

# ASTA Supports Free Trade

The U.S. is the largest global exporter of seeds, with an annual export value of over \$1.25 billion. ASTA's mission is to enhance the development and movement of quality seed worldwide.

## Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

The importance of seed movement between the United States and the European Union is vital. The proposed TTIP has the potential to provide a useful mechanism to both resolve issues and identify opportunities important to the U.S. seed industry and to the mutual benefit of U.S., EU and global agriculture. The American Seed Trade Association is concerned about certain trade-distorting EU policies that are neither based on science nor conducive to scientific development or agricultural productivity. This undermines both the interests of the U.S. seed industry and agricultural producers that rely on our products in the United

States and other countries. Specifically, ASTA is seeking to resolve regulatory and non-tariff barriers, including sanitary and phytosanitary issues. We also strongly encourage the United States to work toward an equally ambitious negotiation on Intellectual Property Rights issues, which impact the seed industry.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- ❖ ASTA supports a comprehensive and ambitious free trade agreement with Europe.

## Trade Promotion Authority

With Trade Promotion Authority, the United States will be able to pursue 21st that support and create U.S. jobs. In addition, TPA will help increase U.S. exports compete in a globalized economy.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- ❖ ASTA supports passage of bipartisan legislation to guide future trade through trade promotion authority.

## Market Access and Foreign Market Development Programs

The United States Department of Agriculture estimates agricultural exports were \$140.9 billion in FY2013 surpassing the all-time record level of \$137.4 billion achieved in FY2011.

MAP and FMD are a public-private partnership designed to promote exports of U.S. products. We appreciate that Congress recognized their importance when reauthorizing these programs in the farm bill. For over 50 years, resources from MAP and FMD have been critical to ASTA's ability to provide international leadership working with trading partners to resolve technical barriers to the movement of seed.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- ❖ ASTA supports continued funding for MAP and FMD at the farm bill authorized levels of \$200 million and \$34.5 million respectively.