



Canada's

Agriculture, Food and Beverage INDUSTRY

Canada's Seed Industry

Canada's vibrant agriculture and agri-food sector produces a great variety of quality seeds for sowing, including major grains and oilseeds, special crops, pulses, forages and turf grasses, ornamental and garden seeds.



The Canadian seed industry generates \$750 million in combined domestic and export sales every year. Nearly two thirds of the seed produced in Canada is used for domestic purposes. The well-established domestic market provides a solid base from which Canadian seed companies can better serve international markets. In 2005, \$253 million worth of Canadian seed was exported to approximately 115 countries.

Canadian commercial seed producers and companies produce and market both "certified" and "common" seeds to meet the

diverse needs of growers and buyers. Certified seeds are verified for their genetic identity and purity by an external field inspector, and are used by farmers who want additional assurance on seed quality, varietal purity and performance. Each year, 1.2 million acres of certified seed crops are produced in Canada.

Common seeds are mainly found in forage crops. About one third of forage seed production is sold as common seed, mainly in Canada and the United States. Common seeds are more affordable to end users as the production of common seed does not require the same quality management practices and does not have certification costs.

Additional Information

Canada's seed organizations play a vital role in encouraging innovation and high-quality standards. Many of these organizations are also active in international networks where they promote Canadian seed.

The Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) is the sole pedigree agency in Canada for all agricultural seed crops except for potatoes and tree seeds. CSGA represents about 4,500 Canadian seed growers.

The Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA) is a voluntary association of approximately 154 seed companies from across Canada. It represents a broad cross-section of Canadian businesses that develop, produce and sell seed. Membership varies widely from large multinational corporations to small family-run businesses. Many of the multinational seed companies have private plant breeding programs and are active in biotechnology. Members of the CSTA are involved in a number of initiatives, from variety exchange agreements at the R&D level, to contractual agreements for production of seed for export and import. In



Quality

is in our **nature**

In addition, many member firms are involved in seed multiplication under contract for out-of-country customers.

The Commercial Seed Analysts Association of Canada (CSAAC) represents a group of professionals engaged in the assessment of the quality of sampling and testing of seeds. CSAAC members are hired by private seed testing laboratories or are part of staff members of seed companies who carry out their own seed analysis. Seed analysts conduct seed purity, germination and vigor tests, and identify diseases and prepare certificates for analysis for seed grading purposes.

The Canadian Seed Institute (CSI) provides specific quality assurance services to the seed industry. The CSI accredits seed companies and seed testing laboratories to help them comply with the Seed Act, which governs the seed sector.

Canada's seed organizations are important to the ongoing growth of the Canadian seed industry. Through innovation and high-quality products, the Canadian seed industry will see continued success in both international and domestic markets.

For More Detailed Information

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Further information on products, suppliers and investment opportunities in the Canadian agri-food industry is available on the Agri-Food Trade Service Web site at: www.ats.agr.gc.ca

Canada's food and agricultural products reflect our dedication to excellence, and our deep commitment to safety, quality, environmental responsibility, innovation and service.

In every facet of our industry, we seek to earn the trust of our customers by answering their needs and exceeding their expectations. Those values along with our belief in building strong relationships, have given Canadian agriculture and food products an international reputation for excellence. Customers around the world know that they can trust the goodness of Canada.

