

## **BSPB Trait Protection Scheme (TPS)**

The British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB) is pleased to announce the launch of the Trait Protection Scheme (TPS), which is a new way to protect the value of new genetic traits entering the market.

The agricultural environment is changing rapidly to a greener, more sustainable landscape with pressures to reduce pesticides and crop genetics will play a more crucial role than ever before in delivering this.

New trait development is a costly and time-consuming practice, involving a high level of investment over many years, investment that is required by the plant breeding industry for this research and development now and in the future.

The TPS is great way to protect new, innovative, and beneficial traits and to secure future investment to support UK farmers and growers. It will be a clearly communicated and simple process and with our dedicated team at BSPB we will ensure farmers and growers have full transparency to make sure that all parties benefit in a clear and measurable way.

The Trait Fee, in the same way as a seed royalty is set by the breeder of the variety and under a licence agreement with the breeder will be collected by the BSPB.

The Trait Fee however remains the same value on both certified seed and farm saved seed. For certified seed the Trait Fee will be paid at the point of seed purchase (per tonne) and for farm saved seed the Trait Fee will be collected by the BSPB (per hectare).

The plan relies on a spirit of cooperation and trust between all parties but is also a simple process, outlined in the steps below.

- When discussing a new variety with your seed supplier they will notify you that the variety is under the Trait Protection Scheme (TPS).
- This means that a Trait Fee is due both on the certified seed and on any seed that you decide to farm save for the following season.
- Your seed supplier will be able to confirm with you what the cost of the Trait Fee is, which will be the same amount on the certified and farm saved seed.
- The Trait Fee will be paid at the point of purchase per tonne on certified seed.
- The Trait Fee will be collected by the BSPB per hectare at drilling of FSS.
- Under the agreement between your seed supplier and the BSPB the seed supplier will share your details and the amount you have purchased; this is only for the sole purpose of enabling BSPB to collect the Trait Fee on farm saved seed.
- BSPB will contact you to ensure you are fully aware of what the TPS involves.
- BSPB will contact you to collect the Trait Fee on farm saved seed due on any area of that variety you have planted.

## **FAQ's**

### ***How do I know if the variety I am buying is on the TPS?***

*Your seed supplier should make it clear to you at the point of sale but it will also be well documented during the trials days, in the press and via social media. BSPB will also contact you once we are aware you have purchased a variety under the TPS.*

### ***Will I receive any technical variety information from the BSPB?***

*No, the BSPB is the owner and administrator of the plan representing the breeders. Any technical advice or information would come from either your seed supplier, official/independent trials data or directly from the breeder.*

### ***How can I find out information regarding the trait?***

*This will be available from the breeder and/or your seed supplier.*

### ***What if the trait isn't worth to me what the fee being asked is?***

*Luckily in the UK due to advances in plant breeding we have plenty of competitive varieties to choose from, an alternative variety that doesn't carry the trait will be available.*

### ***Will there be any difference in the performance of the trait with FSS?***

*As with all seed the further it is multiplied from the source then the more chance of out pollination and contamination there is. If the FSS is from a properly managed process for seed purity, then there should be relatively low risk for one year, but we would advise that to be the maximum.*

For more information, please contact our friendly team at BSPB on **01353 653200** or [\*\*enquiries@bspb.co.uk\*\*](mailto:enquiries@bspb.co.uk)