

SOWING THE SEEDS OF BREEDING SUCCESS

SGS is investing in a new post-entry quarantine station to perform quarantine phytosanitary analysis for research seeds in Brazil to support the safe import of new germplasms to the country.

Failure to implement effective quarantine can lead to the import of non-native pests and plant diseases that have the potential to damage native seeds, crops and wildlife. Working closely with the Brazilian authorities, SGS's new facility will provide independent and accurate phytosanitary analysis of seeds imported by breeding companies.

Seed breeding programmes and the development of new varieties are highly dependent on seed and propagation materials imported from different regions of the world. The challenge for the industry is to ensure that this transit is completed safely, and without introducing destructive pests and diseases. Failure to do so can have devastating natural and commercial consequences.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

Asian soybean rust, an infection that can decimate yields by more than 80%, was first identified in Japan in 1902. Since then, this fungal pathogen has spread throughout Asia and Africa, and has now been found in Brazil's main soybean producing regions. More recently, a quarantine pest, the *Helicoverpa armigera* (the cotton bollworm, corn earworm, or old world bollworm) whose larvae feed on a wide range of plants, including many important crops like cotton, soybean and tomatoes, has been found in Brazil. It has been identified in regions including Goiás, Bahia and Mato Grosso, causing severe damage to crops.

CONTAINMENT FACILITY

Effective quarantine services could have prevented these incidents. Our



new facility in Brazil will be designed to eliminate these risks and equipped with state of the art testing facilities to detect, identify, contain and eliminate exotic pests.

SGS is committed to developing a high-level containment facility where our team of qualified experts will run pest diagnoses in compliance with all Brazilian regulations. Building on our international experience of seed testing, analysis and pest management, this service will deliver market leading services including phytosanitary analysis using analytical methods such as:

- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
- Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

This testing will identify regulated and/or quarantine pests, such as:

- Insects.
- Nematodes.
- Fungus.
- Bacteria.
- Viruses.
- Weeds.
- Other organisms.

PHYTOSANITARY SECURITY

Testing, analysis and certification are designed to ensure phytosanitary security as seeds, plants and other propagation materials are transported around the world by the agriculture industry. With more than 100 years experience in the industry, SGS is ideally placed to support the industry in its aims, while also achieving fast turnaround times, the highest quality and accurate results. We believe that this investment will increase phytosanitary security for breeding programmes, seed breeding companies and agriculture.

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