



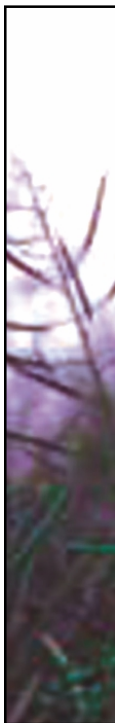
## *Seed Sector Review*

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## *Seed Sector Review*

### *Overriding Objective of the Review*

- to conduct an industry-wide assessment of the Canadian seed sector and Canada's regulatory environment in the global context.



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### *More Specifically:*

- to develop a common understanding among the key stakeholders in the Canadian Seed Sector of:
  - the nature of the sector
  - the challenges facing it, and
  - the options for facilitating constructive change within it
- to develop recommendations for the structure of the CFIA regulatory regime and the priorities for change



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## *Seed Sector Review*

The Seed Sector Review Report recognized the sector's continued success over the longer term would largely depend on three factors:

- A policy environment that supports a timely response to changing conditions.
- A collective capacity to manage change while maintaining a stable investment environment.
- A sector whose decision making is well informed in terms of risks and rewards and is responsive to domestic and foreign market opportunities



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## *Seed Sector Review*

To facilitate management of those three factors, the Seed Sector Review identified four broad key results, or outcomes, that are needed:

- regulatory flexibility and timeliness
- a supportive environment for science & innovation
- profitability in the sector
- consumer acceptance & confidence



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## *Seed Sector Review*

To achieve these key results, or outcomes, the Seed Sector Review Report recommended implementation of an industry-wide consultative process that would:

- provide advice on policy
- provide a mechanism for industry consultation and advice on priorities and proposals for regulatory and procedural change
- provide a forum for industry/government dialogue on priority issues that involve many varied stakeholder interests.



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### *Seed Sector Review Consultative Process:*

This consultative process will provide the forum to pursue the major consensus recommendations of the Seed Sector Review Report:

- restructuring variety registration to create a more flexible system based on the needs of individual crop kinds
- streamlining current regulations to transfer some of the technical standards from regulation to administrative manuals
- ensuring continuation of a risk based environment that supports & rewards innovation



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### *Seed Sector Review Consultative Process:*

- investigating practical & equitable means of creating a level playing field between Certified and common seed
- reconciling Canada's risk based PNT policy with our major trading partners
- working with authorities to eliminate regulatory impediments to innovation and market responsiveness and to explore options for the future
- developing communication strategies to improve consumer acceptance of innovation & build consumer confidence for industry capacity related to health & safety



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### *Seed Sector Review Consultative Process:*

- encouraging authorities to maintain & improve regulatory resource capacity to preserve knowledge of the sector, increase knowledge of new science and respond to industry requirements on a timely basis
- maintaining a science based, risk management basis for decision making & regulatory streamlining



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### *Current Status of the Seed Sector Review:*

- The Seed Sector Alliance made a submission to ACAAF just prior to the end of May 2004.
- The Seed Sector Alliance had approached CFIA, the Department and the Minister to ensure they are aware of the importance of preserving the momentum of the Seed Sector Review.
- On October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the Minister approved a \$1.0 million contribution over two years (to October 2006)



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### *The Current Seed Sector Alliance Proposal:*

The objectives of the new proposal are two fold:

1. to put in place the consultative process that will facilitate industry discussion, consultation and policy advice to government; and
2. to initiate movement on the implementation of priority actions required to achieve the four key results, or outcomes, cited in the Seed Sector Review Report.



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### *The Current Seed Sector Alliance Proposal:*

The four primary activities of the proposal are:

1. Start up of the consultative process over the next 2 years
2. Streamlining seed crop production standards & delivery mechanisms
3. Investigating analysis based verification standards & test methods for seed certification
4. Determining the needs for managing & regulating co-existence of new agricultural products



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### *Start up of the Consultative Process:*

This includes 5 activities:

1. Refining & implementing the Consultative Committee
2. Industry consultation & consensus development on UPOV '91
3. Streamlining regulatory frameworks for standards & variety registration
4. Developing tools for multi-level risk assessments of PNTs
5. Consulting on policy issues around the use of variety names on all seed sold



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### *Streamlining Standards & Delivery Mechanisms:*

This includes 3 activities:

1. Revising regulations & procedures for pedigreed seed production
2. Undertaking a pilot project for electronic management of the delivery of crop inspection and seed certification activities
3. Reviewing public & private 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification models



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### ***Investigating Analysis Based Verification Standards & Test Methods:***

This activity will yield Canada's technical capacity to cost effectively certify seed required to commercially produce the growing number of new varieties developed for variety specific, often niche, value-added, or bio-product markets.

The updating is required to verify the varietal identity certification of new seed varieties that have primarily genetic distinguishing characteristics.



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## *Seed Sector Review*

### ***Managing & Regulating Co-existence:***

This activity will:

- Establish technical working groups as a forum to identify the regulatory requirements & gaps
- Provide an opportunity to address other issues that are neither regulatory in nature nor necessarily science based
- Working groups would include organizations representing the crop kind involved, appropriate regulatory agencies and other technical disciplines



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