



Facts and Benefits

The European seed sector has developed a quality scheme to ensure the safe treatment of the seed against pest 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

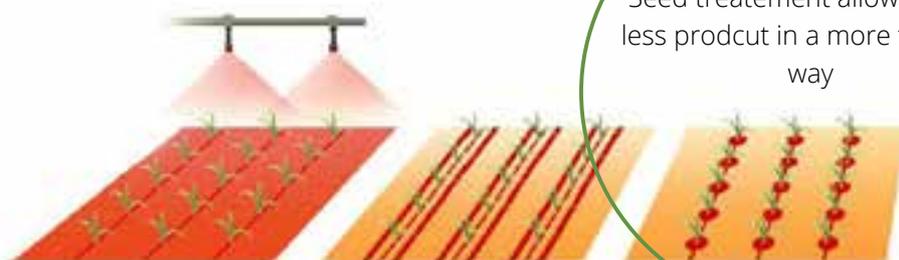
Treatment of whole area

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

- ✿ The Commission directive 2010/21/EU requires the application of insecticide seed treatments to “be performed in professional seed treatment facilities”.
- ✿ 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 makes sure certified seed meets regulatory quality requirements ensuring free movement of treated seed within the EU.
- ✿ ESTA has more than 90 certified sites in 15 different countries and is a recognized standard across EU.
- ✿ 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.
- ✿ The ESTA guidance for treated seed is translated into 26 languages which facilitates adoption.

ESTA certifies the seed treatment process and the quality of the treated seeds with several benefits for many stakeholders:

1) High quality treated seeds:

- ✿ Dust levels of the treated seeds are tested with the standard Heubach test, according to a defined scheme. ESTA certifies that seeds marketed by the certified sites meeting the agreed quality standards as well as existing legal requirements which is a quality assurance for the farmer in particular giving peace of mind.

Quality Control
Treated seeds are sampled and quality controlled prior to approval for customer delivery



2) Safety for Users:

- ✿ **Seed treatment process:** The quality assurance system addresses the entire seed supply chain from fine seed cleaning to the use of the treated seed in the field. 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.
- ✿ **User safety:** Employees should be trained to perform their tasks; recognize deviations and work safely.

3) Respect for the Environment:

- ✿ **Waste management:** Adequate measures are to be in place for waste handling and disposal.

- ✿ **Labelling recommendation:** The ESTA standard requires the seed companies to provide recommendations for handling and intended use of the treated seed by farmers. *The communication package provided under the ESTA scheme is translated into 26 different languages with icons for easy recognition by all handlers.*



ESTA certification coverage for different crops

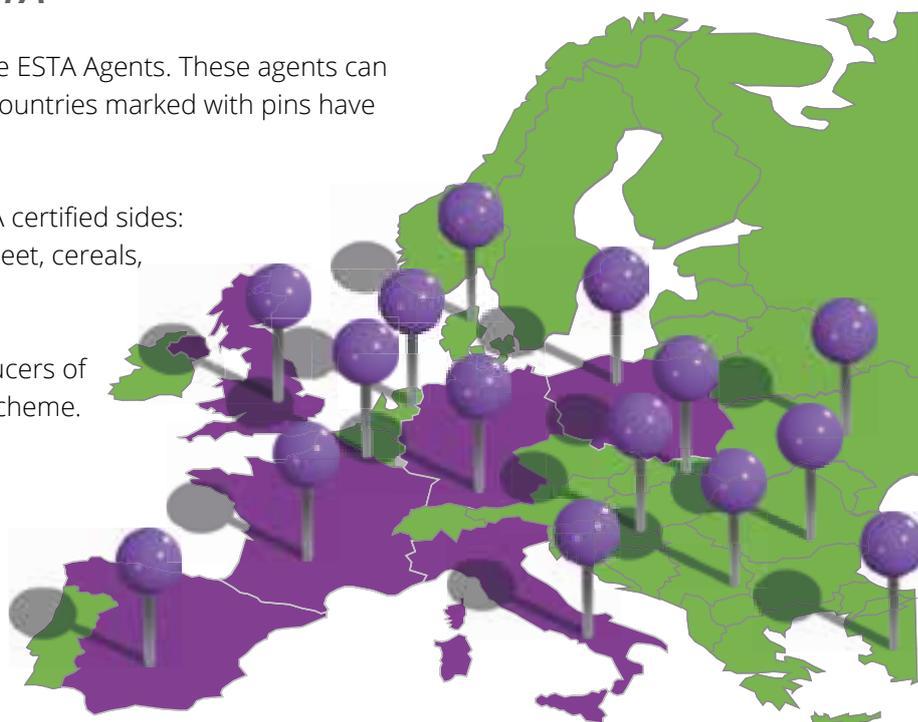
Since the beginning of the scheme in 2013, there are already more than 90 sites certified under the ESTA Standard in 15 different countries. ESTA is extended also outside the European Union with treatment sites certified in Ukraine and Turkey harmonizing quality standards across the European continent.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ESTA

Note: 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.

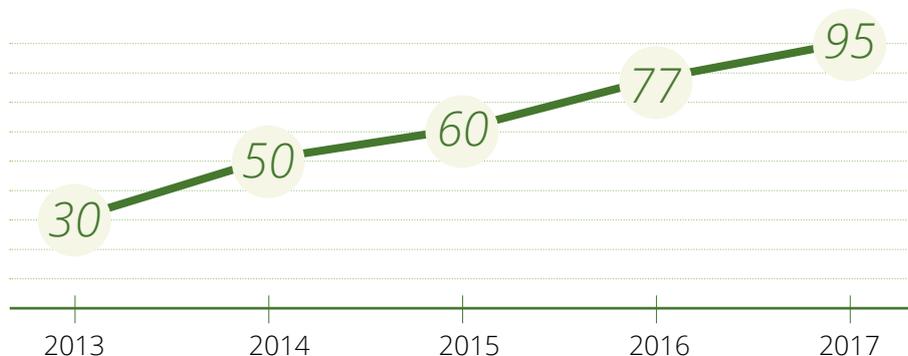


🌱 Almost 70% of maize that is treated in the EU is ESTA certified. The percentage is constantly increasing.

🌱 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.

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**



ESTA Agents

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

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

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

We encourage the policy makers to acknowledge the importance of ESTA in order to:

- » Continue the registration of plant protection products for seed treatment in EU
- » Harmonize excellence across EU when using seed treatment products



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