

MINUTES OF THE ISTA ORDINARY MEETING 2004

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION AT THE
ORDINARY MEETING 2005**



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING 2004

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INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes and concludes the discussions and decisions of the ISTA Ordinary Meeting 2004 in Budapest, Hungary, May 20 and 21. The full spoken text of the meeting is not quoted in these Minutes. However, the whole Ordinary Meeting has been recorded on tape, and is at the disposal of any interested person.

These minutes contain a complete list of all participants of the meeting.

All documents and presentations mentioned in these minutes are available from the ISTA Secretariat.

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

DAY 1, THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2004

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The first session of the Ordinary Meeting started on May 20, 2004 at 08:30 hrs, chaired by the President of the Association, Mr Norbert Leist.

The President called to order and read out the Agenda of the Ordinary Meeting to the membership.

AGENDA OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (1) Call to order
- (2) President's Address
- (3) Roll call of Designated Members entitled to vote
- (4) Reading and acceptance of Minutes
- (5) Report of the Executive Committee
- (6) Report of the Secretary General
- (7) Discharge of the Executive Committee
- (8) Strategic Presentation of the President
- (9) Experiment on Accreditation and Authorisation of Company Laboratories
- (10) Constitution Changes
 - I. Annual Meetings
 - II. Authorisation Rights
 - III. Voting Rights
- (11) Governance of the Association
- (12) Fixation of Annual Subscription Fees
- (13) Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Technical Committees (and Proposed Rules Changes 2004)
- (14) Any other business raised by a Member, of which notice in writing has been received by the Secretary General two months prior to the date of the meeting
- (15) Any other business raised by consent of the Executive Committee
- (16) Election of Officers and Members at large of the Executive Committee
- (17) Installation of new Officers
- (18) Announcement of location and dates of the next Ordinary Meetings
- (19) President's closing address
- (20) Adjournment

(2) PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President summarised the most important developments within ISTA since the last Congress 2001 in Angers, France, notably the Association's changed role in an ever-changing environment. He expressed his appreciation for the commitment and contributions from all members of the ISTA family over the past years and concluded by making reference to the important decisions to be made during the Ordinary Meeting at this Congress, eighty years after founding the International Seed Testing Association in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

(3) ROLL CALL OF DESIGNATED MEMBERS ENTITLED TO VOTE

The President gave the floor to the Secretary General, Mr Michael Muschick, for the roll call. Prior to the roll call of the Designated Members entitled to vote, the Secretary General pointed out the voting procedure, specified English as the meeting language and appointed Ms Anne Bülow-Olsen and Mr Sylvain Grégoire to perform the counting of votes. Since at Ordinary Meetings held during ISTA Congresses a new Executive Committee is elected, the Secretary General explained the procedure for the appointment of Officers and Members-at-large of the Executive Committee. In addition, he drew the delegates' attention to the fact that all statements were recorded.

The Designated Members mentioned hereafter were present:

