



**ESTA**  
**European Seed Treatment**  
**Assurance**



# European Seed Treatment Assurance

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- ✿ A Quality Assurance Scheme for Seed Treatment and Treated Seed
- ✿ A Scheme developed by the seed industry for the seed industry and to be managed by the seed industry
- ✿ ESTA has been developed as a universal quality assurance system
- ✿ ESTA is copyright of the European Seed Association (ESA)



## ESTA features

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- ✿ Quality Control system that suits industry's operating environment
- ✿ Based on individual Seed Treatment Sites
- ✿ Audited by independent Certifying Bodies
- ✿ Covers all seed treatment
- ✿ Annual improvement
- ✿ Responsible Manager appointed



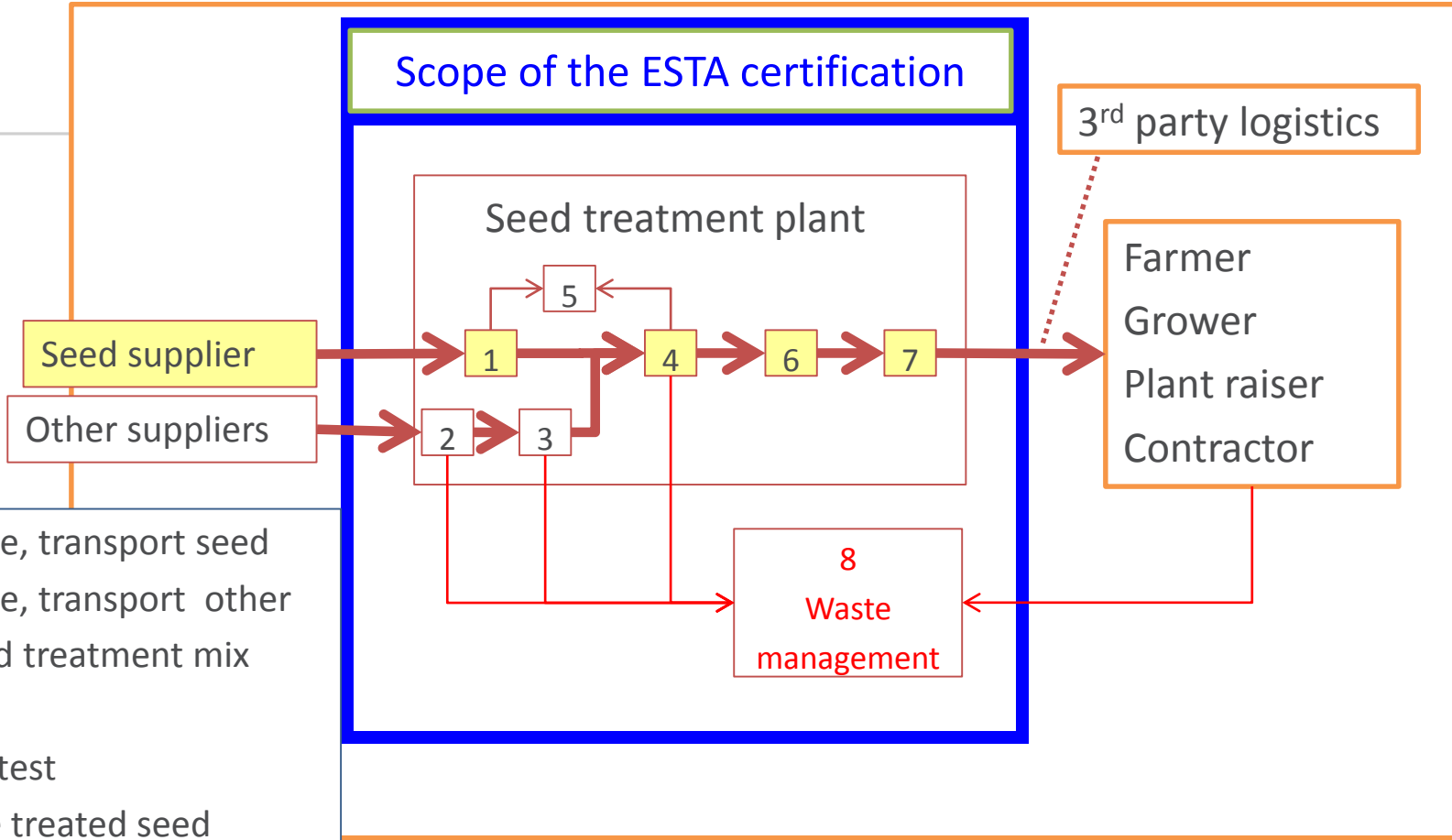
## ESTA logo

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Treated seed from ESTA certified facilities shall carry the ESTA logo as a quality seal





- 1: receive, store, transport seed
- 2: receive, store, transport other
- 3: prepare seed treatment mix
- 4: treat seed
- 5: sample and test
- 6: dry, package treated seed
- 7: pack, prepare for shipment
- 8: manage waste



# Scope of the ESTA certification

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In case an ESTA certified treatment site makes use of other sites for packaging or re-packaging of the treated seed, that other site must be ESTA certified as well for the same crop to maintain the status of ESTA certified treated seed

# Key procedures

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- ✿ Control of documents and records
- ✿ Control of nonconformities
- ✿ Corrective and preventive measures
- ✿ Process to handle/rework of non-conforming product

Focus:  
Continual  
improvement



Process measurements to assure process and product quality have to be defined



Processes are the basis of Risk Analysis







# Competence of personnel

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- ✿ Evidence of competence
- ✿ Training
- ✿ Supervision
- ✿ Awareness of issues
- ✿ Refresher courses to keep up to date

# Specific requirements

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- ✿ Seed quality
- ✿ Seed treatment application recipes and rates
- ✿ Material safety data sheets and labels
- ✿ Monitoring applications
- ✿ Dust level testing
- ✿ Seed labelling
- ✿ Record keeping



# Certifying Bodies

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ESA approves specialist Quality Assurance companies to audit and certify ESTA treaters

Certifying Bodies must

- ✿ Be an accredited certifying body, accredited or accepted by the competent national accreditation services of its registered offices
- ✿ Be accredited to ISO/IEC 17065
- ✿ Have proven experience in the field of agriculture, forestry and fishing, group 01.01, 01.02, 01.61

Audits based on ESTA benchmark checklist



# ESTA Information

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Available from the [ESTA](#) website

- ✿ ESTA Standard
- ✿ ESTA Checklist
- ✿ Dust Reference Values
- ✿ Heubach Use Protocol
- ✿ ESA Label Guidelines