



ISTA

Seed Quality Assurance

Ensuring Seed Quality By Uniformity in Seed Testing

Role of Seed Testing in the Future World



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

Keshavulu Kunusoth

Message from the ISTA President

Feature a message from the ISTA President regarding the 100 years of ISTA.



ISTA

Seed Quality Assurance

In Focus

The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) is an international, non-profit association of seed testing laboratories and individual seed professionals.

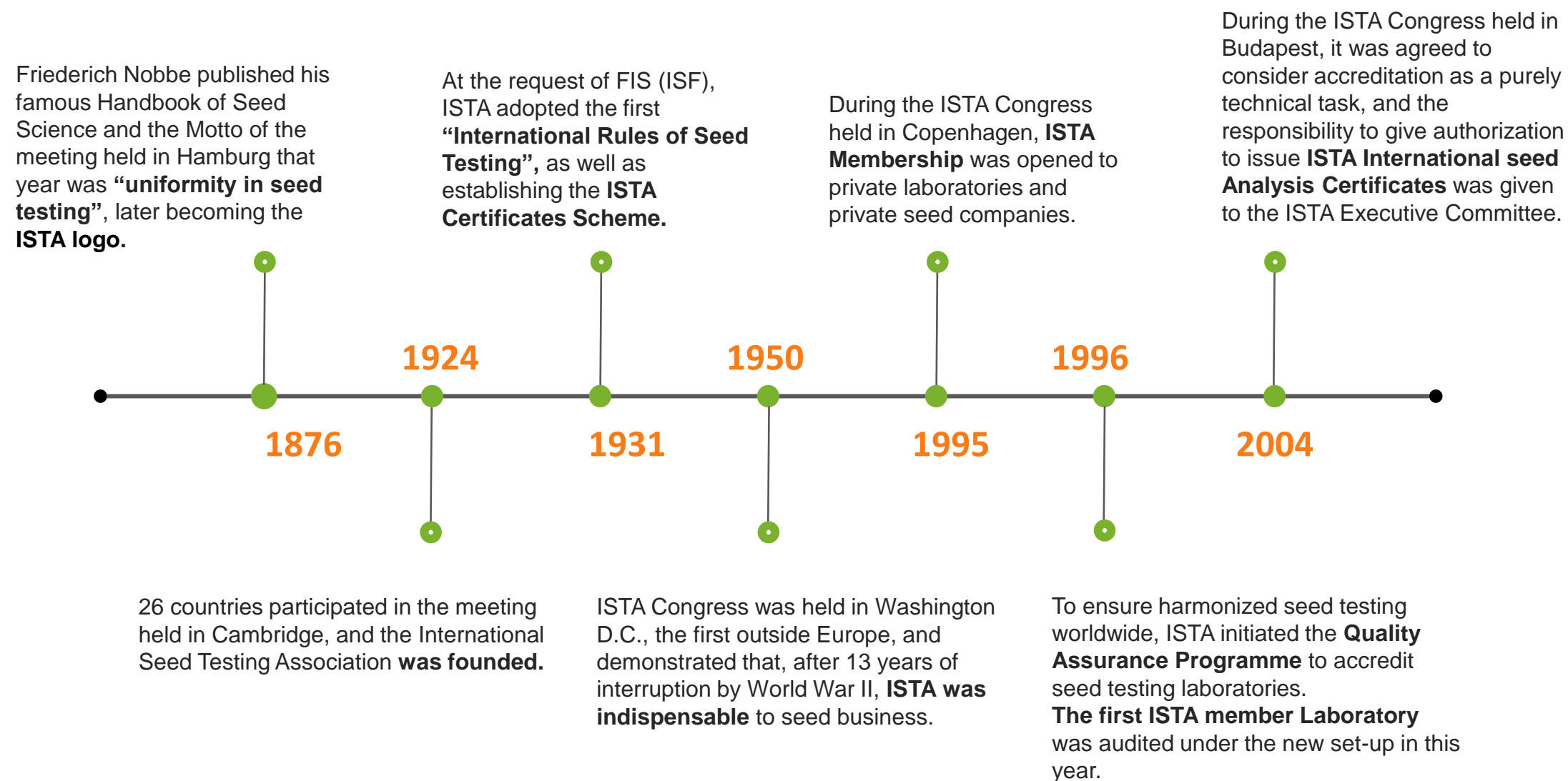
ISTA operates under the governance of the governments of member countries and distinct economies.





