

# White Paper Policy Themes and Positions – for Seed Synergy Partners’ Board Review and Approval - DRAFT 2-

November 19, 2018

## Policy Themes and Positions:

### 1. Stimulating Innovation

- a. Update Canada’s delivery of the novel products regulations for plant breeding innovations:
  - Working with government to clarify Canada’s regulatory trigger for plants with novel traits (PNTs), novel foods and novel feeds, so that plant breeders can confirm within a reasonable time frame whether their products are subject to pre-market assessment;
  - Aligning with like-minded trading partners to the extent practical to avoid unnecessarily regulating products that were, or could have been, achieved through conventional breeding; and
  - Providing for a tiered approach (with service standards) so that “novel” but familiar products can move through the approval process more quickly, with appropriate data requirements in comparison to products that are more complex or less familiar.
- b. Develop and implement a system that results in additional investment in varietal research and development in cereals, pulses and other crop kinds in Canada by:
  - Facilitating the development and implementation of a seed variety use agreement (trailing royalty) system for UPOV ‘91-protected varieties.

### 2. Modernizing the Seed Regulatory Framework

- a. Amend the *Seeds Regulations* to streamline requirements and enable the modernization of the delivery of the seed certification program by:
  - identifying elements of the *Seeds Regulations* such as seed quality and labelling standards and registration of seed establishments that can be removed from the text of the regulations, and incorporated by reference; and
  - delegating authority for all quality related seed standards to an industry body
- b. Delegate the authority for the delivery of the seed certification program to a single, national seed industry organization while government continues to provide regulatory oversight, enforcement and science support, with an expanded role for accredited seed laboratories and where the government:
  - Continues to be Canada's national designated authority for seed varietal certification and to represent Canada at the OECD Seed Schemes; and
  - Continues to work with the seed industry to enable the resolution of domestic and international seed trade issues
- c. Create a single window for all seed regulatory services, facilitated by the use of secure, controlled access, efficient, cost effective information technology solutions, in order to simplify access to services for users of the system, access to application information by service providers and provide transparency for stakeholders by:
  - Providing users of the system with a single contact point to access seed regulatory services;

- Facilitating the delivery of all seed regulatory program services, including seed crop and seed certification, seed crop inspection, and seed phytosanitary testing/inspection and certification;
- Allowing product developers and seed companies to enter on-line data for variety registration, eligibility for seed varietal certification and Plant Breeders' Rights protection once;
- Facilitating the coordination of service delivery and oversight between government responsibility centres and seed industry services;
- Facilitating joint streamlined work processes and procedures for PNT safety assessments among the three government responsibility centres; and
- Implementing a "variety profile" data management system, for all commercial varieties to facilitate access to variety specific information that producers, grain handlers, food and feed processors, and other end users can use to make informed production and processing decisions, containing information such as: intellectual property features; product developer and distributors; agronomic characteristics, performance and area of adaptation; variety description, including method of breeding; stewardship requirements; quality parameters relevant to end-use; and other business information.

### **3. Building the Next Generation Seed Organization**

- a. Create a more efficient and effective seed industry organizational model to deliver seed certification services under a "modernized seed regulatory framework" (see above), by
  - Creating and implementing a single, consolidated national seed organization responsible for the delivery of seed services and for being the voice of the seed industry;
  - Creating and supporting on-going training and development for seed industry professionals;
  - The government identifying the new consolidated national seed organization as the authorized and responsible body for seed certification regulatory documents that are incorporated by reference; and
  - Leveraging the use of secure, controlled access, efficient and cost-effective information technology solutions, to implement the single window concept in order to streamline and simplify access to services by users of the system, access to application information by service providers and provide transparency to stakeholders.