



Santiago, April 2, 2020

PRESS RELEASE:

SITUATION OF THE CHILEAN SEED INDUSTRY UNDER COVID -19

The world is facing an unprecedented situation and the global seed industry is facing the COVID-19 current crisis. In many countries, various sanitary measures have been decreed, which are very restrictive, and Chile is no exception to that, with the consequent effect that this creates in the different productive sectors and in people.

Ensuring the international seed movement is a priority for ANPROS, therefore we are working focused on that goal. In our Association, we are clear about the responsibility that our country has in supplying seeds for both Chile and the world.

ANPROS maintains a direct 24 hours-a-day communication channel with the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as we have maintained permanent coordination with the different services linked to seed activities, such as SAG, Customs, ports and others, which are working normally under this situation, and have implemented a series of measures to adapt to the new conditions and facilitate the seed movement.

In order to protect their workers and nearby circles, the Chilean seed companies have implemented protocols with strict hygiene and health safety measures, to also keep their plants, processes and operations safe and in operation.

A highly relevant fact that fully supports our objective of facilitating the movement of seeds is the government's declaration, in which it has declared the agricultural sector as essential to the agri-food supply chain, which includes all its fields of action, including the seed sector.

As an industry, we have been faced with two restrictive measures for the movement of seeds: quarantines and *cordon sanitaires*, applied in some areas of the country, and a curfew (restriction to circulation on public roads) starting at 10 p.m. until 05:00 am, throughout the national territory.

Along these lines, in the areas with quarantine or *cordon sanitaires*, the transit of agricultural collaborators has been authorized, by means of a certificate from the company detailing their background, their position and specifying that the company belongs to the agricultural sector. In the case of night shift workers, collective safeguards have been implemented for the agricultural sector and others, which allow the worker to circulate

during these hours. This has allowed companies to carry out their tasks in farms, plants and warehouses.

As specified by the International Seed Federation (ISF), ***“the international unrestricted movement of seeds is critical to ensuring food safety, and closing borders or even slowing the cross-border movement of seeds could create a significant problem in the seed supply chain”***.

However, under the current context, as an association we are aware that delays in both import and export processes may occur during this season, as well as in other processes involving the production of seeds and the Chilean seed industry.

ANPROS will maintain its commitment with the seed industry so that these processes are not affected and to reduce the possible inconveniences that may occur. To date, we can inform the national and global seed industry that the seed movement in Chile continues, the institutions are working, and that seed exports continue to operate normally under the context of this situation.

ANPROS Board of Directors