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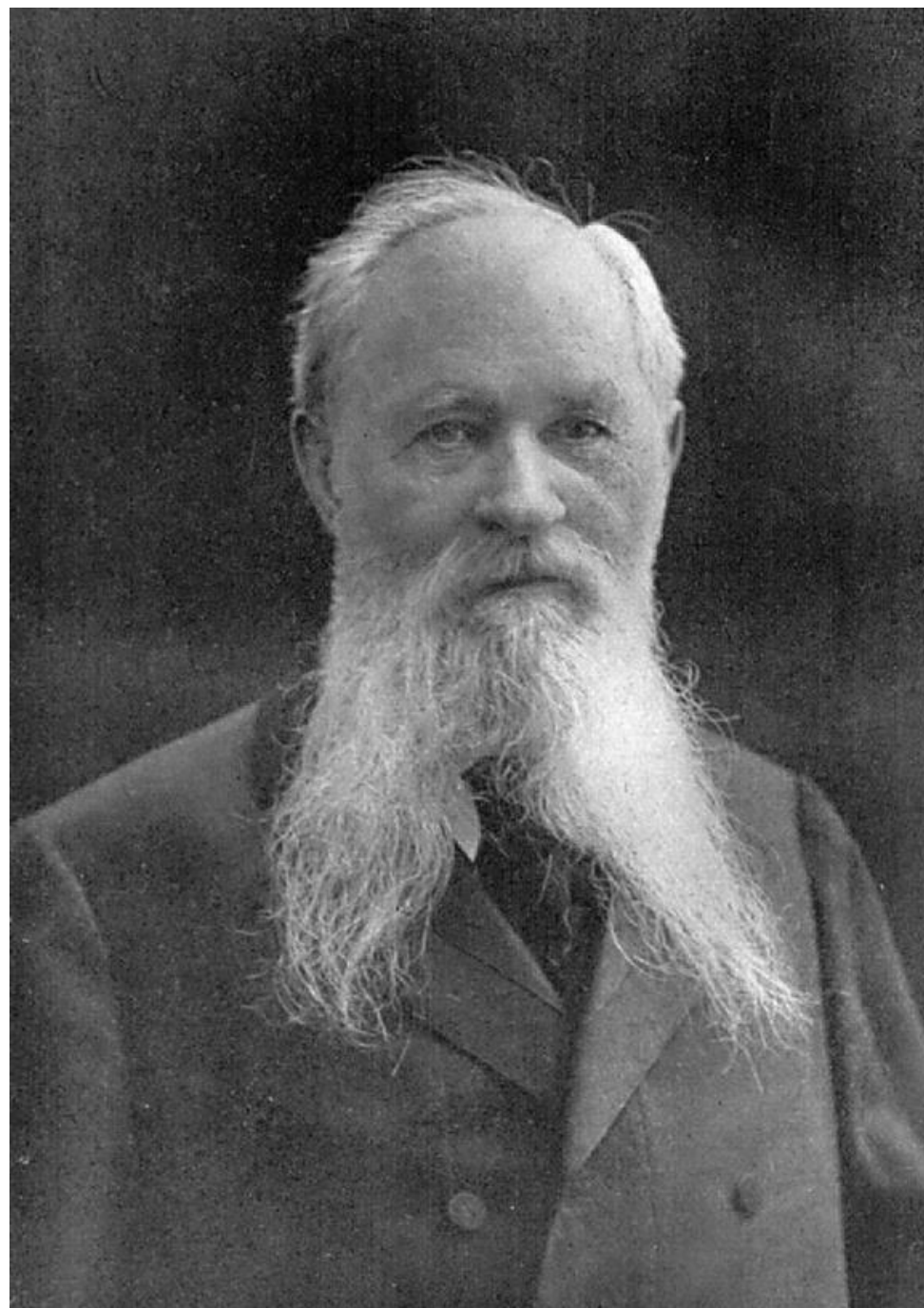
ISTA Facilitates seed trade since 1924





