Seed Production Issues for Processing Tomatoes, Now and in the Future

• Hybrids – why, where, how, and when

• Issues

• the future
Why?

- Hybrids generally out yield open pollinated varieties
- Hybrids are usually more widely adaptable and more consistent
- Breeding progress is quicker; it is easier to stack disease resistance and other traits.
Where?

Due to the need for hand pollination and low cost labor……..

- China
- Southeast Asian countries
- Chile, other South America
- Other areas
How?

Hybrid Seed Production in Tomato

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- Hand cross pollination
- Male sterility exists but not practical
When?

- Production is scheduled and planned at least one year in advance of seed sales
- For 2013 season, the planning was at the end of 2011
- Seed production takes 150 days from sowing to harvest
- Front end time … 2-3 months for planning, shipping of parent seeds
- Back end (seed processing in production location, shipping, seed processing in Seed Co., testing, packaging, distribution) 3-4 months.
Issues in hybrid seed production

- Dependent on hand labor to perform cross pollinations
- Changing economics in traditional producing countries
- Rising labor costs and/or competition with manufacturing jobs
- Political or trade instabilities
- Local disease issues and disease free seed
- Demand for high quality seed
- Export and import regulations
- Timing of production vs market demand
- Inventory risk
The Future…..

How to have seed production security/ reliability/ assurance……

• The PT Industry should continue to stay aware and question
• It is the business of seed companies to take actions to stay competitive
• Expansion into new production areas or use new techniques
• Is there enough inventory for two+ year supply in the event of a catastrophic event?
• The idea of producing in the U.S. ….
Thank you!