Global Seed Program

Working to provide access to quality seed, facilitating seed trade, and promoting the growth and development of the seed industry are important missions of the Seed Science Center’s Global Seed Program. In the past 12 years, center scientists have designed and conducted programs in more than 80 countries around the world to achieve these goals.

Global Seed Program efforts include policy and regulatory harmonization in phytosanitary measures, plant variety protection, variety evaluation and registration, seed certification, and development of national seed laws. In addition, scientists working with the program have created 10 process management manuals that serve as definitive resource materials on seed and biosafety policies and regulation.

Recent activities have included development of a Seed Enterprise Management Institute (SEMI) in Kenya, establishment of the West Africa Seed Alliance (WASA), and the harmonization of seed policy in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Scientists also facilitate international training and workshops designed to enhance seed policy and to educate and provide assistance to stakeholders at all levels of the seed industry.

To learn more about the Global Seed Program at Iowa State University, write seedsci@iastate.edu.

Training and Workshops

The Seed Science Center has been providing valuable training opportunities and workshops for seed industry professionals domestically for more than 35 years. Offered annually from April through August, the workshops focus on seed testing and cleaning, gravity separation, color sorting, and other topics of interest to those in the seed industry. Visit www.seeds.iastate.edu/seedtest/training.html for more information.

Scholarships

Each year the Seed Science Center partners with the Iowa Seed Association to provide graduate and undergraduate scholarships for students enrolled in the Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Scholarships are awarded to students that demonstrate exemplary character, high academic records, leadership skills, and promise for a career in the seed industry. To learn more about Seed Science Center scholarships write seedsci@iastate.edu.

For More Information

For a complete listing of Seed Science Center faculty, staff, research, news, or publications, visit our Website at www.seeds.iastate.edu, or contact:

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SEED SCIENCE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

—The Seed Science Center houses the largest public seed testing laboratory in the world.
—In the past 12 years, center scientists have facilitated projects on seed policy and regulations in more than 80 countries around the world.
—Center faculty have developed 10 process management manuals that serve as training resource materials on seed and biosafety policies and regulation in countries around the world.
—The USDA designated the center to administer the National Seed Health System.
—The center offers the nation’s only undergraduate seed science degree.
—The center’s Graduate Program in Seed Technology and Business is the only one of its kind in the world. Graduates from 17 countries have taken part in the program.
—The center’s interdisciplinary graduate minor Risk Analysis and Decision-making is one of only three courses in the U.S. on the topic of risk assessment for the biological sciences.
—The FAO signed an agreement with the center to conduct global programs on seed policies and regulation.
—Center outreach and education efforts include an annual symposium, approximately 22 domestic workshops per year, publication of the Iowa Seed & Biosafety Newsletter, and visiting scientist and fellow programs to name a few.
The Seed Science Center at Iowa State University is a center of excellence nationally and internationally in seed research, education, technology transfer, and international seed programs. The center provides a focus for teaching, research, and extension programs on seed in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State and is a global leader in introducing science into policy to benefit world seed trade. Seed Science Center faculty members are committed to providing quality research and education to produce the next generation of leaders in the seed industry.

**Seed Testing Laboratory**

The Seed Science Center is home to the largest public seed testing laboratory in the world. For more than 100 years, the laboratory has provided accurate and professional seed-testing services for members of the seed industry. The laboratory, which performs tests on as many as 40,000 seed samples annually, is recognized as a leader in seed health testing.

In addition to being International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2008 and National Seed Health System Certified, the Iowa State University Seed Testing Laboratory is recognized as a member lab of the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA). It has the capability to test more than 350 pathogens for phytosanitary certification.

The Iowa State Seed Testing Laboratory prides itself in offering the most up-to-date and comprehensive services available in the seed-testing industry. Certified seed technologists and analysts with more than 157 years of collective experience routinely perform traditional seed tests (noxious weed exams, germination, purity, tetrazolium, accelerated aging, cultivar purity, and cold tests) as well as trait tests (herbicide bioassay, ELISA, and PCR). To learn more about the Iowa State University Seed Testing Laboratory, visit [www.seeds.iastate.edu/seedtest](http://www.seeds.iastate.edu/seedtest).

**Distance Education Graduate Degree in Seed Technology and Business**

The Graduate Program in Seed Technology and Business is a master's degree program developed to provide a unique opportunity for seed professionals to grow by gaining a better understanding of the science, technology, and management that is key to the seed industry.

Students from 17 countries have taken part in this distance education program that is offered over the Internet and integrates coursework from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with that of the College of Business at Iowa State University. Available to students world-wide, course curriculum covers topics such as seed production and genetic improvement along with business administration courses. Graduate certificates in seed science and technology and seed business management are also offered. For a full list of courses, visit [www.seedgrad.iastate.edu](http://www.seedgrad.iastate.edu).

**Seed Science and Technology Research**

Scientists at Iowa State University have been conducting research on seed technology since 1890. Seed Science Center faculty members that specialize in seed physiology, seed pathology, and seed conditioning conduct cutting-edge research on sustainable agriculture, biotechnology, crop utilization, computer technologies, microbiology, toxicology, and molecular biology.

**DNA Testing and PCR Methodologies**

The DNA Seed Testing Lab at Iowa State provides routine DNA seed testing services such as seed health testing, Low-Level Presence of genetically engineered plant materials in seed, and plant genotyping. The lab also offers a variety of special services by request including assay development and validation of DNA sample preps and provides accurate and expert scientific advice for external customers. Group or one-on-one training is also available. For more details on DNA testing, visit [www.seeds.iastate.edu/pages/dna.html](http://www.seeds.iastate.edu/pages/dna.html).

[www.seeds.iastate.edu](http://www.seeds.iastate.edu)