



**Strong Foundation.**  
Bright Future.



**Fondations solides.**  
Avenir prometteur.



## **Recommendations to the Government of Canada on Regulatory Modernization and Red Tape Reduction By:**

**The Canadian Seed Growers' Association**

**[seedgrowers.ca](http://seedgrowers.ca)**

Tel/Tél: 613-236-0497

Email/Courriel: [info@seedgrowers.ca](mailto:info@seedgrowers.ca)

Address/Adresse: 21, rue Florence Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2P 0W6

## Introduction:

With 9 out of 10 bites of food starting with seed, Canada's seed certification system is a cornerstone of Canada's agriculture and agri-food value chains. As a trusted co-regulator working in partnership with the Government of Canada for over 100 years, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) is proud to help deliver this essential public good, supporting varietal purity, agricultural productivity, and international trade.

CSGA is a respected, science-based, and digitally enabled leader in seed quality assurance and genetic traceability. As Canada's national seed crop certification authority, we have partnered with the Government of Canada since 1904 to administer the national seed certification program. Our delegated authority is enabled under the Seeds Act.

Our core mandates are to establish standards for varietal purity and to deliver a national seed crop certification program that benefits all of Canadian agriculture. Each year, we certify the seed crops of more than 2,900 seed growers and 2,500 seed-growing businesses, covering 1.2 million acres across 60 crop kinds and over 2,000 varieties.

CSGA and its members welcome the Government's recognition of agriculture's strategic importance, not only to our economy, but to Canada's long-term food security, trade resilience, and rural vitality. Regulatory modernization is one of the most effective tools the federal government has to unlock growth in the agriculture sector while delivering on its commitment to spend less on operations and deliver more for Canadians.

The CFIA's current Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM) initiative presents a timely and practical opportunity to modernize how services like seed certification are delivered. It offers a once in a generation opportunity to improve delivery service, strengthen the integrity of our seed sector, and make more efficient use of public resources. By reducing administrative duplication, embracing co-regulation, and streamlining delivery, we can position Canada's seed sector to lead in a more competitive, secure, and sustainable global food system.

To capitalize on this momentum, the Government of Canada should ensure SRM outcomes deliver measurable improvements in cost-efficiency, service delivery, and regulatory clarity. Now is not the time for small incremental changes, our sector needs positive transformational change.

This submission outlines a set of recommendations grounded in CSGA's experience as a trusted co-regulator for over 100 years, and recommendations that directly support the Prime Minister's 2025 directive to "spend less on government operations and focus resources on services that improve outcomes for Canadians." With the right focus and execution, the CFIA's SRM initiative can serve as a model for smart regulation: one that reduces red tape, empowers partners, and strengthens public confidence.

## Recommendations:

### 1) Make CSGA the Main Administrator of Canada's Seed Certification System

Transferring administrative functions from the CFIA to the CSGA will simplify and modernize Canada's seed certification system. This transition eliminates regulatory disconnects and redundancies, delivering a more agile, responsive, and user-friendly system for seed growers, the seed sector, and Canadian farmers. With over 100 years of proven leadership, CSGA provides the stability and expertise required to ensure a seamless transition and is a trusted authority both domestically and internationally.

### 2) Implement a Digital End-to-End Certification System

A Digital Single Window will modernize Canada's seed certification framework and advance key national priorities like increasing productivity, traceability, competitiveness, and efficiency. Our plan for a digital seed certification system will reduce administrative burden, accelerate approval times, and enhance Canada's reputation as a global leader in seed production.

### 3) Establish an Advisory Committee

A Seed Sector Advisory Committee provides a platform for addressing cross-cutting issues and strategic priorities, enabling the seed and grain value chain to play an active role in sharing the future of Canada's seed system. This structure aligns well with Treasury Board's guidance on regulatory stewardship and inclusive governance.

