

FAQ for Distribution of Varieties Outside of Saskatchewan

Why is SPG introducing a seed royalty for outside Saskatchewan at this time?

For a number of years Alberta Pulse Growers and Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers have been making financial contributions towards the Crop Development Centre's pulse breeding program that provided growers in Alberta and Manitoba access to CDC varieties royalty-free.

About a year and a half ago, Alberta Pulse Growers was interested in moving away from that arrangement so SPG looked for alternative ways that Alberta growers could continue to have access to CDC varieties by making contributions in a different way.

Will Saskatchewan pulse producers be required to pay for access to CDC pulse crop varieties?

Saskatchewan pulse producers will continue to have royalty-free access to varieties developed at the CDC as a result of SPG's long-term pulse breeding agreement with the CDC.

How do growers in Saskatchewan benefit from licensing the varieties to agents for distribution outside of Saskatchewan?

Saskatchewan pulse producers contribute significant upfront funding towards the development of CDC varieties through the levy they pay to Saskatchewan Pulse Growers.

By licensing the distribution of these varieties outside of Saskatchewan, SPG is ensuring that growers in other provinces are paying to access these varieties developed by the Crop Development Centre.

Will this impact supply of available for Saskatchewan seed growers?

This will have minimal impact on the supply of seed available for Saskatchewan seed growers. The amount of breeder seed SPG provides to the agents will depend on existing seed stocks. Since these varieties have already been released, most seed growers in Saskatchewan have already had the opportunity to purchase seed and the availability of supply will not be impacted. SPG will retain sufficient breeder seed for future sales of seed to Saskatchewan Select Seed Growers. For future releases of new varieties, seed will be provided to the company in the first year of release however the amount is not expected to exceed demand.

Does this mean Saskatchewan based seed growers can't sell seed to growers outside Saskatchewan?

Seed growers cannot sell seed of these varieties to seed growers or commercial producers outside of the province unless they have a signed agreement with the licensed agent and royalties are collected and remitted to the agent.

For which varieties does each of the companies have the rights to distribution outside of Saskatchewan?

SeedNet:

- CDC Inca (yellow pea)
- CDC Proclaim CL (small red lentil)
- CDC Palmer (kabuli chickpea)

SeCan:

- CDC Spruce (green pea)
- CDC Forest (green pea)
- CDC Spectrum (yellow pea)
- CDC Athabasca (yellow pea)
- CDC Canary (yellow pea)
- CDC Jasper (forage pea)
- CDC Blazer (maple pea)
- CDC Kermit (small green lentil)
- CDC Roxy (extra small red lentil)
- CDC Impulse CL (small red lentil)
- CDC Redmoon (small red lentil)
- CDC 3674-15 (small red lentil)
- CDC 4371-4 (small red lentil)

For which jurisdictions do SeCan and SeedNet have responsibilities?

For the varieties that have been licensed to SeCan, they have been awarded distribution rights for all of Canada, excluding Saskatchewan.

For the varieties that have been licensed to SeedNet, they have been awarded distribution rights for Alberta, Manitoba, and the Peace River area in British Columbia.

How long are the agreements for?

The agreements with SeedNet and SeCan for these varieties will be in place for 10 years.

Can growers outside Saskatchewan still save their seed if they bought from the distribution agent?

Yes, growers will be able to save their own seed if they have purchased a variety that is licensed to SeCan and/or SeedNet, but they will not be authorized to sell that seed to their neighbour or others as is consistent with Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) and as determined by the rights holder (CDC).

Do the agreements with SeCan and SeedNet require seed growers in Alberta who already have access to the licensed varieties to become members of SeCan and SeedNet?

All seed growers with existing seed stocks of the licensed varieties will be given the opportunity to join SeCan and/or SeedNet. This will permit them to continue to produce and sell seed of the licensed varieties. This would involve signing an agreement with the company obligating them to collect and remit the required royalty.

Can SeCan or SeedNet sell varieties internationally?

No, SeCan or SeedNet are not authorized to distribute CDC pulse varieties outside Canada.

International rights have been assigned to international distribution agents by crop type:

- Chickpea, dry bean and pea: Canterra Seeds Ltd.
- Lentil (non-Clearfield): FP Genetics
- Lentil (Clearfield), Faba bean: Pulse USA