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Nobbe's Inquiries Over 150 Years Ago

- Is the seed sold to farmers of the desired botanical species?
- How many seeds are of the desired botanical species?
- What other botanical species can be found in the seed sold?
- Does the seed sold have the potential to produce a healthy plant?

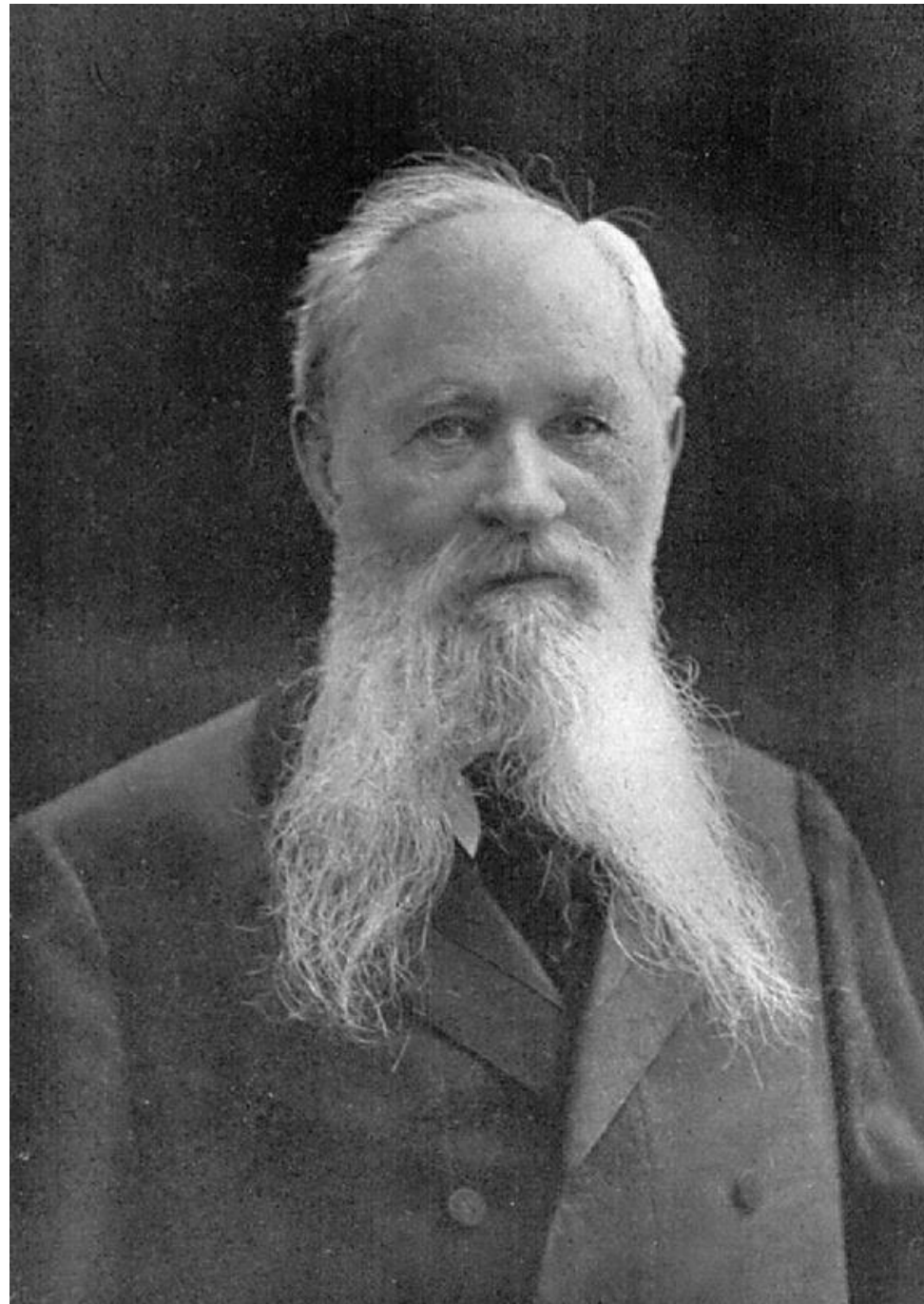
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hK_wNrJu09Q