Albania: (-); **Argentina:** Monica Ines Moreno; **Australia:** John M. Blackstock; **Austria:** Leopold Girsch; **Bangladesh:** (-), **Belgium:** (-); **Bulgaria:** Bistra Pavlovska; **Bolivia:** (-); **Brazil:** Silmar T. Peske; **Canada:** Doug B. Ashton; **Chile:** Patricia Espinosa Sepulveda; **China:** (-); **Colombia:** (-); **Croatia:** (-); **Cyprus:** Panayiota Sofocleous-Orphanidou; **Czech Republic:** Barbora Dobiasova; **Denmark:** Grethe Tarp; **Estonia:** Roland Nyman; **Egypt:** Olfat El Bagoury; **Finland:** Matti Puolimatka; **France:** Joël Léchappé; **Germany:** Michael Kruse; **Greece:** Eftychia Andritsou; **Hungary:** Katalin J. Ertsey; **India:** (-); **Iran:** (-); **Ireland:** Thomas Cullen; **Israel:** Lea Mazor; **Italy:** Rita Zecchinelli; **Japan:** Masatoshi Sato; **Kenya:** Joseph O. Ahenda; **Korea, D.P.R. of:** (-); **Korea, Republic of:** Min-Hee Jeong; **Latvia:** Velta Evelone; **Lithuania:** (-); **Luxembourg:** Danielle Ruckert; **Malawi:** Jeffrey H.C. Luhanga; **Mexico:** José Manuel Chavez Bravo; **Nepal:** (-); **New Zealand:** John G. Hampton; **Norway:** Guro Brodal; **Pakistan:** (-); **Poland:** Joanna Krzyzanowska; **Portugal:** (-); **Romania:** Maria Muset; **Russia:** (-); **Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu:** Wen-Deh Chen; **Slovakia:** Kristian Kratochvil; **Slovenia:** (-); **South Africa:** Shadrack R. Moephuli; **Spain:** Luis Martinez Vassallo; **Sweden:** Jan Hyttring; **Switzerland:** Silvia Zanetti; **Syrian Arab Republic:** (-); **Tanzania:** (-); **Thailand:** Chulhathep Pongsroypech; **The Netherlands:** W. Joost van der Burg; **The Philippines:** (-); **The United States:** Susan Maxon; **Tunisia:** (-); **Turkey:** (-); **Ukraine:** Viktor Malasai; **United Kingdom:** Ronald Don; **Uruguay:** Jorge Machado Antunez; **Yugoslavia:** Sandra Milosavljevic; **Zambia:** Mary M. Chipili; **Zimbabwe:** Bellah Mpofu

According to the ISTA Constitution Article X(d), the quorum at meetings of the Association shall be at least the voting members designated by 40 percent of the Designated Authorities, i.e. 27.

With 46 voting delegates being present, the Secretary General declared the meeting quorate.

(4) READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Association held on July 2 and 3, 2003 in Glattbrugg/Zurich, Switzerland were published by the Secretariat as document 'Minutes of the ISTA Extraordinary Meeting 2003' [document Internal Items/M/D(2003)50] and distributed to the membership, main stakeholders, the participants of the Meeting and were posted on the ISTA Website in November 2003.

The minutes were unanimously accepted by the members by applause.

(5) REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President of the Association, Mr Leist, presented the Activity Report of the Executive Committee 2003/2004.

The report was published by the Secretariat in the 'Activity Report 2003/2004 of the ISTA Committees' [document Internal Items/M/D(2004)05] on pages 3 to 7 and distributed to the membership, main stakeholders, the participants of the Meeting and posted on the ISTA Website.

The report was unanimously accepted by the members by applause.

(6) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretary General of the Association, Mr Muschick, presented a report on the development, activities and finances of the Association of the calendar year 2003.

The report [document Internal Items/M/D(2004)05], pages 9 to 33, had previously been circulated to the Membership, main stakeholders, the participants of the Meeting and posted on the ISTA Website.

The financial statements of the Association including the report of the financial auditors is presented on page 30 to 33 in the report of the Secretary General. The finances of the Association were assessed by auditors of the BDO Visura, upon which BDO Visura recommends the approval of the financial statements of the Association by the ISTA Members.

The report of the Secretary General including the financial statement were approved by the ISTA voting delegates through applause.

The BDO Visura was accepted as financial auditors for the year 2004 by the members by applause.

(7) DISCHARGE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President asked the ISTA voting delegates to financially discharge the Executive Committee by raising their voting cards, which was acknowledged by 34 'yes' votes.

The President officially declared the Executive Committee financially discharged and released officers and members-at-large with the exception of the incoming President, Mr Pieter Oosterveld. He then requested the Secretary General and the Honorary President, Mr Attilio Lovato, to assist him during the rest of the session and invited the incoming President to deliver a strategic presentation, illustrating his ideas and views with regard to the coming three years.

