



Facts and Benefits for the Seed Industry

The European seed sector has developed a quality scheme to ensure the safe treatment of the seed against pests and diseases.

What is ESTA?

The European Seed Treatment Assurance standard "ESTA" is the quality assurance scheme for the application of plant protection products on seed. It also provides guidance for the handling and the use of treated seed.

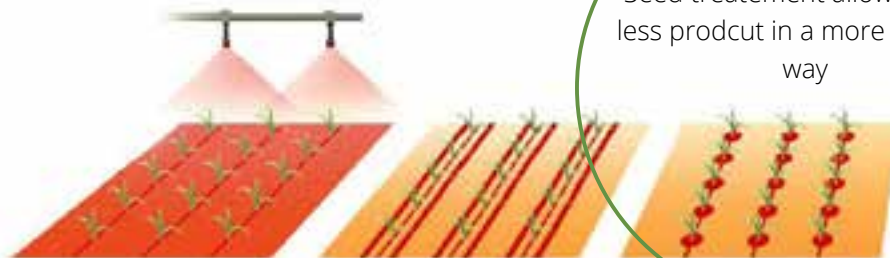
THE ADVANTAGES OF SEED TREATMENT

Treatment of whole area

In-furrow treatment with granules

Seed treatment **Do MORE with LESS**

Seed treatment allows to use less product in a more targeted way



APPLICATION: TREATMENT AND HANDLING IN THE SEED TREATMENT PLANT



1 Seed processing cleaning

2 Product formulation & Recipes

3 Slurry preparation & application

4 Storage & Distribution

5 Use of treated seeds

Why it matters

-  ESTA contributes to professional, high quality seed treatment applications and guarantees defined quality.
-  ESTA is our scheme developed by the seed industry - together with national competent authorities- for our seed industry and is managed by us, the seed industry.
-  The European Seed Association (ESA) has developed the ESTA standard to meet recent regulatory and political challenges in order to reach a new level of commitment.

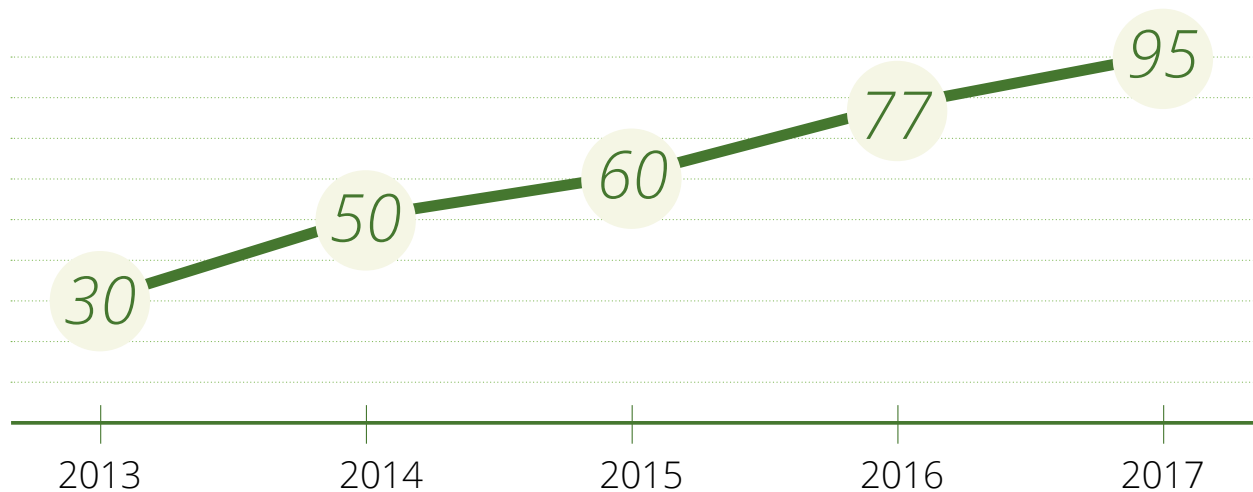
Facts

-  ESTA is used in 7 different agricultural crops: maize, oilseed rape, sunflower, sugar beet, cereals, vegetables and protein crops.
-  ESTA has been developed in collaboration with European regulators. The scheme has been designed in compatibility with the national quality assurance systems in France (PQP) and in Germany (SeedGuard). The sites that are certified for the above mentioned schemes are also considered ESTA certified.
-  ESTA has more than **90 sites** certified in **15** different countries and is a recognized standard across EU.
-  ESTA is extended also outside the European Union with treatment sites certified in Ukraine and Turkey.
-  ESTA provides guidance for treated seed, translated in **26 different languages** which facilitates adoption.




