



ISTA Seminar on Specified Trait Seed Testing

Bologna (Italy), 16 June 2008



Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I welcome you most cordially to the ISTA Seminar on Specified Trait Seed Testing in Bologna. I also wish to welcome most warmly all the speakers who will give a presentation for today's seminar who I will introduce before they give their presentation.

Especially I welcome:

Marcel Bruins, Secretary General of the International Seed Federation, Nyon, Switzerland and Yves Bertheau, Research Director at the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), Versailles, France, the largest agricultural research institute in Europe. He is also the coordinator of the EU Co-Extra programme (GM and non- GM supply chains: their CO-EXistence and TRAcability). I am particularly pleased that we are able to hold this important seminar in conjunction with the ISTA Annual Meeting in Italy this year. I am convinced that this will offer a unique opportunity to bring together the relevant actors with the goal to have an open exchange of information with many positive discussions. The idea for such a seminar was born two years ago when Michael Muschick, the ISTA Secretary General brought up this proposal. So now I stand here very proud and I am sure we can offer an attractive programme to all of you.

Fact is that since 1996 the global area of biotech crops is continuously increasing. For 2007 an increase of 12%, from 102 to 114.3 million hectares was reported by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA). New specified traits and research in this challenging field is and will be for the next coming years alive. The overwhelming interest and large number of participants prove this point very clearly.

In the next future, the fast-changing field of Biotech/GM crops will remain an important topic with many new requirements to be fulfilled. ISTA stands ready to meet these challenges.

Independently of the legislation valid in the countries all over the world, there is a high demand for specified trait testing. With this seminar we would like to make a contribution to this utmost crucial issue. The first part of the seminar will provide an insight in the political and the technical situation of genetically modified organisms.

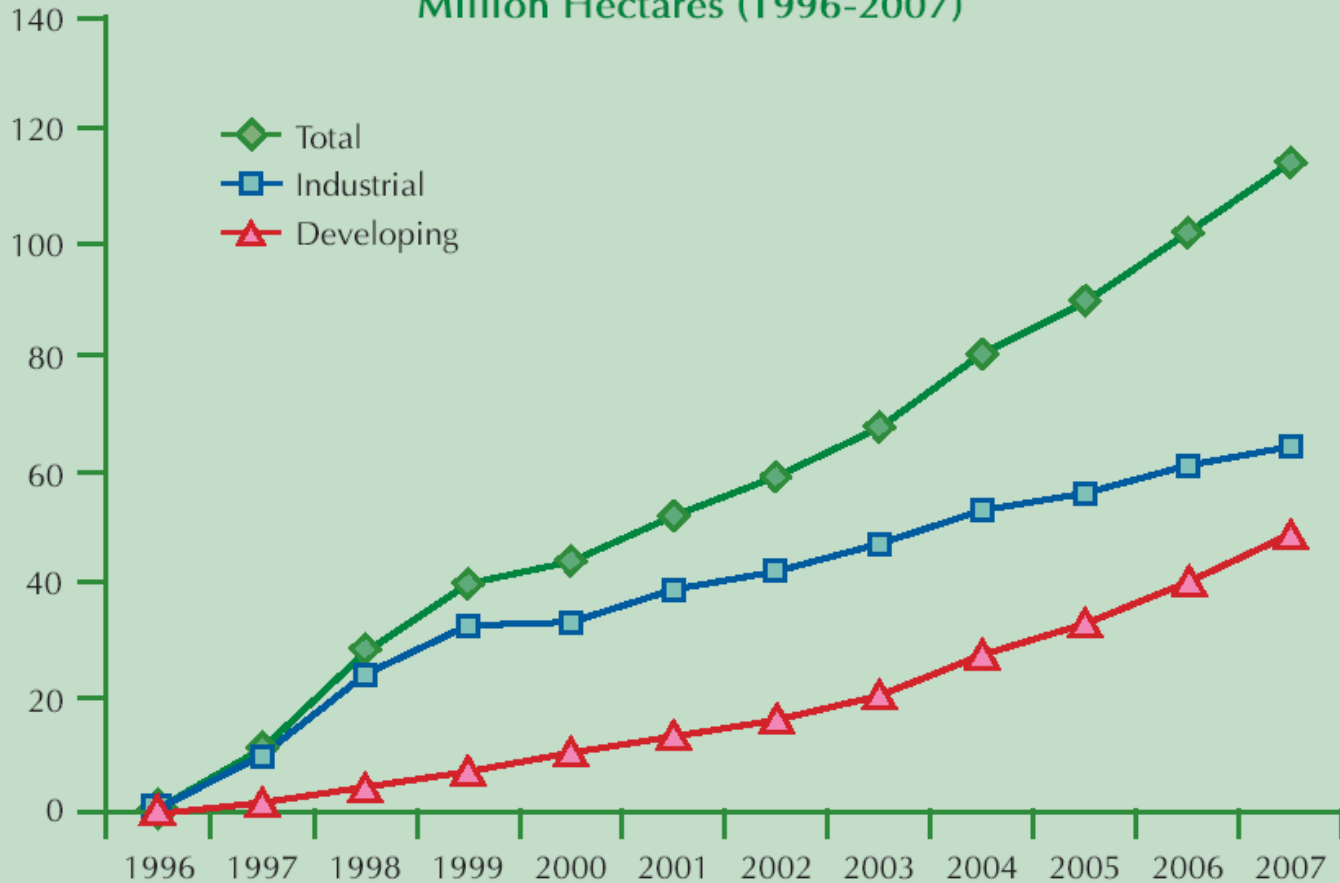
The second part is focused on useful information for the work in the laboratories.

The third and last part of the seminar is dealing with the work and progress within the ISTA GMO Task Force.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, I finally would like to express my hope that we all will find this seminar very interesting and of course encounter many stimulating experts and make personal contacts. I very much look forward to it.



GLOBAL AREA OF BIOTECH CROPS Million Hectares (1996-2007)



Increase of 12%, 12.3 million hectares (30 million acres), between 2006 and 2007.

Source: Clive James, 2007.