



August 17, 2018

Jingyuan Xia
Secretary ,International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
AGDI, Vaile delle Terme de Caracalla,
00153, Italy

Dear Secretary Xia:

This letter is to express our support on behalf of the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) regarding the North American Plant Protection Organization's (NAPPO) proposal to the 2018 IPPC call for topics, for the IPPC to develop an Annex to ISPM 38- International movement of seeds focused on the "Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds".

Founded in 1883, ASTA is one of the oldest trade organizations in the United States. Its membership consists of over 700 companies involved in seed production and distribution, plant breeding, and related industries in North America. ASTA member companies research, develop, produce and distribute all varieties of seeds – including grasses, forages, flowers, vegetables, row crops, and cereals. ASTA members' seed products support agricultural producers of food products and farm commodities in the U.S. and around the world. Intellectual property rights protection is critical for the U.S. industry to operate.

We strongly support NAPPO's proposal on this topic and have been in collaboration with NAPPO (as well as its member countries) on this concept. Our stakeholders also view this topic as a high priority.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important topic.

Best regards,

Richard L. Dunkle
Senior Director, Seed Health and Trade

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