



# **The landscape of the Seed industry & supports rendered by the South African National Seed Organization (SANSOR)**

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# SANSOR in a nutshell

- Established in 1989
- National Designated Authority for Seed Certification
  - OECD, SA, AOSCA
- 120 Members of which 78 fully fledged Seed companies
- Widespread National and International representation.
  - ISF, AFSTA, ISTA, OECD, AOSCA
- Industry voice piece on all trade related matters.

# SANSOR team & services

- Staff component of 9 (all full time)
- Services:
  - Seed certification
  - Phytosanitary support services
  - Science & research
  - Policy inputs
  - Seed sales statistics
  - Advocacy
  - Capacity Development (bursary programme, graduate placement prog.)
  - Industry training

# Global Seed industry

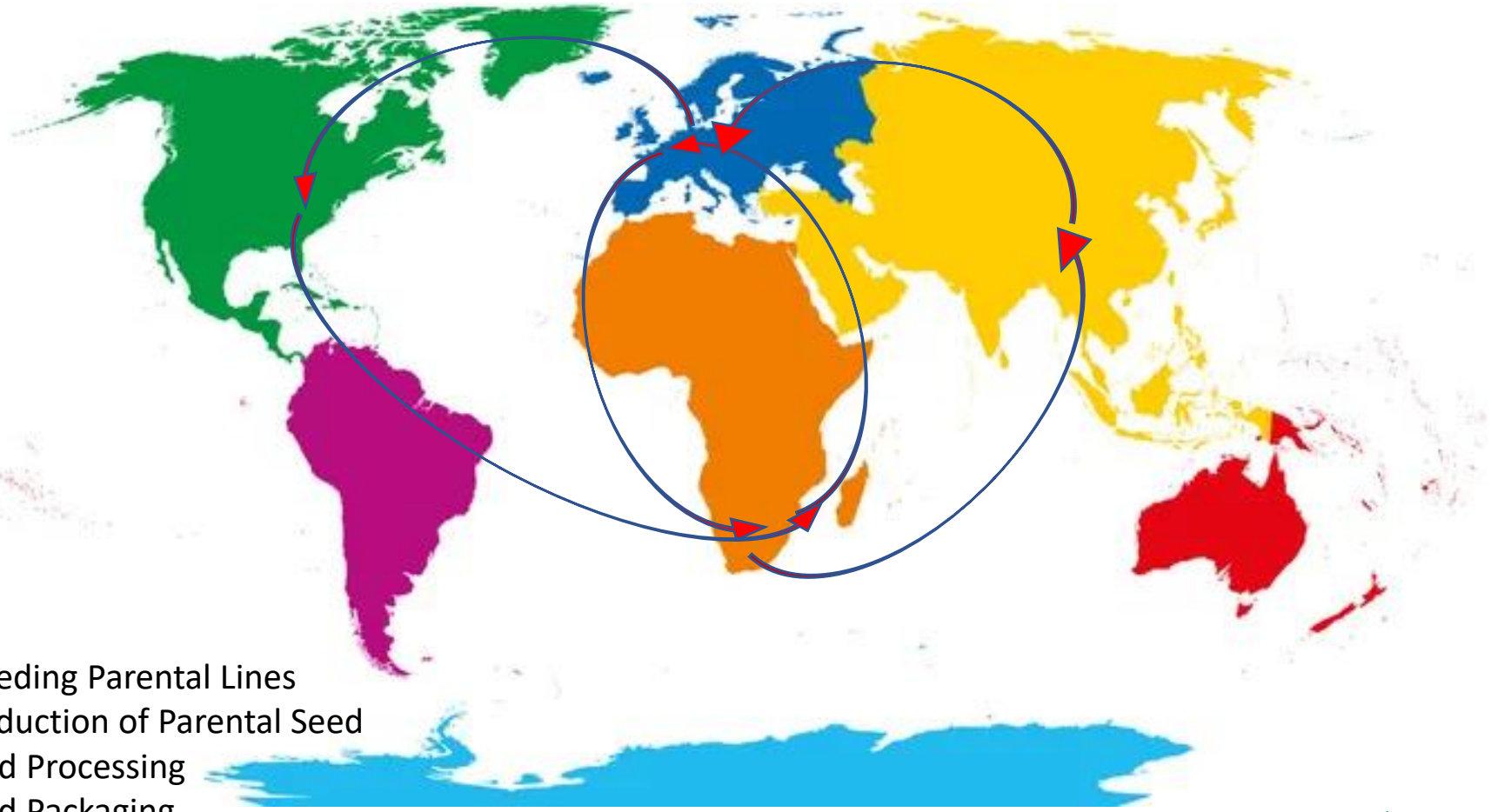
## Seed companies:

- Food security & Nutritional security
- Synchrony in regulations (import and export, Phyto, GMO, NBTs)
- Access to genetic resources
- Need to ensure a return on investment
- Intellectual property protection
- Phytosanitary challenges
- Consumer/dietary trends

## Farmers:

- Access to competitive varieties
- High quality, healthy seed
- Farmers' rights (right to save seed)

