

## **Research with Commercially Available Seed Products**

The American Seed Trade Association is committed to public sector research, teaching and extension programs and recommends that member companies provide public sector researchers and public sector institutions the opportunity to conduct studies on commercially available, patent-protected seed products. Although every company must determine independently the terms under which it would provide such research opportunities, this statement describes the principles and objectives behind this commitment.

### **PRINCIPLES and OBJECTIVES:**

- To enable the public sector research community to independently conduct research studies on commercially available seed products in laboratory, greenhouse, and field settings for the purpose of understanding the technology, education, extension and the safe and effective use of these products.

This research may include:

- agronomic and yield comparisons;
- testing for compositional profile such as oil content;
- studies related to end-use such as animal feeding;
- comparative efficacy studies;
- studies on interactions of the trait with pest biology and pest management practices including interactions related to resistance management;
- studies on interactions of introduced traits with the environment

This statement does not address:

- breeding with plants produced from the seed;
- reverse engineering or characterizing the genetic composition of patent-protected traits in seed;
- development of methods for detecting the presence or absence of patent-protected traits in seed;
- use of non-commercial methods to detect the presence or absence of patent-protected traits in seed;
- research on modifications or improvements to the patent-protected traits
- To assure that the public sector research community is free to design robust, scientifically sound experimental protocols and methodologies, and to derive independent conclusions.
- To encourage and assure that the public sector research community is free to publish findings in peer reviewed scientific or research journals, with reasonable notice to companies.

- To assure compliance with applicable laws and regulations, respect for intellectual property, and the use of comprehensive stewardship programs that promote the responsible and safe management of commercially approved and available seed products.
- To facilitate access among private sector and public institutions to commercial, licensed technologies for the research and testing purposes stated above.
- To assure a regular and ongoing dialogue between the seed industry and the public sector researchers and institutions.

*Approved by: American Seed Trade Association's Executive Committee, Sept. 17, 2009  
Biotechnology Industry Organization's Food & Agriculture Section Governing Board, Sept. 10, 2009*

