

STRONG FOUNDATION. BRIGHT FUTURE.

Digital Single Window

June 2023

BACKGROUND

CSGA has steadily moved towards digitalization of services for many years - introducing online applications and inspection reports in 2016 and digital certificates for seed crops in 2021 while progressively investing in a secure web-based traceability and information management platform, SeedCert, and affiliated software applications.

The SeedCert platform provides a digital end-to-end seed crop certification framework that includes applications for crop certification, inspection reports, seed crop certificates, CFIA oversight, and, most recently, digital seed tags. However, parts of the seed certification system for which the government is responsible are still analog or difficult to access, creating data silos.

WHAT'S NEXT

As the sector works together to modernize our seed system, there is a tremendous opportunity to expand the SeedCert platform to further address the remaining time-consuming or redundant analog processes and break down data silos. This could include most functions associated with seed certification, including seed grading reports, pedigreed seed declarations, seed tagging operations, and OECD certification activities.

OUR PLAN

CSGA should be empowered to establish a Single-Window for seed certification services, expanding SeedCert to complete the development of a **digital end-to-end seed certification system** - expediting data access and providing value-added traceability opportunities for seed sector stakeholders and their customers.

DIGITAL SINGLE WINDOW

Digital single window access to seed certification services is the single most efficient and effective tool to positively impact the seed value chain. A single window would eliminate duplicate and fragmented workflows, allowing users to access information in one place, which would:

- Simplify processes & reduce burden/cost
- Expedite information flow and decision making
- Create a foundation for future value-added growth
- Data-driven, risk management approaches to regulatory oversight
- Enhance traceability and risk mitigation measures to domestic/international buyers and regulators

Expanding the success of SeedCert also results in **enhanced transparency and efficiency for CFIA**. A digital single window would provide CFIA with:

- The ability to more effectively monitor and oversee Canada's seed certification framework, giving it additional trust and confidence in CSGA's expanded role
- Real-time transparency into all certification decisions made by CSGA – consistent with our current approach

- The ability to integrate with existing legacy systems, like the new digital Variety Registration applications or a seed company's existing legacy database, simplifying end-users' experience with the seed certification framework
- Secure access to Seeds Canada (formerly CSI) auditors to audit Registered Seed Establishments and Seed Labs, enabling remote inspections and more targeted, data-driven risk assessments.

DATA SECURITY

A key component of this digital single window is security, privacy, and transparency.

Today, CSGA continues to make strategic investments in cybersecurity, data security, and privacy and with a fully digital certification process, this would remain a priority.

Moving forward, we could leverage the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee to help CSGA complete our Ag Data Transparency certification – providing end users and government with transparency into how CSGA handles, uses, and stores its data.

VALUE ADDED OPPORTUNITIES

The benefits of a digital single window go beyond administrative ease, directly impacting the opportunities available to our farmers, our bottom line, and our international success/reputation.

Digital Seed Tags: Through SRM, we have seen strong support for digital seed tags. CSGA has developed digital seed tag technology, which allows additional seed quality information/transparency to be shared/verified at the time of sale. Our digital seed technology can also integrate with platforms such as Seeds Canada's Variety Transparency database, providing new value-added information at the tag level.

Data-Driven Oversight: Canada's current seed system oversight approach is driven mostly by time (e.g., an audit every three years). In the future, real-time data could help us determine the most effective risk management framework for efficient oversight.

OECD Seed Scheme Certification: The OECD Seed Schemes is going digital, and participating countries will need to be able to connect into the OECD Seed Scheme's Seed Lot Traceability Hub. CSGA has been hired by the OECD Seed Schemes as a consultant, responsible for developing the feasibility study and ensuring successful pilot project implementation. CSGA's SeedCert platform can be expanded to ensure Canadian OECD exports can be integrated into this system.