



INTERNATIONAL SEED TESTING ASSOCIATION

Secretariat, Zürichstrasse 50, P.O. Box 308, 8303 Bassersdorf, CH-Switzerland

Phone: +41 44 838 60 00 - Fax: +41 44 838 60 01 - Email: ista.office@ista.ch - <http://www.seedtest.org>

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Discussion Paper on the price of the ISTA Certificates

This document is submitted to the ISTA Ordinary Meeting 2007 for discussion.

It is submitted to all ISTA Designated Authorities, ISTA Members and ISTA Observer Organisations for information two months prior to the ISTA Ordinary Meeting.

It will be discussed during the Ordinary Meeting 2007 to be held on Friday, May 11, 2007 at the Rafain Hotel, Iguazu Falls, Parana, Brazil under the Agenda point 14. Any other business raised by consent of the Executive Committee.

Discussion Paper on the price of the ISTA Certificates

Over the last years, it has become obvious that the world has become more global and that information is required more quickly. For an international organisation like ISTA this means:

- More important meetings and congresses all over the world to be represented at.
- Quicker response to requests from members and stakeholders brought to the attention of the Association in the area of method development and laboratory accreditation.
- The ability to rapidly update and adjust existing products according to the latest developments.
- An increase in the number of ISTA Technical Workshops presented each year.
- More intensive collaboration with other international organisations in similar fields of activity to ISTA (e.g. OECD, IPPC, ISSS, ENGL, UPOV, ILAC)

With these developments, the workload of the Association, and particularly the workload for the ISTA Technical Committees, is increasing. This increase has to be considered carefully. Even though the work that has been achieved within the Technical Committees over recent years is outstanding, the trend is that an increasing part of the work of the Technical Committees has been done in the spare time of the Chairs and the active Members of the Committees. This is of concern for the ISTA Executive Committee.

Therefore any further increase of the workload of the ISTA Technical Committees needs to be considered with extreme care. The Executive Committee of ISTA is of the opinion that any further increase of the workload for the Technical Committees should be avoided wherever possible.

The Executive Committee further feels that more support should be given to the ISTA Technical Committees through the ISTA Secretariat. This would allow the Technical Committees to concentrate more intensively on their purely technical work, while the ISTA Secretariat will take over the work regarding the administration of all the different Technical Committees, support individual Technical Committees in their policy work and take over parts of the international representation of the Technical Committees.

For this to happen, the professional staff at the ISTA Secretariat will need to be increased by one full-time person.

The Executive Committee has proposed that the additional funding required for this new position within the Secretariat should be generated through an increase in the price of the ISTA Certificates, from the current 2 Swiss Francs (CHF) to 3 CHF from January 1st, 2008.

The Executive Committee of ISTA is seeking discussion by the ISTA Members on this proposal to facilitate the final decision on the proposal by the Executive Committee.