



# ISTA Seminar on Specified Trait Seed Testing

**Bologna (Italy), 16 June 2008**



Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues

First of all I would like to express my thanks to all speakers for their open, comprehensible and demonstrative presentations. We got an excellent overview of this very challenging topic, starting from political points of view to very useful technical information important for the daily laboratory work. I also would like to express my thanks to all of you who made contributions to discussions we had today. I am aware that in just one day it isn't possible to cover the entire issue of specified trait seed testing. As well I am aware that the time for discussions was too short. But fortunately we will have the opportunity to continue the initiated discussions in the next coming days during the ISTA Annual meeting. I very much look forward to it.

For all open questions with need for further discussions we will enter into dialogue with our partners. Please allow me to express some personal views to the presentations, respectively to the information we heard today. Once again I have to realize that the speed of progress which is to be observed in this research field is tremendous and that means at the same time, the half-life of knowledge gets shorter and shorter. It is a highly dynamic field of work.

Another consequence I draw from this meeting is that to move on, to improve and make progress in this matter we need high-performance research as presented today. In the same way as the scientific aspects are crucial, good communication between researchers, consumers, politicians, stakeholders etc. is needed. Exactly the same is valid for information exchange, knowing that knowledge is one of those rare assets which multiply by being shared. ISTA is active in this area as well.

To keep in touch with all decisive actors in this exciting field, to have a say, to be and to stay a competent partner we need the necessary personal and financial support. It is not available for free. But I think it is a wise investment into the future.

We from the ISTA GMO Task Force hope that this seminar was to the benefit of all and makes a contribution to find ways of meeting the demanding challenges ahead of us.

In this context I would like to call attention to the 1st Global Conference on GMO Analysis which takes place in Como, Italy on 24th to 27th June this year.

Last but not least I also would like to express my thanks to all persons who were involved in the organisation and final tuning of this seminar. Especially I would like to mention Ana Laura Vicario from the National Seed Institute (INASE) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Francesca Mannone and Gerhard Schuon both from the ISTA secretariat.

For the next coming days I wish you all a very interesting and successful meeting. Also I hope you will find some time to visit this wonderful city which offers plenty of famous historic sites. Certainly you have already had the possibility to test the Italian deli, so I don't have to lose more words about.

I am looking forward to the next coming days.

Therefore I officially close the seminar on specified trait seed testing. Thank you very much for joining it.