



European Seed Treatment Assurance

Status and next steps

Garlich v. Essen
Secretary General ESA



ESTAS

EUROPEAN SEED TREATMENT ASSURANCE

Scope

- Seed treatment and treated seed
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Focus is (initially) on maize (and OSR) + insecticides

To be developed as a universal quality assurance system



Three key aspects

- Solid quality management system
- Risk analysis
- Proven competence of personnel

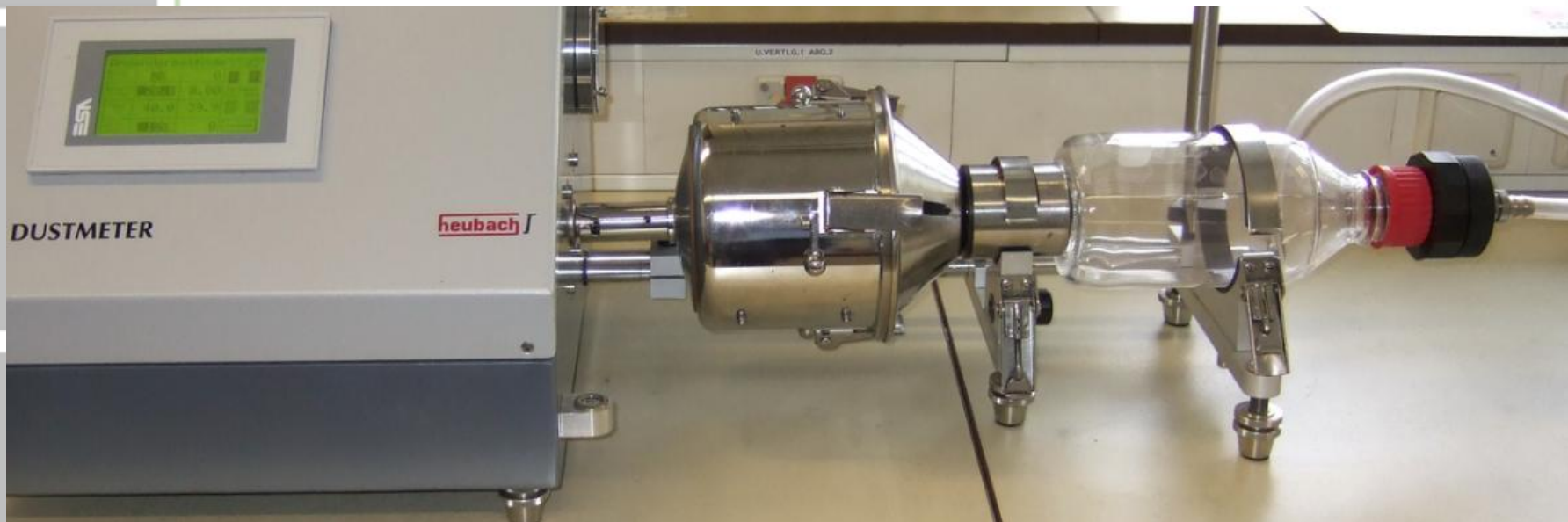


Main components quality assurance system

- **General framework** (management, continuous improvement, communication, ...)
- **Key procedures**
 - control of documents and records
 - control of nonconformities
 - corrective and preventive measures
 - recall of non-conforming product & complaint handling
- **Reference methods** (work instructions/protocols)
 - ➔ ISO 9001 compliant *part* of ESTA
(ISO 9001:2008 certified organizations have these aspects well under control)



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Example: Heubach dust test
standard protocol, proficiency test program, lab/test certification



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 - corrective and preventive measures
 - recall of non-conforming product & complaint handling
- **Reference methods** (work instructions/protocols)
- **Description of the ‘seed treatment chain’**
- **Risk analysis**
- **Proven competence of personnel**



