

# CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION

ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 29 MAY 2024

## **1. PREAMBLE**

The mission of the International Seed Federation is to create the best environment for the global movement of seed and promote plant breeding and innovation in seed. In order to achieve this goal, it is of crucial importance that members of ISF conduct their business in accordance with all applicable laws that relate to seeds and seed business.

The requirements contained in this Code of Conduct set out the International Seed Federation's expectations of the mindset and behavior of its members in the pursuit of their activities and constitute the basis for a successful and mutually respectful business relationship amongst its members.

## **2. COMMITMENTS**

Signatories to this Code of Conduct undertake to conduct their business in accordance with the following principles:

### **2.1. Respect of ISF rules and regulations**

Signatories undertake to act and conduct their business in accordance with the present Code of Conduct, the ISF Articles of Association and all ISF by-laws in force.

### **2.2. Compliant behaviour**

Signatories undertake to act and conduct their business in accordance with all applicable legal and/or administrative measures that relate to seeds and seed business (e.g.: IP laws, legislation related to seed marketing, variety registration and certification, phytosanitary obligations etc.).

### **2.3. Fair competition**

Signatories undertake to refrain from all acts and behaviour that could amount to unfair commercial practice or an act of unfair competition as foreseen in applicable national laws, and commit to undertake their business in accordance with such applicable anti-trust laws.

#### **2.4. Business Integrity**

Signatories undertake not to engage in or tolerate any form of corruption, extortion, embezzlement or money laundering. Signatories also undertake not to give or accept any undue or improper advantage, or any advantage that could be regarded as undue remuneration, in order to obtain, maintain or conduct business, or to secure any other undue advantage in connection with their activities.<sup>1</sup>

### **3. PROCEDURE BY THE COMPLAINT COMMITTEE**

Signatories accept and agree that by signing the present Code of Conduct they submit themselves to the procedure of the World Seed Congress (WSC) Complaint Committee as referred to here below and as outlined in Article 5.11 of the ISF Articles of Association.

Signatories accept that neither the ISF Secretariat nor the Complaint Committee, as established according to Article 5.11 of the ISF Articles of Association, can take any steps in order to ensure compliance with the present Code of Conduct other than those described here below.

Signatories accept and agree that neither ISF nor the Complaint Committee can be held liable for any potential consequences of the procedure described here below and outlined in Article 5.11 of the ISF Articles of Association.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of improper advantages (e.g. bribes) include money, products, pleasure trips, inappropriate meals or other services. To be authorised, the benefit must meet the following requirements: (i) must be permitted under applicable national law; (ii) must have a clear and legitimate commercial objective; (iii) must not be offered in exchange for an undue advantage; (iv) the nature, value and frequency of the benefit must be appropriate to the occasion for which it is provided; and (v) must be provided in a transparent manner.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION**

The International Seed Federation shall inform all its members in a reasonable time period of the existence of this Code of Conduct and of any future amendments. Unless otherwise agreed, this Code of Conduct forms an integral part of the relationship between the International Seed Federation and its members, and the engagement should be passed to members of national seed associations.

Signatories and members shall act in accordance with the principles of this Code of Conduct. Signatories, members and their staff are entitled to contact the International Seed Federation anonymously in case they become aware of a breach of this Code of Conduct, established by a decision of a competent authority.

Where the International Seed Federation becomes aware of a breach of the provisions of this Code of Conduct, it shall enter into dialogue with the member concerned and shall launch the procedure of the WSC Complaint Committee as set out in Article 5.11 of the ISF Articles of Association. Depending on the outcome of the abovementioned procedure, the International Seed Federation may exclude the signatory concerned from the World Seed Congress in accordance with the provisions of its Articles of Association.

#### **5. ENTRY INTO FORCE**

This Code of Conduct shall enter into force on 29 May 2024.

