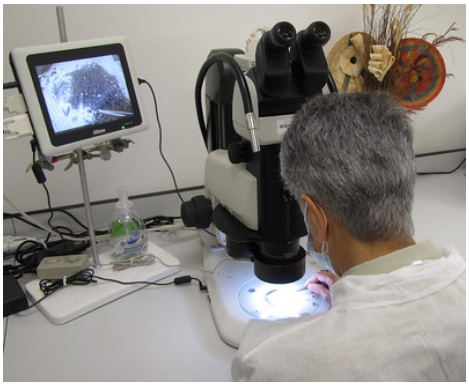

USDA Investigates Packages of Unsolicited Seeds Sent to U.S. Residents

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12, 2020 —People across the country have received unsolicited packages of seeds from overseas. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies, and State departments of agriculture to investigate.

For more information and actualities suitable for broadcast please click on the following links, where Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator of APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine Program shares what we know as of Tuesday evening, Aug. 11, 2020.

Additional Information

- China Helping USDA Investigate Shipments of Chinese Seeds to the U.S.
- USDA Working to Stop Future Shipments of Unsolicited Seeds from China
- Actuality: USDA Checking Seed Packets from China for Potential Problems
- Actuality: No Major Problems Found in Chinese Seed Packets so Far
- Actuality: What to Do if You Get Unsolicited Seeds from China

Last week, APHIS added options for submitting reports online. APHIS asks anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds to submit an online report and mail their seeds to the designated USDA location in their State. If you prefer not to mail the package, please contact your APHIS State Plant Health Director to arrange a no-contact pick up or determine a convenient drop-off location. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins.

Since July 2013, Mr. El-Lissy has served as the Deputy Administrator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ).

In this position, he leads and directs a nationally dispersed staff that safeguards U.S. animal and plant resources from destructive pests and diseases and facilitates the global trade of U.S. agricultural products.