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Nobbe's Requirements Over 150 Years Ago



- Science-based laboratory Testing
- Sampling is critical
- Standardised Methods for all tests needed (Rules)
- All Tests completed before seed sold to end-user
- Statistics is fundamental to Seed Testing



ISTA

Seed Quality Assurance

ISTA Objectives

Develop, adopt, and publish **Standard Procedures** for Sampling and testing seeds and promote uniform application of these procedures, for evaluation of seeds moving in international trade.

Promote Research in all areas of seed science and technology.





ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

ISTA Membership

Member Laboratory

- Is a laboratory engaged in the testing of seed, which supports ISTA's objectives
- Participates in the **Proficiency Testing Programme** (mandatory for accredited Laboratories)
- Receives free online, multi-user access to the **International Rules of Seed Testing**
- Purchases ISTA publications at the member's reduced rate
- Member Laboratories have a free **Personal Member**
- Receives a free copy of newly published **ISTA Handbooks** upon release

All staff members receive priority booking at any **ISTA Event**. (Reduced registration fees for ISTA Congress, Annual Meeting, Symposia and Workshops)

*The term Member Laboratory also counts for Sampling Entities

Fees

ISTA Laboratory Membership
annual fee*:

5 214 Swiss Francs (CHF)

Accreditation fee (applies for
accredited laboratories only)*:

1 224 Swiss Francs (CHF)

Audit fee (paid annually, for
accredited laboratories only)*:

4 330 Swiss Francs (CHF)

*2024 minus 10% for early birds



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Seed Quality Assurance

ISTA Membership

Personal Member

- Is a person engaged in the science and practice of seed testing or its technical control, who supports ISTA's objectives
- Receives free online, multi-user access to the [International Rules of Seed Testing](#)
- Purchases ISTA publications at the member's reduced rate
- Receives a free copy of newly published [ISTA Handbooks](#) upon release
- Has priority at any [ISTA Event](#). (Reduced registration fees for ISTA Congress, Annual Meeting, Symposia and Workshops)

Fees

ISTA Personal Membership
annual fee*:

1 049 Swiss Francs (CHF)

*2024 minus 10% for early birds



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Seed Quality Assurance

ISTA Membership

Associate Member

- Is a person engaged in the science and practice of seed testing or its technical control, who supports ISTA's objectives
- Purchases online, single-user access to the [International Rules of Seed Testing](#) and other ISTA Publications like ISTA Handbooks at the members reduced rate
- [ISTA Events](#) (Reduced registration fees for ISTA Congress, Annual Meeting, Symposia and Workshops)

Fees

ISTA Associatel Membership
annual fee*:

