



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

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Press Release

Verona hosts 2023 ISTA Annual Meeting

Verona, the charming city in northeastern Italy, became the centre of attention for seed testing professionals and enthusiasts from around the world as it welcomed the prestigious 2023 Annual Meeting of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). The Council of Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA) and the Carabinieri Forestale (Centro Nazionale Carabinieri Biodiversità), Peri (VN), in collaboration with International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) was delighted to host the ISTA Annual Meeting from May 29 to June 01, 2023.



The venue of the Meeting was Hotel Leon d'Oro and about 180 experts, researchers, and industry leaders from all over the world came together to discuss the latest advancements, innovations, and challenges in the field of seed testing. With its modern facilities and ample space, the Hotel Leon d'Oro was well-equipped to accommodate the large number of attendees and provided an ideal setting for the presentations, meetings and social events that took place during the meeting.

The 2023 ISTA Annual Meeting aimed to address a wide range of topics related to seed testing and quality assurance. From discussing the latest developments in seed health and seed testing to exploring emerging technologies such as A.I. based Modelling in Seed Imaging Applications, the event offered valuable insights into the future of seed testing and its role in ensuring food security and sustainable agriculture.

The International Seed Testing Association, established in 1924 and in preparations to celebrate its 100-year anniversary is an association dedicated to promoting seed quality and facilitating international seed trade. Its annual meeting serves as a platform for its members, professionals involved in seed testing, seed analysis, seed sampling and seed certification to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and collaborate on developing standardised procedures and protocols.

Verona, with its rich history, breathtaking architecture, and vibrant culture, provided an idyllic backdrop for this significant gathering. The city is renowned for its ancient Roman amphitheatre, the Arena di Verona, which stands as a testament to its glorious past. Verona's picturesque streets, lined with beautiful Renaissance buildings and charming piazzas, created a captivating atmosphere that has surely added to inspire the participants of the ISTA Annual Meeting.

Furthermore, Verona's unique cultural heritage was celebrated through a choice of various social events and excursions, allowing participants to immerse themselves in the city's history and experience its culinary delights. From guided tours to wine tastings and cultural performances, attendees had the chance to enjoy the city's rich traditions and hospitality after the meeting.