(8) STRATEGIC PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT

The incoming President, Mr Oosterveld, declared his intention to continue the route that had been adopted since the last Congress in Angers and had been followed by his predecessor. He expressed his view, that the vision of ISTA as expressed in Angers, was still valid: ``... AN INTERNATIONAL SEED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-BASED ASSOCIATION, NON-POLITICAL AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT, LEGALLY INDEPENDENT FROM BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND COMMERCE, FOR SEED TECHNOLOGY, DEVELOPMENT AND`

VALIDATION OF SAMPLING AND TESTING METHODS, ACCREDITATION OF LABORATORIES AND ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES'.

Mr Oosterveld briefly went over the work that has been done since Angers and came to the conclusion that a number of aims from Angers have been successfully realised and speeded up the decision making process of the Association, enhanced the activities of the Technical Committees and enhanced the communication in all bodies of the Association.

For the next three years, Mr Oosterveld pointed out that the process of changes in ISTA, as agreed in Angers, should to be continued.

He outlined that a focal point for the coming years needs to be the financial aspects of the Association. The establishment of clear businesses concepts for different areas of the Association are necessary. Also discussions to further enhance the value of being an ISTA Member have to be addressed as well as financial benefits for the work in the ISTA Technical Committees, and in particular the Chairs of these Committees. ISTA Membership and the accreditation program should be intensively evaluated also from a financial standpoint.

Next to the financial aspects Mr Oosterveld presented further points of future activities: from a governance standpoint, discussions and decisions regarding membership categories and installation of proxy voting rights; from a technical standpoint, the implementation of a GMO Chapter, an enhancement of the work on tropical species and the method validation program, and, in the training and education area, the training and accreditation of analyst and the continuation with a high number of ISTA workshops. In regards to the enhancement of the work on tropical species, Mr Oosterveld pointed out that, as a first action step, a working group on tropical seeds and species would be installed immediately.

In closing the incoming President characterised the Association as being a centre of coordination and co-operation, not as a service provider only.

The Chair opened the floor for questions to the incoming President. From the delegate from Greece (Ms Eftychia Andritsou) the question was raised, how ISTA's independence from both seed trade and governments would be compatible with having advertisements in the official Congress programme documents. The President declared that this was not in contradiction to the Association's vision and did not threaten its credibility. The Secretary of the Organising Committee seconded him, pointing out that this kind of sponsoring was common practice and was a precondition for local organisers being able to achieve their task.

Mr Jean-Marie Debois from OECD asked for details concerning the future involvement of non-members in ISTA work. The President explained that with exception of the Proficiency Test Committee, where ISTA Members have exclusive right of admission, non-members might work in Technical Committees. The executive level would remain members' domain.

Mr Bernard Le Buanec commented that the ISF approach with regard to sponsorship corresponded exactly with what was said before and that there was no problem as long as no influence on decisions by executives was made.

(9) EXPERIMENT ON ACCREDITATION AND AUTHORISATION OF COMPANY LABORATORIES

The President gave the floor to Mr Ronald Don, who presented the result of the Experiment on the Accreditation and Authorisation of Company Laboratories.

In his presentation Mr Don made reference to the document 'Report on the ISTA Experiment on the Accreditation and Authorisation of Company Laboratories' that had previously been circulated and posted on the ISTA Website.

He summarised the findings and mentioned that the Executive Committee of ISTA has studied the results of the accreditation experiment.

They have concluded that there is no difference in the results of company and other laboratories under the accreditation experiment.

They support therefore the termination of the experiment and agree that irrespective of their ownership, all ISTA's accredited laboratories are equivalent.

After the presentation of the data and the position and recommendation of the Executive Committee, Mr Don opened the discussion among the membership.

Upon the question from Mr Luis Martinez Vassallo from Spain how many countries participated in the experiment, the correspondent specified that 12 laboratories from five countries had taken part. Ms Lea Mazor from Israel expressed her concern looking at the small number of participants. She felt that they may not represent the standard of service other company laboratories seeking accreditation may be able to achieve.

