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מדינת ישראל  
משרד החקלאות ופיתוח הכפר  
מינהל המחקר החקלאי  
מרכז וולקני  
המכון למדעי הצמח  
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To:  
Seed Companies  
Seed Importers  
Seed Traders  
To whom it may concern

March 29, 2015

**Announcement to the Public Regarding the Registration of Seed Varieties  
Approved for Sale**

The **Seeds Authority** is an Advisory Committee for the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Committee functions by dint of the Seed Regulations (Growth and Sale of Certified Seeds) 5720 – 1960. The members of the Committee represent the State, agricultural organizations, seed producers and seed traders. One of the Committee's tasks is to advise the Minister on all matters pertaining to the introduction of new regulations and the determination of standards concerning seeds.

At its meeting held on July 16, 2014 and August 20, 2014, the Seeds Authority discussed amendments to the Seed Regulations (Sale) 5725 – 1964. The Authority recommended the cancellation of the obligation to sell specific crops as certified seeds and to retain that obligation only for the following crops: **Peanuts, cotton, wheat and potatoes**, which are in the Committee's opinion, Israeli agriculture's most widespread and most important field crops, in terms of both their scope and the scale of seed breeding programs.

The Committee also discussed amendments to the Seed Regulations (List of Varieties Approved for Sale) 5740 – 1980 and recommended the cancellation of the all-encompassing obligation to register varieties, limiting that obligation only to the following field crops:

Obligatory registration shall apply to the following crop varieties: **Peanuts, cotton and wheat**.

Voluntary registration shall apply to the following crop varieties: **Alfalfa, clover, sorghum, corn, oats, barley and sunflowers**.

The reasoning behind the introduction of these changes is that OECD Regulations concerning the export of certified field crop seeds require the preliminary registration of the variety in one of the OECD member countries. Furthermore, there is no global trade in certified vegetable and herb seeds because variety changes are rapid. In addition, in view of the very large number of vegetable seed varieties currently available and the need to test them over a long period for variety registration, there is a severe lack of human resources and budgets, which precludes the continuation of registration. Cancellation of the obligation to register also reflects Israeli Government policy regarding the reduction and streamlining of regulation.

Therefore, beginning in September of 2014, the Committee for Approval of Seed Varieties ceased dealing with requests for registration of varieties, unless they are for the field crops stipulated above.

For the removal of any doubt: Seeds of the crops stipulated above, grown as standard seeds and not grown as certified seeds, may also be submitted for registration, subject to in-depth testing of the varieties.

Yours sincerely,



Lea Mazor  
Chairperson of the Seeds Authority  
And Chairperson of the Seed Varieties Approval Committee

Copies to:

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