214 Swiss Francs (CHF)

*2024 minus 10% for early birds



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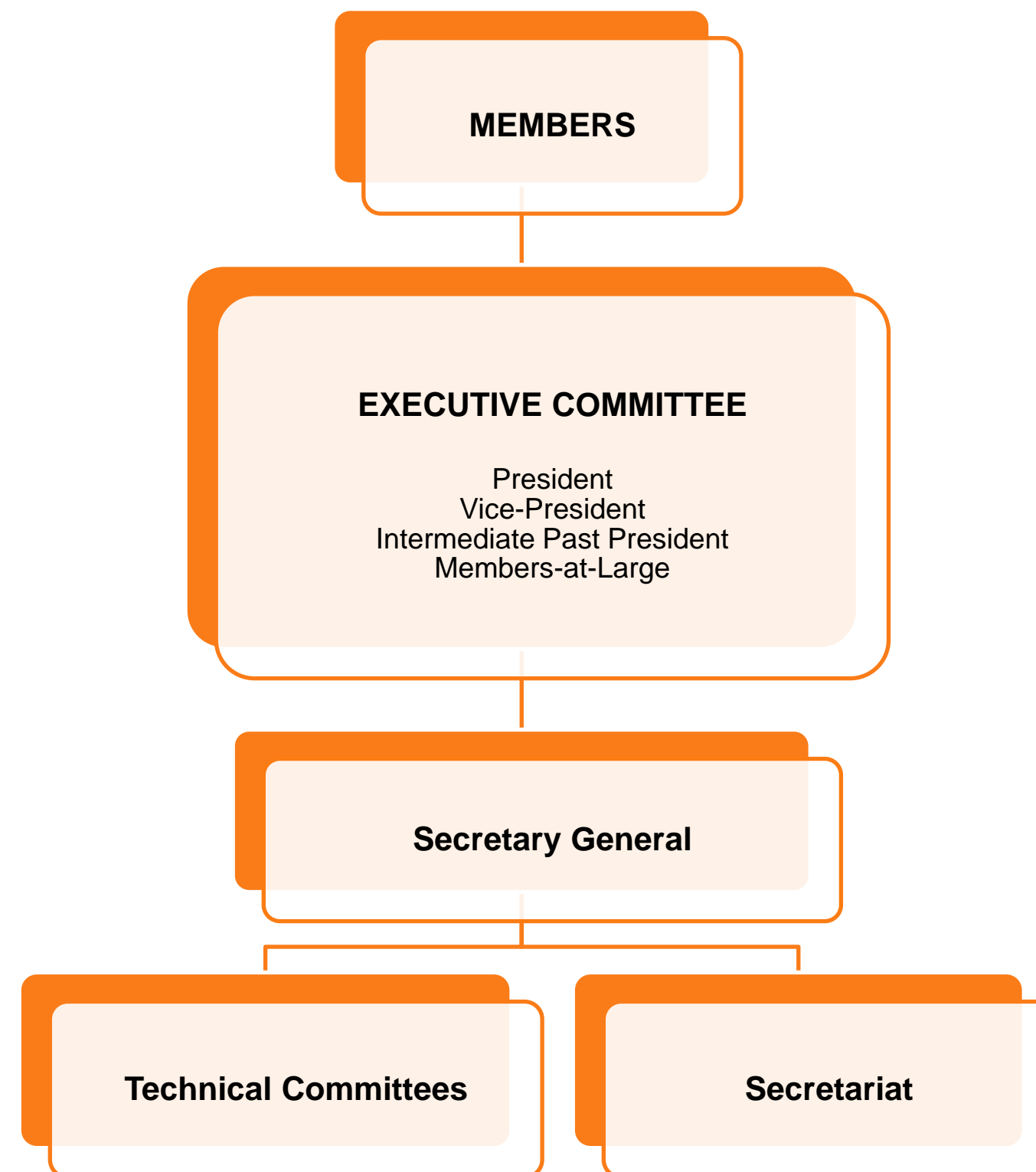
ISTA Structure

Government Governance

Personal Members may become Designated Members (and Voting Members), if nominated by their Designated Authorities

Designated Members have passive (and if Voting Members also active) voting rights during ISTA ordinary Meetings

