



Brazil Phytosanitary Workshop Recap

October 2-4, 2019

Systems Approach Pilot Project Moving Forward:

The head of Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture's (MAPA) Department of Plant Health is eager to move forward with a pilot project of the systems approach for movement of seed between countries. The pilot would allow selected companies whose risk management plans meet the accreditation standards of APHIS and MAPA to move research seed from their U.S. facilities to their Brazil facilities (or Brazil to U.S.) without further testing or inspection upon entry.

This Fall, MAPA and APHIS will work to finalize their systems approach accreditation standards as well as application requirements and company selection criteria. ASTA and ABRASEM will play a role in this process too. Two commodity areas were tentatively selected for the pilot: corn and cucurbits (to be further refined later). The goal is to finalize the project details by early 2020 in order to launch the application process for interested companies and begin a four-year pilot in 2020.

New Ministry of Agriculture (MAPA) Leadership and Approach:

MAPA's new leadership in the seed and phytosanitary departments is focused on streamlining systems and reducing bureaucracy, including overseeing the revision process for several normatives (see chart below).

MAPA is working on legislation that will rely more on industry self-regulation and auditing than direct testing of seeds by MAPA. There is a strong interest to automate procedures as well.

Efforts to Revise Pest List and Pest Risk Analysis Process: ABRASEM will work with member companies to determine which PRA (PRA) requests for seed are obsolete to reduce the overall list, of which MAPA estimates only 1/5 are likely candidates for review. ASTA/ABRASEM will identify current MAPA pest list requirements and compare against the ASTA and International Seed Federation pest databases to determine instances where seed is not a pathway for the pest and will provide this information to APHIS and MAPA.

Key Normatives and Seed Laws Impacting Seed Movement in Brazil

Name	Purpose	Status
Normative 52	Importation of research material	MAPA is reviewing the regulation and wants to expand the scope of the regulation to all materials going through quarantine that are not commercial. Proposing an automated system for authorization purposes with an online application. Goal is to unify the process for Normatives 52 and 25 and publish draft by November 1.
Normative 25	Importation for commercial purposes or trait approval (after seed has gone through variety registration)	Currently, 100% of material is sampled. MAPA would like to establish criteria to lower this depending on the history of the company and the country of origin of the material. Due to a government-wide computer system, the pest list cannot be displayed on the MAPA website, and industry cannot see the status of pending Pest Risk Analysis requests.
Normative 29 & 41	Post-entry quarantine accreditation standards by MAPA	Want to harmonize implementation – labs are following different standards.
Normative 57/13	Phytosanitary lab accreditation procedures	MAPA is pursuing a new system with an online hub that will enable real-time information exchange between labs and MAPA, as well as guidance for self-management and auditing. They expect the old Normative 57 regulations to become obsolete.
Normative 42	Production and Trade of Seed and Seedlings of Vegetables, Spices, etc.	Published September 17, 2019. Effective March 31, 2020. Simplifies the process to report production and compliance. Clarifies packaging and storage requirements.
Revision of Decree 5.153/2004	“Seed Decree”	Revision is in progress, final draft by November 1, 2019. MAPA has sought extensive ABRASEM/industry input. This overarching legislation will help promote modernization and remove bureaucratic barriers.
N/A	Organic Seed	Organic seed must follow the same importation and production requirements as conventional seed. There is a normative for organic seed accreditation. There are no current plans to revise this.

Please contact us with any questions or to join our Brazil Country Working Group:

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