

**National Organic Standards Board
Materials/GMO Subcommittee
Discussion Document on Seed Purity
August 28, 2017**

Introduction

In 2012, 2013 and 2016, the Materials/GMO Subcommittee issued discussion documents on the topic of “seed purity” (i.e., keeping seed stock used for organic production free from contamination by GMOs). In 2014, the subcommittee issued a report summarizing the public comments received in response to the 2012 and 2013 discussion documents and the subcommittee’s analysis of the situation. The following are the links to these four documents:

April 2016

- [Discussion Document: Next Steps for Improving Seed Purity \(pdf\)](#)

April 2014

- [Report: Seed Purity from GMOs \(pdf\)](#)

April 2013

- [Discussion document: GMOs and Seed Purity \(pdf\)](#)

October 2012

- [Discussion document: GMOs and seed purity \(pdf\)](#)

The Materials/GMO Subcommittee thanks the organic stakeholder community for the extensive input it has provided in response to the previously issued discussion documents.

At its meeting on August 22, 2017, the Subcommittee agreed to develop a seed purity proposal for review at the spring 2018 NOSB meeting. In order to develop this proposal, the Subcommittee will draw upon previously submitted comments and suggestions, as well as any additional comments it receives in response to this discussion document.

Request of the Materials/GMO Subcommittee to Stakeholders for Additional Input

The Materials/GMO Subcommittee requests further stakeholder input on the topic of seed purity via the NOSB open comment docket: https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=AMS_FRDOC_0001-1600.

Note that it is not necessary to resubmit comments and suggestions that were previously submitted in response to the prior discussion documents, as the NOSB has maintained a complete record of these. Please submit only **new** comments and suggestions. We look forward to receiving your input.

Motion to accept the discussion document on non-GMO organic seed integrity.

Motion by: Dan Seitz

Seconded by: Harriet Behar

Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Recuse: 0

Approved by Harriet Behar, Materials Subcommittee Chair, to transmit to NOSB August 29, 2017