This means that finally the Designated Authorities (Government Representatives) vote on Article, Rules, Membership Fees, Accreditation, the Executive Committee Members etc. of the Association





ISTA
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ISTA Executive Committee



KESHAVULU KUNUSOTH

President
India



ERNEST ALLEN

Vice - President
United States



STEVE JONES

Immediate Past President
Canada

MEMBERS AT LARGE



IGNACIO ARANCIAGA

Argentina



SERGIO PASQUINI

Italy



SYLVIE DUCOURNAU

France



RUEL GASMUNDO

Philippines



BERTA KILLERMANN

Germany



CLAID MUJAJU

Zimbabwe



CRAIG MCGILL

New Zealand



VANESSA SOSA

Uruguay

ISTA Secretariat



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance



ANDREAS WAISS
Secretary General



FLORINA PALADA
Head of Accreditation &
Technical Department



AGNES HEGEDUES
Finance, Sales &
HR Management



ANDREEA PINAR
TCOM Administrator



BRANISLAVA OPRA
System Auditor, Quality Management
& Standard PT Coordinator



BEATA HÜBNEROVA
Administration
Assistant



KAREN DE LA ROSA
Marketing &
Communications Assistant



NADINE ETTL
TCOM Manager



NEELAM OEK
Audit, Accreditation &
PT Administrator



OLGA STOECKLI
Events, Membership &
Documentation Manager



SEJAL PATEL
IT Business Solutions
Manager



STELLA MARCU
System Auditor & PT
Administrator



YOANA UZUNOVA
Marketing and
Communications
Manager

ISTA TCOM Chairs



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BERT VAN DUIJN
Advanced
Technologies
Committee



CORINNE GUIMIER
Bulking and
Sampling
Committee



FIONA R. HAY
Editorial Board of
Seed Science and
Technology



SARAH DAMMEN
Flower Seed
Testing Committee



ELISA VIEIRA
Forest Tree and
Shrub Seed
Committee



ENRICO NOLI
GMO Committee



GILLIAN MUSGROVE
Germination
Committee



AXEL GOERITZ
Moisture
Committee



MELANIE SCHORI
Nomenclature
Committee



DIDIER DEMILLY
Proficiency Test
Committee



RUOJING WANG
Purity Committee



ERNEST ALLEN
Rules Committee



RUUD BARNHOORN
Seed Health
Committee



BRIGITTE HAMMAN
Seed Science
Advisory Group



JAYANTHI NADARAJAN
Seed Storage
Committee



KIRK REMUND
Statistics
Committee



SERGIO PASQUINI
Tetrazolium
Committee



ANA LAURA VICARIO
Variety Committee



ALISON A. POWELL
Vigour Committee



GIL WAIBEL
Wild Species
Working Group

20 Technical Committees



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Seed Quality Assurance

- Advanced Technologies Committee
- Bulking and Sampling Committee
- Flower Seed Testing Committee
- Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee
- Germination Committee
- GMO Committee
- Moisture Committee
- Nomenclature Committee
- Proficiency Test Committee
- Purity Committee
- Rules Committee
- Seed Health Committee
- Statistics Committee
- Seed Storage Committee
- Tetrazolium Committee
- Variety Committee
- Vigour Committee
- Editorial Board (SST)
- Seed Science Advisory Group
- Wild Species Working Group

About 270

TECHNOLOGISTS AND SCIENTISTS
AROUND THE GLOBE

Over 50

SEED PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE
TRAINING YEARLY IN ISTA WORKSHOPS

Discover more: [Technical Committees](#)



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ISTA Pillars

International
Standardisation of
Reporting Results

Dissemination of
Knowledge

International
Standardisation of
Methodologies

International
Standardisation of
Laboratory results





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Seed Quality Assurance

ISTA Publications

The International Rules for Seed Testing are published in 4 languages:

- English - French
- English - Spanish
- English - German

ISTA Handbooks

The subject-focused handbooks give valuable background information to seed testing procedures.