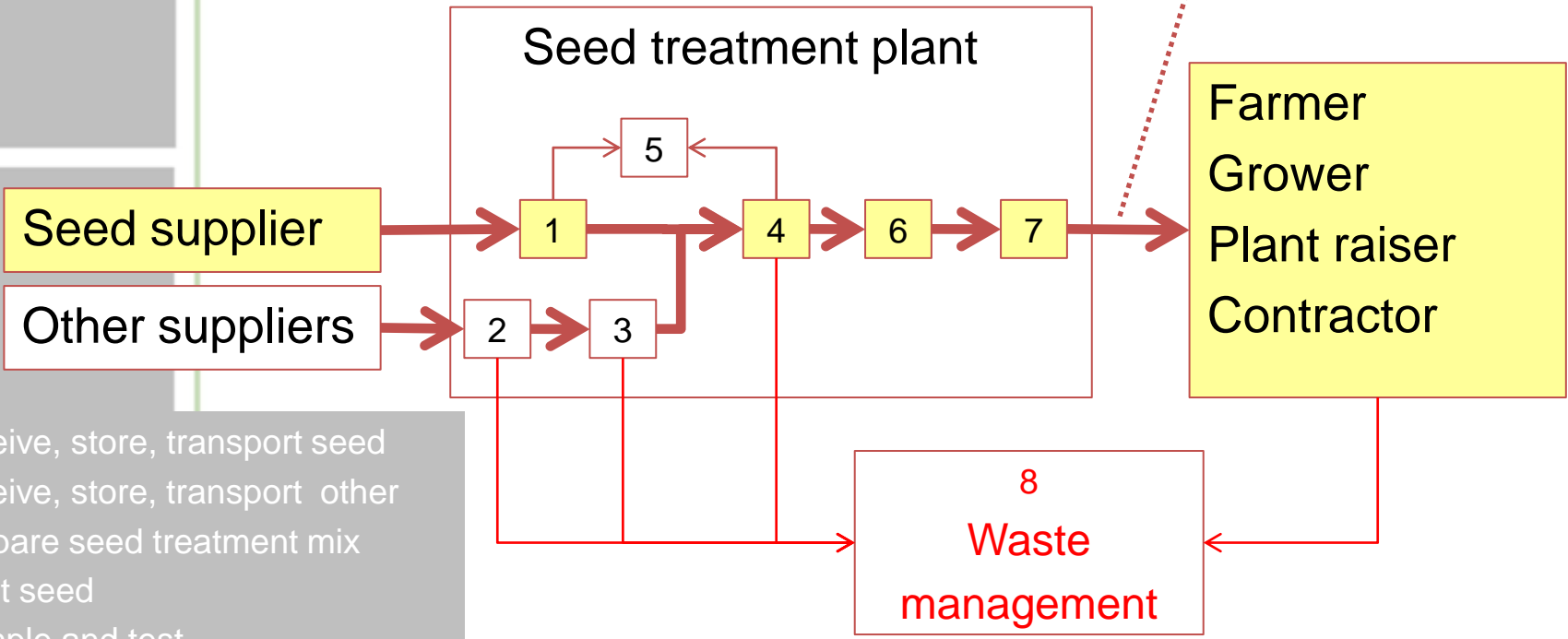
Additional/reference components

- Definitions
- Comparison tables (to ISO 9001:2008, etc.)
- Standards for seed treatment and treated seed
- Equipment requirements and approvals
- Specific requirements for companies active in the seed treatment chain