What are the many benefits of the ESTA scheme?

- 1) An industry recognized standard:** ESTA provides a quality assurance system to assure that seed treatment and the resulting treated seed meet requirements defined by legislators and industry.
 -  Treating sites certified to the ESTA Standard reliably treat seed with authorized plant protection products, resulting in quality products for the ultimate user: farmer, grower, plant raiser or contractor.
 -  The ESTA certification provides key assurances on full control of the processes for treating seeds, continual improvement of processes and standards and adequately trained personnel. ESTA certifies that only seed meeting agreed quality standards is being placed on the market which is a quality assurance for the farmer in particular giving peace of mind.
- 2) Third party validation gives reassurance to authorities:** Competent Certifying Bodies are auditing regularly the treating sites to check and if successfully audited to certify the compliance of the treating sites to the Standard.
 -  ESTA is contributing to securing the future of seed treatment products across EU. Assuring professional application enables the authorities to approve new products with the knowledge they will be applied correctly. Draft EU guidance proposes establishing schemes for national certification of seed treating facilities. ESTA provides a recognized quality standard that can be applied across the EU countries.
 -  ESTA helps avoiding costly and burdensome regulations. Without assurance of safe application processes, authorities could impose regulations on the seed trade. Assurance schemes, such as ESTA, with stringent standards have effectively avoided cumbersome national regulation within the agricultural sector.
- 3) Freer movement of treated seed in EU:** ESTA provides EU with widely accepted standards for seed treatment. This is especially important where small quantities of seed are treated in one country for wider EU distribution.

NUMBER OF ESTA CERTIFIED SITES





"The seed treatment technology is environmentally-friendly. Previously we had to spray quite often, now there is less spraying because the product is applied only on the seed to protect the plant". **Yvan Gregoire, farmer**

-  Almost 70% of maize that is treated in the EU is ESTA certified. The percentage is constantly increasing.
-  Almost 90% of oil seed rape that is treated in the EU is ESTA certified.
-  Almost 100% of sugar beet that is treated in the EU is ESTA certified.

ESTA Agents

Currently ESTA is being operated by Agents who have the infrastructure, knowledge and competence and cooperate with ESA in the implementation of the ESTA scheme in their territory. The Agents deal with:

-  Acceptance of ESTA Certifying Bodies (CB);
-  Licensing of the ESTA trademark to the collaborative ESTA certified treatment sites.

If you want to get an ESTA certified site

Please contact one of the Agents and arrange all the administrative details of the scheme.



The currently established national Agents are the following:

- » Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) – UK | contact details: garry.rudd@agindustries.org.uk
- » Asociación Nacional de Obtentores Vegetales (ANOVE) – Spain | contact details: esta@anove.es
- » Associazione Italiana Sementi (Assosementi) – Italy | contact details: s.conti@sementi.it
- » Polish Seed Trade Association (PIN) – Poland | contact details: pin.poznan@post.pl
- » SeedGuard – Germany | contact details: peter.juergens@seedguard.de
- » Union Française des Semenciers (UFS) – France | contact details: esta@ufs-asso.com

If you are a representative from a seed treatment site and wish to obtain ESTA certification please follow the following steps:



IMPLEMENTATION OF ESTA

Legend: Countries marked in purple have ESTA Agents. These agents can operate all over Europe and beyond. Countries marked with pins have ESTA-certified sites.

The following crops are treated in ESTA certified sites: maize, oilseed rape, sunflower, sugar beet, cereals, vegetables and protein crops.

The countries that are the major producers of these crops are covered by the ESTA scheme.

