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Australian seed industry strengthens industry Codes of Practice

The Australian Seed Federation (ASF) has completed a major review of two key industry Codes of Practice, strengthening and modernising the standards supporting the treatment, labelling and marketing of seed in Australia.

The updated Seed Treatment Code of Practice and Labelling and Marketing Code of Practice were approved by ASF members at the Federation's Annual General Meeting, following more than a year of industry consultation and technical review.

The updated Labelling and Marketing Code also expands its scope to cover native seed and endophyte for the first time, reflecting the diversity and evolution of Australia's seed industry.

ASF CEO Katherine Delbridge said the completion of the review was an important milestone for the industry.

"These Codes are developed by industry, for industry, and provide clear and practical standards that support confidence throughout the seed supply chain," Ms Delbridge said.

"This has been a significant body of work over the past year, with extensive input from ASF members who contributed their technical expertise, commercial experience and practical knowledge.

"That member involvement is incredibly important. It ensures our Codes are not simply documents on a shelf, but practical standards that reflect how our industry operates and the expectations we set for ourselves."

The Seed Treatment Code of Practice has undergone its first major review since 2010, bringing the Code up to date with current industry practice and providing a contemporary framework for the responsible treatment, handling and supply of treated seed.

The Labelling and Marketing Code of Practice has also been comprehensively updated, including the new provisions for native seed and endophyte, revisions to its annexes and other changes designed to improve clarity and reflect current industry practice.

Ms Delbridge said industry-led standards play an important role alongside Australia's legislative and regulatory requirements.

"Seed is the starting point for agricultural production, and confidence in how seed is treated, described and marketed matters to businesses, growers and customers across the supply chain," Ms Delbridge said.

"Strong industry standards help provide that confidence, while giving businesses clear expectations around responsible practice.

"The inclusion of native seed and endophyte for the first time is also significant. It recognises areas of our industry that were not adequately captured by the previous Code and ensures the framework better reflects the breadth of Australia's seed sector today."

Ms Delbridge thanked the ASF members who contributed to the review.

“This has been a genuinely collaborative process, and we thank the many members who gave their time and expertise over the past year to get these Codes right,” she said.

“The result is a stronger and more contemporary framework that we expect will serve the Australian seed industry for many years to come.”

The updated Seed Treatment Code of Practice and Labelling and Marketing Code of Practice are now available to view online and download from the ASF website.

ausseed.org.au/code-of-practice/

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Media Release