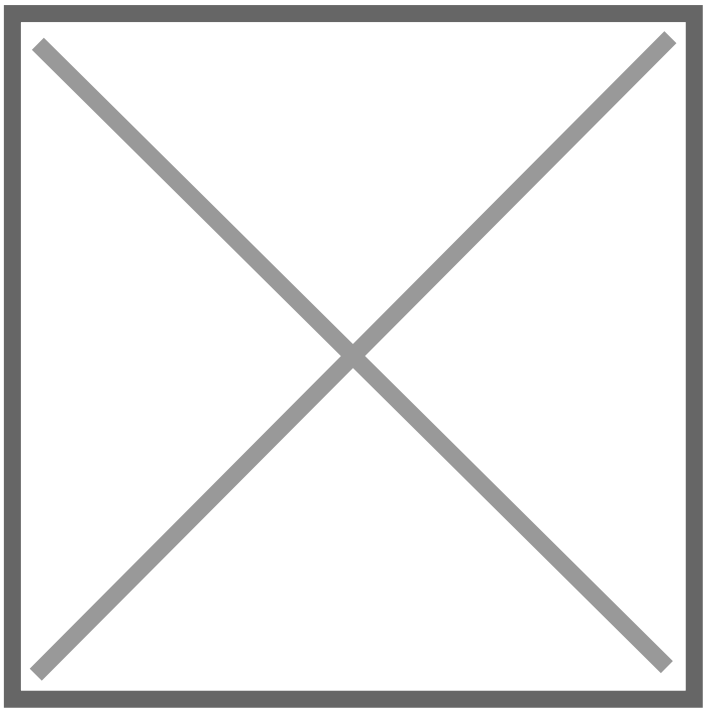
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Brazilâ??s export competitiveness under microscope as industry launches pest control roadmap

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As international markets tighten phytosanitary requirements and agricultural exporters face increasing scrutiny over crop health standards, Corteva Agriscience and the Brazilian Soybean Producers Association (Aprosoja Brasil) have joined forces to launch a comprehensive technical guide designed to help farmers identify, monitor and manage quarantine pests that threaten both agricultural production and export competitiveness.

The publication, developed with the technical expertise of Professor Mauro AntÃ´nio Rizzardi of the University of Passo Fundo, was formally introduced ahead of the Second Brazilian Soybean Producers Congress in BrasÃlia. The initiative reflects growing concern within Brazil's agricultural sector over the economic and trade implications of pest incursions and

non-compliance with increasingly stringent international import regulations.

Industry leaders describe the guide as a timely intervention at a moment when phytosanitary management has become a strategic imperative rather than merely a field-level agronomic concern.

Quarantine pestsâ??including insects, fungi, bacteria, viruses and invasive weedsâ??pose significant risks not only to crop productivity but also to a country's ability to access premium export markets. The presence of such organisms in agricultural shipments can trigger import restrictions, shipment rejections, financial penalties and reputational damage for exporting nations.

Recent incidents have underscored these vulnerabilities. According to information shared during the launch, approximately 20 grain vessels destined for China reportedly faced delays or rejection after inspections detected weed seeds and other prohibited phytosanitary contaminants. Such disruptions can result in substantial commercial losses through contract penalties, cargo reprocessing costs and supply-chain interruptions.

Given that China remains the largest destination for Brazilian soybean exports, maintaining rigorous phytosanitary standards has become increasingly critical to preserving market confidence and ensuring uninterrupted trade flows.

Speaking at the launch, Jair Maggioni, Coordinator of Good Agricultural Practices at Corteva Agriscience Brazil, emphasized that awareness, prevention and proactive management remain the most effective safeguards against escalating phytosanitary risks.

He noted that quarantine pests have become a matter of national economic importance, directly influencing Brazil's agricultural trade balance and export performance. Strengthening farmer knowledge and improving field-level management practices, he said, are essential to protecting both productivity and market access.

A key recommendation highlighted in the guide is the adoption of autumn management practices following harvest. This strategy focuses on eliminating volunteer plants and unmanaged weeds that can serve as hosts for pests and diseases during the interval between growing seasons.

Agronomists often refer to these residual vegetation zones as "green bridges"â??environments that enable pests and pathogens to survive, reproduce and spread into subsequent crop cycles. By removing these reservoirs, producers can significantly reduce future infestation risks while improving grain quality and export compliance.

Professor Rizzardi stressed that biosecurity in agriculture extends beyond farm productivity and increasingly intersects with international trade policy. Preventing the establishment of invasive organisms and ensuring exported commodities remain free from prohibited pests are now fundamental responsibilities for agricultural producers operating in global markets.

To complement the publication, Corteva also deployed its mobile Good Agricultural Practices Training Unit during the launch event. The platform provides practical demonstrations on integrated pest management, crop protection strategies, responsible pesticide use, worker safety and environmental stewardship, helping translate technical recommendations into field-level action.

According to FabrÃcio Morais Rosa, Executive Director of Aprosoja Brasil, the initiative seeks to strengthen Brazil's reputation as a dependable supplier of agricultural commodities by promoting a culture of compliance and preventive management throughout the production chain.

He observed that recent export disruptions have reinforced a clear message for producers: phytosanitary compliance is no longer optional but a prerequisite for participation in increasingly demanding international markets.

Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture currently maintains official monitoring and control programmes for several quarantine pests, including citrus greening disease, citrus canker, carambola fruit fly, mango seed weevil and Palmer amaranth, among others. These organisms are considered capable of causing substantial economic losses and disrupting agricultural trade if not effectively contained.

As Brazil continues to consolidate its position among the world's leading agricultural exporters, industry stakeholders believe that investments in pest surveillance, farmer education and phytosanitary governance will become increasingly important pillars of sustainable growth.

The newly launched guide represents a significant step in that directionâ??equipping producers with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate evolving biosecurity challenges while safeguarding the competitiveness of Brazilian agriculture in global markets.