Mr Don agreed that the number was lower than anticipated; still the statistical analysis provided significant data. He emphasised that the conditions of granting ISTA Accreditation ensure, through Proficiency Test Programme and Accreditation Standard, equivalence in the standard of service. He further conveyed his appreciation for the Designated Authorities' role in providing data and monitoring the performance of accredited company laboratories. His view that governmental and company laboratories benefited from the experiment was supported by delegates from Denmark, Hungary and Austria. The delegate from Austria, however, expressed his surprise that the company laboratories did not outperform the other accredited laboratories, assuming that their high degree of specialisation would make them excel laboratories with a broader scope of testing. Ms Monica Moreno from Argentina raised the question if the accredited laboratories only represented developed economies.

Mr Don explained that neither degree of specialisation of a laboratory nor the status of the national economy it belongs to had an impact on the evaluation of proficiency test results. In fact, one of the participating company laboratories belonged to a developing country where no governmental laboratory held ISTA Accreditation, thus demonstrating that, with support of the national Designated Authority, the idea of accreditation and high quality in seeds may be introduced in developing economies with company laboratories as carriers.

Upon the question whether the said laboratory could test seeds from other companies (Ms Belah Mpofu, Zimbabwe), the Secretary General declared that accreditation under the experiment covered only seeds from the company the laboratory was associated with.

The President closed the discussion, thanked Mr Don for the work done in this evaluation and presented the voting question to the ISTA voting delegates:

"Do you agree that the experiment should be discontinued and that company laboratories should be eligible for ISTA Accreditation?"

37 voting delegates answered with 'yes' to the voting question, 0 voting delegates answered with 'no'.

Therefore the Experiment is finalised and company laboratories now can become ISTA Accredited and all ISTA Accredited laboratories are considered equal by the Association.

(10) CONSTITUTION CHANGES

The Executive Committee recommended to the ISTA voting delegates to accept the three Constitution Change Proposals. The Constitution Change Proposals are laid down in detail in the document 'Proposed Changes to the ISTA Constitution – for consideration and decision at the Ordinary Meeting 2004'.

The three proposals were:

- I. The introduction of Annual Ordinary Meetings into the Constitution
- II. The authorisation of ISTA Accredited Member Laboratories to issue ISTA Certificates should be considered a pure technical task and therefore under the sole responsibility of the Association.

- II. The introduction of a voting system to allow all ISTA Members to vote on the ISTA Rules Proposals.

The President clarified that according to Article XII (a) and (b), modifications of the text presented in the Constitution Change Proposals can not be made during the Ordinary Meeting.

He also clarified that each proposal includes the modification of more than one article of the current ISTA Constitution. He mentioned that the vote should be made area by area for all three proposals and not constitution article by constitution article.

I. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ANNUAL ORDINARY MEETINGS INTO THE CONSTITUTION

It was made clear again that the vote involved two articles, V and VII, and, not having any objection from the house, it was agreed to have a single ballot for this motion. Following a previous decision to hold annual meetings of the association, this was rather a matter of tidying up the Constitution, as Mr John Hampton put it.

Result of the vote: 'yes' votes: 43 'no' votes: 0

The President and the Secretary General acknowledged that the Constitution Change Proposal I. was accepted.

II. THE AUTHORISATION OF ISTA ACCREDITED MEMBER LABORATORIES TO ISSUE ISTA CERTIFICATES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A PURE TECHNICAL TASK AND THEREFORE UNDER THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Chair introduced the second vote on Constitution Changes citing the Executive Committee's recommendation to vest authorisation rights with ISTA alone.

The French delegate, Mr Joël Léchappé, took the floor saying that ISTA had always, incorrectly, been considered an intergovernmental organisation. He raised three points in this regard.

