Bringing clarity to seed standards across non-combinable crops

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BCPC Weeds Review Conference
Kings Crops

- UK wide coverage providing advice and seed products
- Oversee the non-combinable crops within Frontier Agriculture
  - Green cover
  - Stewardship
  - Forage crops
  - Game cover
  - Wildflowers
  - Amenity
Seed Procurement - UK

- Several crops grown by our own growers in East Anglia
  - Forage and grain rye
  - Wheat, barley, oats, triticale
  - Black oats
  - Camelina
  - Quinoa
  - Borage

- Inspected in the field by our qualified crop inspectors and processed as certified seed at Diss
Seed Procurement – Non-UK

- We work closely directly with key breeder partners in Europe who understand our expectations
- Ensures correct varieties of the required quality - we are key partners to their breeding and multiplication programmes
- 2022 seed has been ordered and deliveries scheduled – 98% direct from breeder
- Availability of key species in 2022 will be tight – legumes especially
Seed Standards

- Most species are on the UK National list (since Brexit) - if species are on the UK list then the variety must be listed to be used in the UK
- When ordering seed we specify our expectations in advance
- Seed is thoroughly analysed and tested on arrival at our Diss site within our DEFRA licensed satellite laboratory to the required quality standards
- Scrutiny applied throughout the process by our operations staff so firewalls across our system – this is critical
- All intake and carried over stock is fully assessed and recorded in terms of the key areas of
  - Germination
  - Vigour
  - Purity
Labelling

• Seed mixtures must have a green certification label attached to the bag
  – Adhesive – less than 10kg
  – Stitched - 10kg +

• The green label ensures that all seed is produced under DEFRA/APHA inspection and lists
  – Mixture use
  – Seed lot reference number
  – Weight of bag
  – Month/year sealed
  – Mixture components including species name and variety (in brackets)
  – Percentage of component composition
  – Country of origin of component
  – UK certifying authority - this is the growers visual record that it is all within the system so traceable by PHSI
Evolving Sectors

• **Cover Crops**
  – A key element of Sustainable Farming Initiative and Countryside Stewardship

• **Catch Crops**
  – Valuable opportunities to capture solar energy in the summer

• **Companion Crops**
  – Supporting establishment of oilseed rape and wider

• **Integrated Pest Management Options**
  – Ensuring beneficials can work alongside our cropping systems

• **Addressing Soil Borne Pests**
  – Using cover crops to work within nematode control programmes

• **Home Grown Nutrition**
  – Maximising soil-based resources – trapping atmospheric N
Summary

• Non combinable crops are just as important as combinable crops in all respects!
  – Critical that we set the bar high to exceed the standards wherever possible

• Growers need seed of the highest quality, formulated correctly not only to meet seed standards but compliance and stewardship expectations

• As someone who advises growers and sells them seed I need to have full confidence in what we provide and know there is the process and protocols in place

• Working together with the PHSI, AHPA and DEFRA teams is essential and a great asset for all involved
Thank You

Please feel free to email any questions

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