

STATUS OF SUNFLOWER SEED CERTIFICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES

CETION

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By

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Seed is certified in the United States by official certifying agencies in each of the states. The standards of these agencies are coordinated by the International Crop Improvement Association (I.C.I.A.) whose membership consists of seed certifying agencies in the United States and Canada. Minimum standards are developed by the I.C.I.A. for most crops and each of the state agencies must have state standards as high or higher than those of I.C.I.A.

For several years, Canada, North Dakota, and Minnesota have had standards for sunflowers. However, the I.C.I.A. has not had standards. Last year, we requested that the I.C.I.A. executive committee establish a sunflower committee so that standards for certification of sunflower seeds could be developed within the I.C.I.A. This committee was not appointed until the last meeting of the I.C.I.A., held in Billings, Montana, in late July. The sunflower committee has representation from Canada, North Dakota, Minnesota, Mississippi, Georgia, and Arkansas. With the recent interest in sunflower production in the southern United States, those directors representing states in that part of the country requested membership on the committee and this was granted.

During the coming year, this committee will be attempting to establish proposed sunflower seed certification standards which can be submitted for action, to the board of directors of the I.C.I.A. at their 1969 meeting. The first step in developing these standards will be to compare the standards from North Dakota, Canada, and Minnesota to see if there are any discrepancies and to attempt to develop uniform standards. We will be checking with sunflower breeders, seedsmen, and sunflower industry personnel as well as seed certifying officials so that the ideas and thoughts from all of these people can be incorporated into the standards.

One further item from the last meeting of the I.C.I.A. might be of interest to sunflower workers in the United States and Canada. At the meeting in Billings, the board of directors voted to change the name of the I.C.I.A. to the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies. Also, they voted to work towards trying to establish in the United States federal seed law, recognition of the standards for genetic purity

developed by this association. Seed sold in interstate commerce in the United States would then have to meet these standards in order to be called certified seed. This should result in more uniformity among the states. Along with this, two publications will be developed by the new association, one dealing with standards which pertain to genetic purity and the other with standards which relate to mechanical seed quality. The federal seed law, if changed, would recognize only the standards for genetic purity, not those for mechanical purity.

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