1. It was common practice in all accreditation bodies to include the issuance of test reports in the accreditation.

2. Test reports were a purely technical matter.

3. Two steps in adapting the terminology would conclude this development: renaming International Certificates to "Test Reports" and renaming the International Rules for Seed Testing to "ISTA Standard Methods" in order to clarify the technical positioning of ISTA.

In the following discussion on the term 'purely technical' it was explained that it referred to all requirements of the Accreditation Standard in the sense of supporting the technical validity of analytical work performed.

The delegate from New Zealand, Mr Hampton seconded the statement, that ISTA as an accreditation body should exert the authorisation rights.

Several delegates raised a question concerning the wording 'Distinct Economy as recognised in international fora'. However, this was not considered a point for discussion, as this definition for 'government' was agreed upon during the Congress 2001 in Angers and is widely used in bodies like the WTO.

Mr Leopold Girsch from Austria enquired why ISTA still included Designated Authorities in its set-up. The Chair explained that seeds as an important commodity are of interest to governments. Furthermore, exclusion of governments from the affairs of ISTA was not intended, instead, to open ISTA on technical matters for all parties.

The Japanese delegate, Mr Masatoshi Sato had concerns about the Designated Authorities not being informed about ISTA Accreditation of laboratories. The chair replied that this was merely a matter of installing a system of keeping a Designated Authority

posted. This approach was backed by the Australian delegate, Mr John Blackstock, opting for beforehand information of a Designated Authority in case of laboratory accreditation. Ms Susan Maxon, United States made it a point, that accreditation without consent by the Designated Authority would diminish its ability to fulfil its role.

Mr Hampton emphasised ISTA's current and future policy of informing Designated Authorities of laboratory accreditation.

Mr Bernard Le Buanec and Mr Selwyn Manning declared all members from IFS but one fully supported the proposal and were in favour of clear relations between ISTA and national Designated Authorities. Ms Doris Dixon confirmed the United State's Seed Industry's concerns about the impact and potential risks in excluding Designated Authorities from authorisation.

Mr Don and Mr Jones underlined the technical character of laboratory accreditation. Separating it from reporting test results made accreditation superfluous. Mr Don continued that making it a political issue would take all credibility as a scientific organisation from ISTA. Mr Jones, taking up a comment from Ms Mpofu, clarified that a country's ability to regulate the use of test reports remained intact.

The Chair acknowledged the need for further discussion concerning terminology and suggested to proceed to voting.

Result of the vote: 'yes' votes: 32 'no' votes: 5

The President and the Secretary General acknowledged that the Constitution Change Proposal II. was accepted.

III. THE INTRODUCTION OF A VOTING SYSTEM TO ALLOW ALL ISTA MEMBERS TO VOTE ON THE ISTA RULES PROPOSALS

The Chair introduced the proposal concerning voting rights, stressing that all motions except Rules changes were not to be affected by it.

Ms Mpofu questioned why, according to the proposal, accredited and non-accredited laboratories were both to vote. On a similar note, Ms Mazor underlined that non-accredited laboratories had no obligations towards the Association to observe the Rules. Mr Hans Arne Jensen from Denmark drew a scenario, where an economically powerful company would be able to exert a dominant role by establishing many member laboratories.

The Chair replied that all laboratories contribute to the Associations work, in Technical Committees and in Rules Proposals. There was no interest for any group to have a dominant role in the Association, as this would destroy the balance between the different interests. Economical aspects, however, had to be taken into account.

Mr Michael Miller from United Kingdom reiterated his arguments from the meeting in Zurich, that some technical issues had wider, political implications, that there was interference with EU-legislation and that finding a balance between diverging interests in the seed sector was a governmental task. This opinion was echoed by Ms Maxon, who felt that a broader consensus could only be assured with governments having a direct say. Both delegates affirmed to be voting against the proposal.

Mr Shadrack Moephuli from South Africa developed an example, demonstrating that one company with several member laboratories could have several votes. The French delegate Mr Léchappé favoured a solution with accredited and not accredited members involved in voting and requested ISTA to devise means of avoiding undue influence of any groups.