Seed Testing International (STI)

ISTA bi-annual news bulletin published as hard copy and online.

Seed Science and Technology (SST)

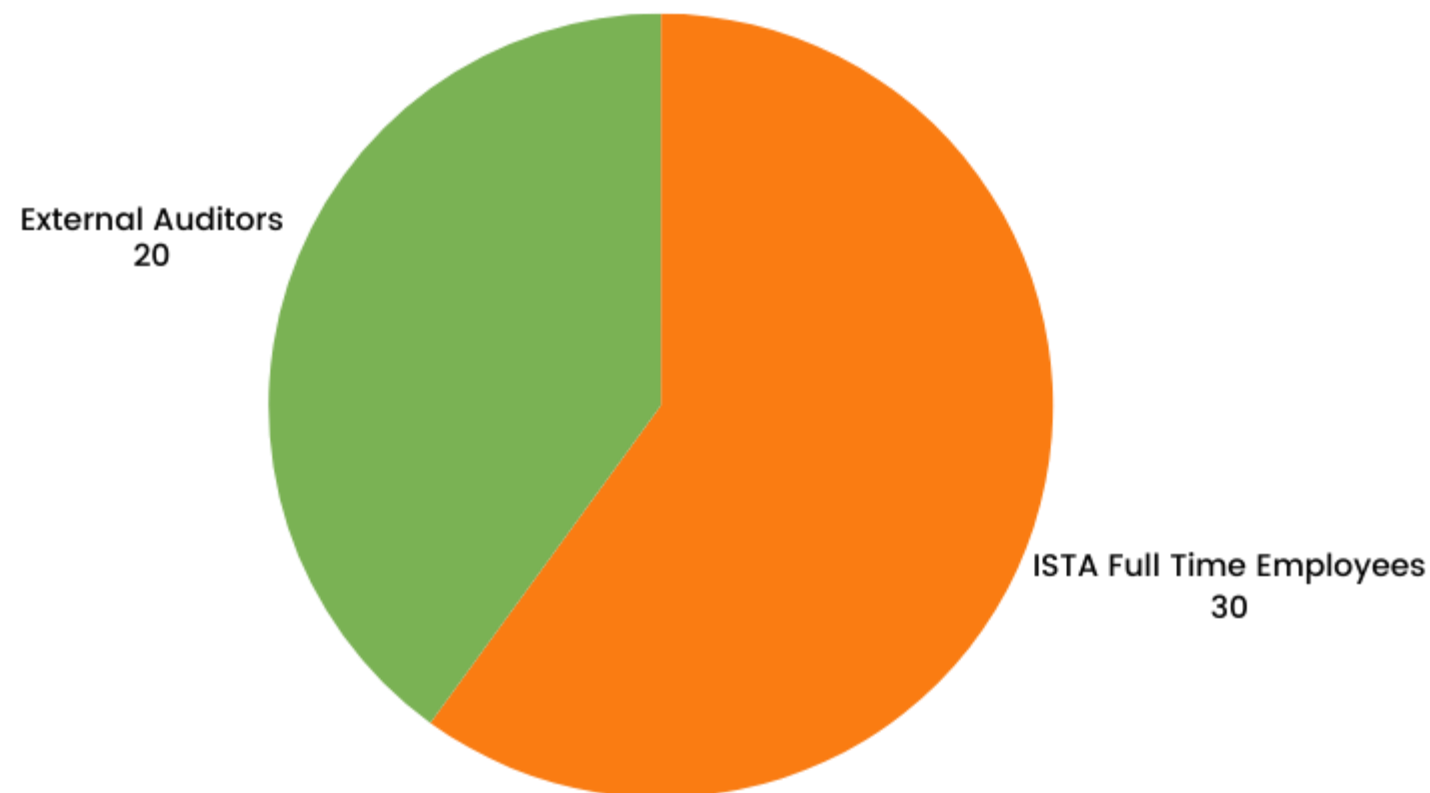
Seed Science and Technology (SST) is an international journal featuring original papers and articles on seed quality and physiology related to seed production, harvest, processing, sampling, storage, genetic conservation, habitat regeneration, distribution and testing.



