THE U.S. SEED INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE

The U.S. Seed Industry is Diverse and Robust
- The U.S. seed industry researches, develops, produces and distributes all varieties of seeds – including grasses, forages, flowers, vegetables, row crops, and cereals.
- The U.S. seed industry is a thriving industry that has an estimated $15 billion market value.
- The U.S. seed industry is both the largest market for seeds in the world and the largest global exporter of seeds, with an annual export value of over $1.25 billion.

The U.S. Seed Industry is Innovative
- Developing new tools for plant breeding is essential to addressing the challenge of limited genetic diversity for important traits such as:
  - Resistances to pathogens and diseases
  - Water and nitrogen use efficiency
  - Drought tolerance
  - Improved nutrition and taste

The U.S. Seed Industry is Global
- Movement across national borders is an integral and essential part of variety development.
- Seed movement is critical for the development of:
  - Foundation and breeder seed lines used in research and development
  - Parental seed and stock seed production
  - Commercial seed production
  - Processing and packaging of commercial seed

At any one time, a seed company could be moving thousands of different—and distinct—seed varieties internationally as part of the process of developing new varieties for the market.
Produce Examples
- Sweet onions
- Seedless watermelon
- Snack sized tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers
- Multi-leaf lettuce
- High lutein spinach
- High carotene carrots

Field Crop Benefits
- Modified oil or carbohydrate composition
- Anti-nutrient reduction
- Lignin reduction for improved digestibility
- Phytate reduction to increase phosphorous availability