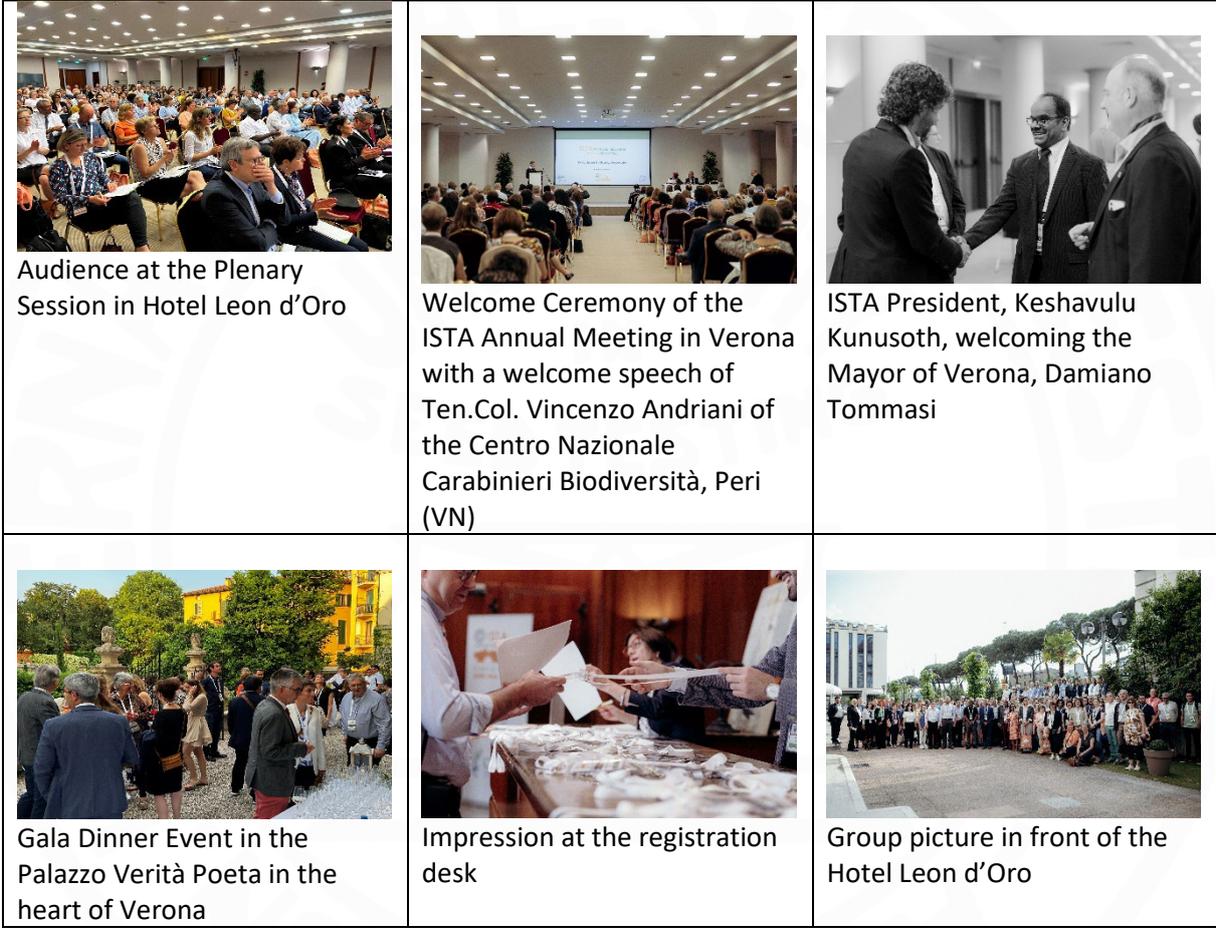
On Monday, 29 of May 2023, the Seminar "From Biodiversity to Diversification: resources, tools and technologies to meet new challenges" took place. This was one of the key highlights of the annual meeting as it represented a presentation of research papers and case studies by leading experts in the field. The seminar provided a platform for scientists, researchers, and industry professionals to highlight their innovative work, share their findings, and engage in fruitful discussions to pave the way for future collaborations and advancements in seed testing methodologies. The sixteen presentations given during the Seminar, may be found on the ISTA [website](#).

Over the course of the next couple of days, the meetings of the 20 ISTA Technical Committees in joint and parallel working sessions were conducted. All their presentations may be accessed [here](#).

During the last day of the Meeting, on Thursday, 01 of June 2023, the ISTA Ordinary General Meeting was held, where the roll call of Designated Members, entitled to vote was conducted. 38 countries sent their voting delegates, which was the highest number over the last 7 years. Among other scheduled topics were the consideration and adoption of proposed ISTA Rules changes, the report of the ISTA

Executive Committee and the report of the ISTA Secretary General, alongside additional raised business by ISTA Members.

Other important highlights of the 2023 ISTA Annual Meeting included a welcome speech of the Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, Dr. Qu Dongyu, as well as the Mayor of Verona, Damiano Tommasi.



The 2023 Annual Meeting of the International Seed Testing Association in Verona proved to be an exceptional event that combined scientific excellence, professional networking, and cultural enrichment. As seed testing continues to play a critical role in ensuring the quality and integrity of agricultural seeds worldwide, this gathering of experts and industry leaders has undoubtedly contributed to the advancement of seed science and technology.

Verona, with its captivating charm and renowned hospitality, welcomed participants from all corners of the globe for an enriching and memorable experience. With the city's historic landmarks, modern infrastructure, and the collaborative spirit of the ISTA community, the 2023 Annual Meeting was poised to be a resounding success, leaving a lasting impact on the field of seed testing for years to come.