## Delivering Greater Value for Canadian Agriculture:

Through the CFIA's SRM process, CSGA aspires to become the main administrator of Canada's seed certification system. This approach would streamline processes, cut red tape, and enhance service delivery for the sector while freeing up government resources. By building on CSGA's existing legislative mandate, we can improve efficiency while preserving strong regulatory oversight. Similar models have been successfully adopted in mature seed systems globally, where they have proven effective in maintaining trust, efficiency, and market access.

## Unlocking Government Resources for Higher Priorities:

Canada's seed sector currently depends heavily on the CFIA to carry out administrative functions that could be more efficiently delivered by a trusted regulatory partner like CSGA. Transferring these functions to CSGA would ease the burden on government resources while maintaining rigorous oversight, quality, and compliance.

Our sector has a proven history of embracing Alternative Service Delivery models. The successful privatization of crop inspection led to major gains in responsiveness and efficiency. A similar transition in certification administration would allow CFIA to refocus resources on higher-priority activities, and deliver better outcomes for government, industry, and Canadians.

## Key Benefits to Canadian Agriculture and the Government of Canada:

CSGA's recommendations would create an agile, transparent, and efficient seed certification system that supports Canadian farmers, encourages innovation, and strengthens Canada's global position in seed production. By implementing these recommendations, the Government of Canada can achieve measurable improvements in service delivery and regulatory oversight, reduce costs, and reinforce public confidence in a critical national system.

**Taxpayer Savings:** Transferring administrative functions to CSGA will allow the CFIA to reduce costs and redirect resources to higher-priority areas.

**Industry-Funded & Cost-Effective:** Our proposal operates on a cost-recovery basis, without the need for additional government resources or investment. This approach ensures that services are efficiently delivered, providing maximum value to both the sector and Canadians.

**Faster, More Efficient Services:** CSGA's fully digital certification system has already demonstrated a 1,700% increase in efficiency for certification decisions. A streamlined digital system will cut red tape, reduce approval times, and create a more agile seed sector.

**Accountability and Transparency:** With CSGA as the main administrator, the CFIA would retain ultimate oversight and have real-time access to CSGA's digital platform, improving regulatory integrity and public trust.

**Trusted Partner:** CSGA is recognized internationally as a leader in seed certification, holding key leadership roles in global seed frameworks. Making CSGA the main administrator of Canada's seed certification system will reinforce, not weaken, Canada's standing or credibility.

## Implementation & Next Steps:

Many of the priorities outlined in this submission can be implemented through administrative or policy updates within CFIA's existing authority. They do not require changes to the *Seed Regulations* or other legislative instruments, enabling swift action through the CFIA's existing Alternative Service Delivery (ASD) framework, CSGA's current delegated authority, and existing service agreements between the CFIA and CSGA.

As a co-regulator, CSGA is also taking active steps to reduce regulatory burden within its own system. Through our Regulatory Services Committee, we have streamlined standards for soybeans and forages, and we are conducting a full review of cereal crop standards. We are eliminating unnecessary forms, simplifying business processes, and fully digitizing end-to-end certification through our SeedCert platform.

Our new membership model also enhances inclusivity, enabling all regulated parties within the seed certification system to become members and actively shape the system. Together, these actions demonstrate CSGA's commitment to modern, efficient, and responsive regulatory delivery—ready to complement and accelerate the Government of Canada's broader red tape reduction efforts.

## Final Thoughts:

Canada's seed certification is a critical public good service and a key enabler of a productive and competitive agriculture sector in Canada. The CFIA's SRM process and the recommendations outlined above represent a unique opportunity to modernize regulatory oversight, improve service delivery, and reduce reliance on government resources. With proven capacity and broad sector support through the SRM process, CSGA stands ready to serve as a trusted partner in delivering faster services, lower public sector costs, and sustained confidence in Canada's seed certification system, both domestically and internationally.

## About the CSGA:

CSGA's mission is to deliver an inclusive and transparent national seed crop certification and standards-setting system that advances collaboration and innovation while upholding the highest standards of quality, trust, and excellence in seed production.

Our vision for the future is a seed certification system that is agile, transparent, efficient, and effective—one that fosters innovation, empowers farmers, strengthens value chain collaboration, and supports Canada's position as a global leader in seed.