SASA
Helping Scotland Grow

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To: All Licensed Seed Merchants, Processors & Packers

Our Ref: SC172

14 October 2022

UK Winter Bean Seed Derogation

1 The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) has submitted a request to the National Authorities in Defra, Welsh Government and Scottish Government for a derogation to market winter bean seed not meeting the required germination standard due to very dry weather conditions during the 2022 growing season. AIC have advised us that these conditions have significantly reduced the germination of seed of winter field beans, which is unlikely to meet the minimum germination requirement of 80%. Consequently, to allow businesses to meet the expected market demand and contractual obligations for seed this autumn, Defra, Welsh Government and Scottish Government have approved the request from AIC to market 9,170 tonnes of certified category winter field bean seed of popular varieties such as Tundra, Bumble Vespa, Vincent and Pantani at a reduced germination level of 70%. This list of varieties is not exhaustive and other varieties suitable for autumn sowing in the UK may also be considered.

2. The purpose of this letter is to invite interested businesses to bid for a proportion of the specified quantity. AIC will coordinate allocations on a GB basis, treating bids from AIC and non-AIC members alike. If total bids exceed the available quantity, pro-rata reduction will be applied across the board.

3. All bids should be directed to Rose Riby at AIC, stating company name, quantity required, and the variety. Company names and allocations will be included in a formal authorisation document to be prepared by Defra. Only those companies named in the schedule will be authorised to place on the market for the first time the allocated quantities of derogated seed. If you are submitting a bid to AIC on behalf of your company but intend to allocate quantities to other companies, AIC will require the names of those other companies. Bids must reach AIC by e-mail no later than close of play on Thursday 20th October:

Rose Riby
AIC (Agricultural Industries Confederation)
First Floor, Unit 4
The Forum
Minerva Business Park
Lynchwood
Peterborough PE2 6FT
01733 385279
rose.riby@agindustries.org.uk

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4. To avoid duplication (and to limit the possibility of having to scale back the final allocation amount), **applications should be made by the business which will be certifying the seed.** However, where the business eventually certifying the seed is not known, applications may be made by as-grown wholesalers, but this must be clear in the application to ensure traceability at the point of certification.

5. No winter field bean seed may be marketed below the minimum germination capacity of 80%, as prescribed in the Regulations, until formal authorisation has been issued. The authorisation will specify conditions for marketing, including labelling requirements. AIC will aim to inform companies of their allocations, and to provide information about the formal authorisation conditions as soon as possible after 20th October.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL PARKER
Head of Seed Certification
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