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Salinas, April 7, 2025

Subject: Request for information in relation to prevention pathogens in seeds and non-GMO.

To Whom It May Concern,

In relation to your company's request, in this statement Enza Zaden USA, INC. ("Enza Zaden") provides you with information about its products.

Potential transmission of human pathogens via food and agricultural products

According to the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), research activities and outbreaks linked to eating fresh produce and vegetables confirm that seeds play an insignificant role in the epidemiology of food safety pathogen outbreaks except for seed used to produce fresh sprouts¹. This Enza Zaden statement does not address sprout production. According to ASTA, over 100 scientific articles support the conclusion that any source of contamination potentially associated with seed, is negligible to non-existent when seed is planted under field or greenhouse conditions. Research consistently shows that contamination does not originate from the seed itself but occurs later, due to external factors such as contaminated water, poor hygiene during production, or improper handling at harvest and post-harvest stages.

Quality of our seeds

In the United States, there are specific laws and regulations governing the marketing and sale of seeds. Enza Zaden has strict procedures in place to monitor compliance with applicable seed health laws and regulations.

Our measures

Enza Zaden has implemented additional quality protocols during seed production, crop monitoring and seed processing. This includes various measures to prevent the introduction and spread of seed borne pathogens. These measures also affect the introduction of human pathogens into seeds.

Our measures include:

1. Enza Zaden has implemented seed quality protocols to prevent the introduction of pathogens in general.
2. Enza Zaden has taken hygiene measures in its own facilities. Personnel must practice good hygiene upon entering the seed processing facilities. Hand washing and sanitation is mandatory.

¹ ASTA Statement on Field and Greenhouse Planted Seeds and Human Pathogens, February 5, 2019

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Hand sanitation and cleaning of materials between seed lots when handling seeds is common practice to maintain integrity of the seed lot.

Traceability

If Enza Zaden commercializes its seeds, Enza Zaden initiates registration of its varieties at the authorities concerned. The seed packaging, invoice and packing list state the name of the variety, the lot number and the name and address of the seed supplier. All varieties are diligently trialed throughout the world.

Non-GMO

All varieties currently marketed or released for testing by Enza Zaden, and its affiliates have been developed using conventional breeding methods, without the use of genetic modification techniques to which EU Directive 2001/18/EC applies.

Disclaimer warranties

Despite the aforementioned measures, Enza Zaden cannot guarantee that its products are absolutely free of (seed-borne) pathogens. ENZA ZADEN IS NOT LIABLE FOR A LACK OF PERFORMANCE OR REDUCED RESULT OF ITS SEEDS AND/OR RESULTING CROP DAMAGE. THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY. More information about our limited warranties and limitation of Enza Zaden's liability is provided on our packaging and in our General Terms and Conditions of Sale that apply to the sales of all our products, and which can be found at www.enzazaden.com.

Global G.A.P.

Global G.A.P. is not applicable to Enza Zaden's vegetable seeds. Therefore, Enza Zaden is not subject to Global G.A.P. criteria.

Please contact us with any questions you may have on this matter.

Sincerely,
Enza Zaden USA, INC.

Rodolfo Leyva 

Rodolfo Leyva
Regional Sales Director