of gene-edited foods, and the path towards resilience in the seed sector and in agriculture. With [363 million](#) people at risk of acute hunger in 2026, and [45 million](#) at risk because of recent conflict in the Middle East, the Congress arrives at a defining moment for the industry that underpins the global agri-food system.

Hosted by the [International Seed Federation](#), in cooperation with the [Portuguese National Association of Seed Producers and Traders \(ANSEME\)](#), the Congress brings together world-leading seed and food security experts, farmers, seed company leaders, and young agricultural professionals.

Journalists are invited to attend the Congress and panel sessions. There will be a press conference at 11:30-12:30 WEST on Monday, May 18.

WHEN: Monday, May 18 to Wednesday, May 20

WHERE: Centro de Congressos de Lisboa:

- Information on media registration is available [online](#)
- Several panel discussions will be livestreamed on [Channel World Seed](#)
- Virtual participation for the press conference is available via [Zoom](#)

WHO: The Congress and press conference will feature the following high-level speakers:

- **Michael Keller**, Secretary General, International Seed Federation (ISF)
- **Arthur Santosh Attavar**, Outgoing President and Chair of the Board of Directors, ISF; Chair and Managing Director, Indo-American Hybrid Seeds Ltd. (India)
- **Lorena Basso**, Incoming President, ISF; President, Basso Semillas (Argentina)
- **Anup Jagwani**, Global Director, Farming and Agribusiness, World Bank Group
- **Pedro Pereira Dias**, President, ANSEME (Portugal)

WHY: Seeds are the starting point of every food chain. Yet, the sector faces mounting pressure on multiple fronts. The global seed market, valued at around [USD \\$75 billion](#) in 2024 and projected to reach USD 148 billion by 2034, has to deliver climate-resilient, high-yield varieties at speed and scale, while fragmented trade regulation and geopolitical disruption complicate the movement of seeds across borders.

In 2026, the urgency of innovation is intensifying, with conflict in the Middle East pushing millions more people into acute hunger with disruption to fertilizer supply chains, with urea prices surging nearly [46 percent](#) month-on-month in early 2026 — a direct threat to agricultural productivity globally. The world's population is projected to exceed [9.8 billion](#) by 2050, and the choices made now on plant breeding and seed innovation, trade, and regulation will determine whether food systems can keep pace.

The Lisbon Congress brings together those with the authority and expertise to act across industry, policy, science, and the next generation of agricultural leadership.

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About ISF

ISF is the voice of the global seed industry. It has represented the interests of its members since 1924, and represents 96% of the international seed trade today. With a global reach extending to members around the world and official observer status in intergovernmental and international organizations, ISF is uniquely positioned to assist in the development of government policy and business strategy.

www.worldseed.org