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

Accreditation

About 50 ISTA Audits each year



More than 150 ISTA Accredited Laboratories Worldwide

1996

The Quality Assurance Programme was first introduced to accredit seed testing laboratories*

**Every
3 years**

ISTA Accredited Laboratories are audited in order to obtain re-accreditation

*The term seed testing laboratory also counts for sampling entities.



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ISTA Proficiency Tests

ISTA offers the following PTs:

Standard PT: 3 per year
GMO PT: 1 per year
Seed Health PT: 1 per year
New: DNA PT: 1 per year

Standard Proficiency Test Programme Plan 2023-2025

Round	Species	Test round scope	Crop group	Crop group
PT23-1	Vicia sativa	PUR, OSD, GER	4	Pulses
PT23-2	Raphanus sativus	PUR, OSD, GER, MOI, VIG (conductivity test), OIC	5 (and 6)*	Other agricultural crops and vegetable
PT23-3	Trifolium hybridum	PUR, OSD, GER, TSW	3	Small legumes
PT24-1	Triticum aestivum subsp. aestivum	PUR, OSD, GER, MOI, TZ, VIG (radicle emergence), TSW, OIC	2	Cereals
PT24-2	Alcea rosea	GER	8	Flowers
PT24-2	Arachis hypogaea	GER	4	Pulses
PT24-3	Bromus inermis	PUR, OSD, GER, TZ	1	Grasses
PT24-3	Coriandrum sativum	GER	6	Vegetables
PT25-1	Beta vulgaris ** (pelleted seeds)	GER	5	Other agricultural crops
PT25-1	Lactuca sativa	PUR, OSD, GER	6	Vegetables
PT25-2	Oryza sativa	PUR, OSD, GER, TZ, TSW OIC	2	Cereals
PT25-3	Pinus sylvestris	GER, MOI, TZ	7	Forests
PT25-3	Chenopodium quinoa	GER	5 (and 6)*	Other agricultural crops and vegetables

* Laboratories accredited for each crop group will be considered as obligatory participants

** Round on Beta vulgaris is to be confirmed; laboratories ISTA accredited both for crop group 5 and coated seed are considered as obligatory participants (accreditation for the crop group 5 only without accreditation for coated seed will for this round be considered as voluntary participation)



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ISTA Certificates

Orange For Seed Lots (Including ISTA Sampling)

Blue For Seed Samples and Mixtures

About **200,000** Certificates issued globally every year.

A glance since 15 July 2024
ISTA Certificates went electronic!





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Seed Quality Assurance

Highlights of eCertificates

eCertificates

- Launch 15 July 2024
- Access for end users (readers) via ISTA Website
- eCertificates will be displayed as PDFs
- Only the online eCertificate will be valid document
- Print-out for filing purposes or electronic filing is possible
- Provisional Certificates will change to Originals automatically
- No Duplicates required
- No fraudulent use of eCertificates is possible



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Highlights and Special Projects

ISTA Social Media:

LinkedIn: (> 12,986 followers)

X: (> 2,732 followers)

YouTube: (> 2,200 subscribers)

ISTA Pest List:

Pest List V13

World Seed Partnership: www.worldseedpartnership.org

Young@ISTA:

LinkedIn Group: Support to Young Seed Professionals

546 Members



ISTA

Seed Quality Assurance

International Partners



APSA

asta



European
Commission



UPOV





34th ISTA
CONGRESS
CHRISTCHURCH

-- NEW ZEALAND --



05-09 May
2025



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

THANK YOU!

www.seedtest.org



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