

ISF Bulletin

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Message**from****Michael**

Strengthening engagement with members is one of ISF's priorities so I was pleased to see positive feedback on the Bulletin which we created as a means of communicating with our members on the relevant issues. To ensure we represent our members' interests and drive the key issues, we need to have the right people in place. I'm pleased to inform you that H  l  ne Guillot will be joining the ISF Secretariat as International Agricultural Manager. H  l  ne's role will be to increase ISF's involvement with international organizations, while supporting the work of its Sustainable Agriculture and Intellectual Property Committees. (*More about H  l  ne later* ...)

During the last year I've had the privilege of meeting national associations and have been inspired by their positive energy and 'can do' attitude. This month I had the pleasure of participating in the General Assembly of the Mexican Seed Association (AMSAC). All industry and government representatives present agreed on the need for innovation as only 25% of the seed used currently is improved seed. The convention was a great opportunity to highlight ISF's strategic objectives for plant breeding and innovation and harmonization of phytosanitary measures, and to focus on access and benefit sharing.

Michael Keller, ISF Secretary General

AMSAC Convention and SAA Congress in Mexico

The Mexican Seed Association's (AMSAC) Convention and the Seed Congress of the Americas took place in Cancun, Mexico in September. ISF President Alvaro Eyzaguirre and ISF Secretary General Michael Keller were among the 200 participants from South, Latin and North America. In his opening speech Alvaro highlighted the importance of cooperation between ISF and regional associations, underlining its role in achieving harmony. Michael's speech focused on the value of engaging with national associations in order to identify the common issues so we can communicate as a collective. On ISF's agenda for Latin America are phytosanitary and IP issues, plant breeding and innovation, and seed applied technologies.



AMSAC's International Seed Symposium

As Mexico seeks to add value to its favorable geographical position for the production of a wide variety of agricultural commodities, AMSAC has played a supporting role in facilitating the movement of seed in and out of the country. In July 2015 it organized an international seed symposium on the occasion of other international phytopathological meetings in the country. ISF Technical Director Radha Ranganathan was invited to talk about **regulated pests** in the international trade of seed.

As Radha has been engaged since 2002 in promoting an international standard on the international movement of seed to contracting parties of the International Plant Protection Convention, she has also traveled to many ISF member countries on the invitation of seed associations like AMSAC, explaining ISF's Regulated Pest List Initiative, where industry knowledge and experience is used to provide an expert assessment and interpretation of scientific publications on whether seed is a pathway for entry and spread of regulated pests associated with vegetable seed species.

[SEE ISF's PEST LISTS](#)



ISF Tree and Shrub Group meeting

The Tree and Shrub Group (TSG) met in Guilin, the former capital of Guangxi province, famed for its forestry which covers 62% of the land, in August.

Among the fifty experts in attendance were ISTA and OECD representatives who provided updates on their respective organizations. High on the agenda was the effect of climate change on the forestry sector and its resulting impact on the international seed trade. The rate of change was predicted to be faster than the rate at which trees could adapt or migrate, suggesting a future increase in the international trade of seed. Discussions on possible amendments to the OECD Forest Reproductive Material certification system to facilitate the international seed trade are underway.

One of the TSG's biggest challenges is maintaining momentum throughout the year with only one annual meeting. To overcome this, a working group has been established to tackle mainly phytosanitary and trade barrier issues, and will engage with other ISF committees, particularly the Phytosanitary Committee.



UPOV Electronic Application Form prototype tested

The **Electronic Application System (EAS)**, launched in 2014, is the result of a collaboration between ISF, CLI and CIOPORA to further harmonize the existing UPOV system for plant breeders' rights (PBR). The EAS will enable breeders to file PBR applications in various markets via a simplified and unified procedure.

A prototype of the **Electronic Application Form** has been tested by national PVP offices and seed industry experts. Monsanto, Pioneer, Rijk Zwaan, Syngenta, Bayer, Limagrain are taking part in the project on behalf of ISF. Monthly phone calls with these companies will ensure we align our efforts and avoid duplication. The final test release of the EAF prototype is expected in mid-October.



UPOV TWA meeting

The 44th session of the UPOV Technical Working Party for Agricultural (TWA) crops met in Obihiro, Japan in July. The meeting was attended by more than 55

participants representing 24 UPOV member states and observers. Bert Scholte (ESA) represented ISF as well as ESA.

Among the topics discussed was the revision of the **Technical Guidance Protocols** to introduce sections on the use of proprietary text, photographs and Illustrations to respect possible IP rights and minimize variation due to different observers in the same trial.

The possible revision of a variety description after the granting of Plant Breeders Rights was discussed. In some countries such a revision is legally not possible while in others official descriptions can be changed under certain conditions. CPVO is in the process of making an inventory regarding the situation within the EU28. This is an important issue for breeders as there may be legal consequences in relation to enforcement. In 2016 presentations will be made by Australia, the CPVO, Germany and New Zealand.

The TWA discussed the revision of the following Technical Guidelines (TGs); cotton, elytrigia, field bean, oats, quinoa, soybean and wheat. None of the TGs has been finalized therefore the discussion will continue in 2016 together with following new species: barley, castor bean, red clover and scorpion weed.

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REPORT](#)



ISF appoints International Agricultural Manager

Hélène Guillot has been appointed International Agricultural Manager and will take up the post in January 2016, although she will be attending ISF's Mid-Term Meetings in Budapest in October 2015. Hélène is a talented competent and dynamic person with the right profile to support industry efforts with regard to Biodiversity, Access to Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property. With a background in legal studies and several years' experience as a lawyer for the French Seed Union and the French Ministry of Agriculture, Hélène brings the right combination of knowledge and skills to strengthen ISF's position at an international level. Hélène has an affinity with all things agricultural, having grown up on the family farm in Burgundy, France.



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