Processes

3rd party logistics

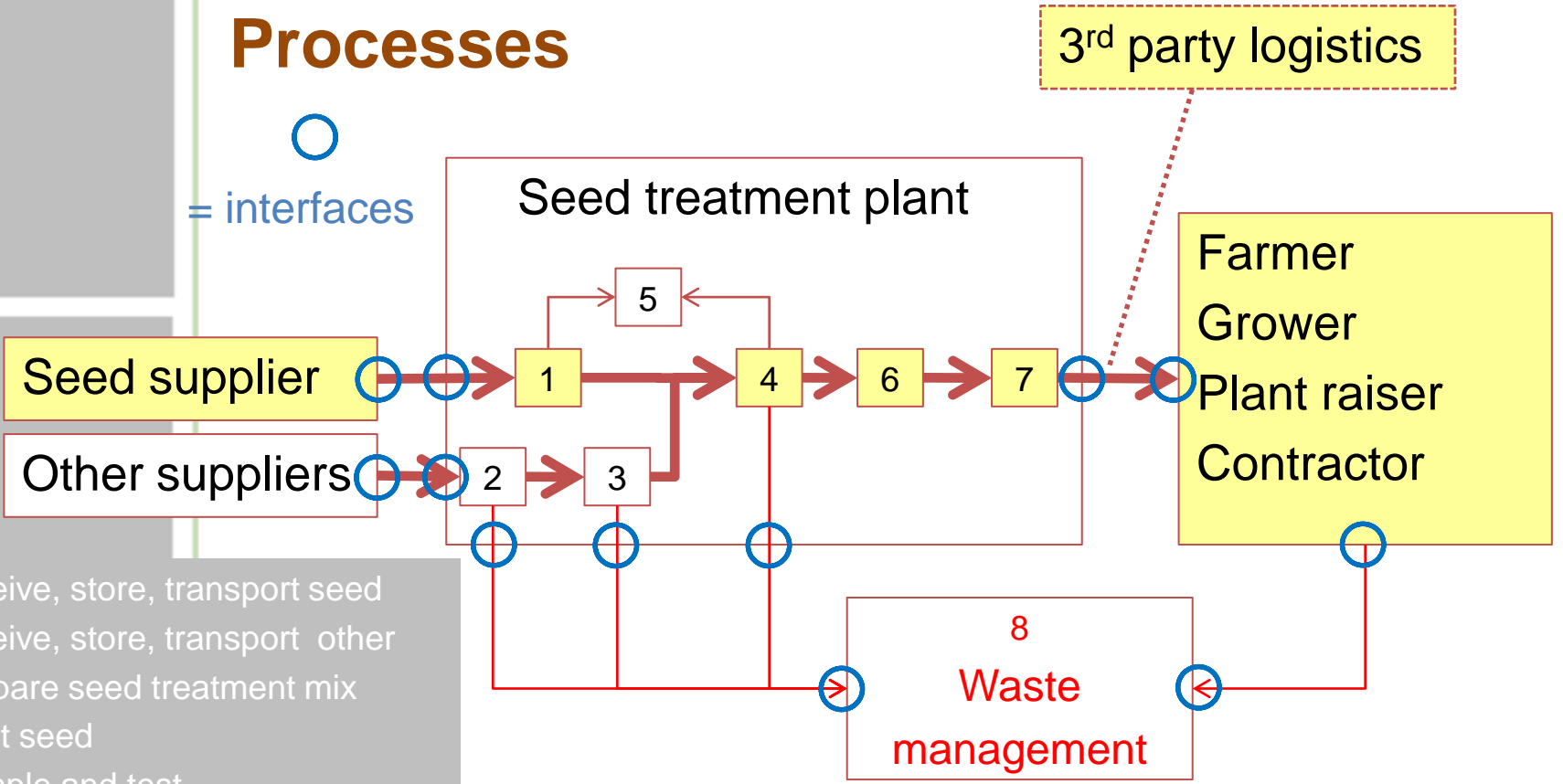


- 1: receive, store, transport seed
- 2: receive, store, transport other
- 3: prepare seed treatment mix
- 4: treat seed
- 5: sample and test
- 6: dry, package treated seed
- 7: pack, prepare for shipment
- 8: manage waste



Processes

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= interfaces



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Measurements and risks

Well-described processes are needed for:

- Defining **measurements** (process control; quality assurance; continuous improvement)
- **Risk analysis** (basis for risk management and continuous improvement)



ESTA compared to...

- ESTA to become **the** universal quality assurance system
- French 'Plan qualité poussière' (UFS-Maize and SOC) focuses on treated maize seed & dust control
- The German requirements for oil seed rape address dust, loading, controlled recipes, safety, tracking & tracing, training
- **ESTA has more focus on general aspect: continuous improvement!**



Next steps

- Further development of ESTA
- (Further) Align with national initiatives
- Conclude on formal structure (certification and/or accreditation; auditing; governance)
- Communication

Time frame: first rollout by **July 2011**





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