# Seed Industry as Global Trade Industry



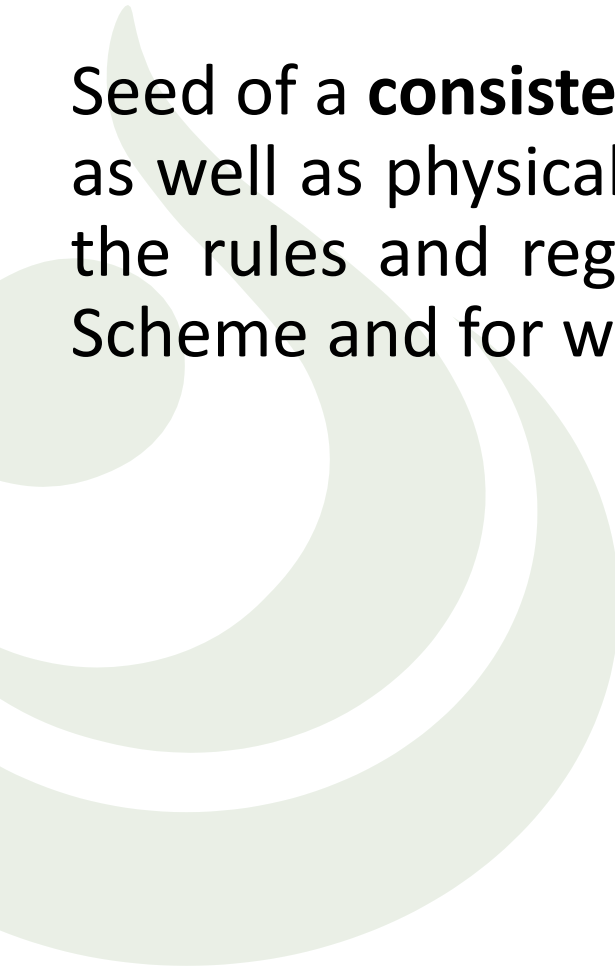
1. Breeding Parental Lines
2. Production of Parental Seed
3. Seed Processing
4. Seed Packaging
5. Final Market



# 1. Seed certification

## What is certified seed?

Seed of a **consistently high and known quality** (genetically as well as physically) that has been produced according to the rules and regulations of an official seed certification Scheme and for which proof of certification is available.



# Benefits of certified Seed


Buying certified seed gives the producer the following insurances:

- Any certified seed lot has passed through more than **90 quality control checkpoints** before it was made available for sale.
- The production of the seed was **monitored by an independent body**.
- There is a **complete production history** on record.
- The seed lot in question complies with set minimum requirements as per the SA Certification Scheme.

Furthermore, the planting of certified seed ensures that scarce resources are optimally utilized. Processors also know that if they purchase a product that is produced from certified seed, it will be **uniform in quality and of a high standard**.

# SOUTH AFRICAN SEED CERTIFICATION SCHEME: A QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM


**BREEDER SEED**  
Breeder supplies small volume of seed of variety with specific characteristics e.g. high yield or disease resistance.



**REGISTRATION**  
Application submitted by grower/ seed company.

**SANSOR Member Company**  
Contracts grower to plant seed production field

**SANSOR Secretariat**  
Confirms source eligibility (varietal identity and varietal purity)



**FIELD INSPECTION**  
Carried out according to prescriptions of the SA Seed Certification Scheme.

**SANSOR Secretariat:**  
Checks and records inspection reports and monitors inspections


**SANSOR Inspector:**  
Controls planting and land requirements, previous crops, isolation, varietal purity at prescribed stages, roguing and harvesting



**CERTIFIED SEED**  
**Crop Producer**  
Plants seed of a variety that has the same characteristics as bred by the Breeder.



<b>Certified Pre-Basic Seed</b>	<b>Certified Basic Seed</b>	<b>Certified Seed 1st Gen</b>
1st Multiplication	2nd Multiplication	3rd Multiplication



**CERTIFICATION**  
Label, seal and certificate serves as proof of certification.

**SANSOR Secretariat:**  
checks lab and inspection reports, issue certificates

**Department:**  
Conducts post-control evaluations



**TESTING**  
All testing done according to ISTA Rules.


**Registered Lab:**  
Conducts germination and physical purity analysis

**Department:**  
Register and monitors laboratories



**PACKAGING & SAMPLING**  
All premises registered in terms of the Plant Improvement Act.


**SANSOR Sampler:**  
Checks bags, labels, seals and seed lot information. Takes samples for post-control and laboratory.




**PRE-CLEANING & PROCESSING**  
All premises registered in terms of the Plant Improvement Act.

**Company:**  
Checks threshing and processing plant for cleanliness according to Quality Assurance System.

Certified seed must pass in **excess of 90 checkpoints** before the final product is certified by SANSOR.



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# 2. Intellectual Property and Plant Breeders' Rights

- IP infringements
  - Brown bagging
  - Counterfeit seed
  - Selling grain as seed
  - Selling varieties under false names/other names
  - Selling seed without a licence
  - Conditioning seed for propagation without a licence
- Massive losses to seed companies
- Massive losses to farmers – impact food security
- Farm saved seed – impacts a seed company's ability to reinvest in breeding.

# 3. SACTA

- South African Cultivar and Technology Agency
- Established in 2015
- Breeding and technology levy on open-pollinated crops such as wheat, barley, oats, soybean and lupins
- Paid to seed companies based on market share to re-invest in breeding
- Since its inception, farmers have benefited with numerous new varieties as well as new GM technologies

# 4. Plant Breeding Innovation

- The next era of innovation in Plant Breeding
  - New Breeding Techniques
  - Genome editing
  - Latest innovations has simply allowed breeders to breed plants in **less time with more precision**
  - The effectiveness of Plant Breeding has always been driven by **science** – Dating further back to Mendelian's Laws.

## Regulations and policies

- Harmonization is of utmost importance for seed trade.
- Harmonization facilitates trade and seed movement. –Food Security
- Different national regulations will require different pre-market assessments labeling etc.

**Imperative that Plant Breeders make input on policies that affect them.**

# SANSOR role

- Support the industry on all matters: -
  - Science & research
  - Advocate for regulations that are based on sound scientific principles
  - Facilitate solutions for trade barrier issues
  - Actively support on IP issues
  - Represent the industry on SACTA
  - Ensure that farmers receive quality seed

Ensure the uninterrupted movement of high quality seed



Thank you



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**  
2021