The Chairperson confirmed this risk, at the same time he made clear that, from experience, undue influence of single bodies was not something he would expect.

Mr Girsch opposed this view and, stating that seed were an important commodity, said that the consumers interest may be put at risk by admitting non-governmental say in what he perceives as a governmental voting. Entrusting the laboratories with voting, even with governmental laboratories involved, was not the same than having governments vote. Additionally, he expressed his concern in view of a situation, where non-accredited laboratories, significantly outperformed by accredited ones in the proficiency test, could vote on the ISTA Rules.

Mr Don agreed to this, emphasising that in international bodies, the principle of one country one vote applied.

Mr Le Buanec from ISF called the meetings attention to the fact that Rules Proposals were only voted on after thorough scientific evaluation through the Technical Committees. He further declared that no company had an interest in corrupting the Rules, being liable at the end of the day for the services it provides.

Mr Kevin Boyce from Australia felt that laboratories were disenfranchised by not having direct voting rights on technical issues. He strongly recommended voting in favour of the proposal in order to implement a democratic representation. Knowing that only Designated Authorities were to cast the vote, he expressed his hope that his suggestion would be taken into account.

Ms Grethe Tarp from Denmark replied that technical input was always possible and more than welcome through Technical Committees.

According to Mr Jeffrey Luhanga from Malawi and Mr Moephuli, the private sector was always taken into consideration when voting under the current system.

The delegates from Denmark, South Africa and Malawi declared their countries were not in support of the proposal.

Mr Blackstock in principle supported the idea of giving every stakeholder a chance to exert a right to vote. However, he had been briefed to cast his vote on the assumption that proxy voting would be part of the proposal. Consequently, believing that the proposal was in favour of laboratories able to afford sending representatives to meetings, he announced his intention to abstain from voting.

Mr Doug Ashton from Canada made reference to reasons stated by other delegates for voting against the proposal. In addition, he recommended the Executive Committee to find a way for fair representation as indicated by the Australian delegate, including proxy voting. Mr Joost van der Burg from the Netherlands raised the question whether a company laboratory would be prepared to have multiple memberships to have influence on the voting. He further asked, what the difference between a member and a member laboratory was. Mr Hampton replied that this was not fully clear in Article IV b and IV c of the current Constitution. He further explained that New Zealand favoured a solution with all member laboratories entitled to vote. He emphasised that members paid fees, not countries. Additionally, laboratories not seeking accreditation for purely financial reasons still used the Rules.

The Chair thanked the participants for their contributions and interesting points that were no to be followed up at this stage.

He then requested the voting delegates to cast their votes on the proposed changes to the voting rights.

Result of the vote: 'yes' votes: 6 'no' votes: 31

The President and the Secretary General acknowledged that the Constitution Change Proposal II. was not accepted.

(11) GOVERNANCE OF THE ASSOCIATION

No item was discussed under this agenda point.

(12) FIXATION OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES

The President made reference to a letter sent out from the Secretariat March 30, 2004 making a concrete proposal regarding the annual membership fee. The Secretary General explained that the intention was to install a mechanism of annual increments. This would allow more flexibility in regards to the finances. Therefore a vote for only one year should be made.

In the following discussion, touching on various such aspects as appropriateness of annual increases and an inbuilt automatism, the level of fees in general and on procedural issues, it became clear that the solution proposed in that document could not be voted on at this stage. No conclusion was made whether annual or triennial review period should be adopted, as about the same number of delegates indicated to be in favour of either of the two options.

The President declared the item officially withdrawn from voting and announced a postal vote to be conducted in the second half of the year 2004 to decide regarding the ISTA Membership Fees for the years 2005 - 2007.

(13) CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

The Chair of the Rules Committee, Mr Steve Jones, was called upon to lead through the consideration and adoption of the Proposed Rules Changes.

The rules changes had been presented in the Rules Committee session two days before and in the relevant document 'Proposed Rules Changes 2004' published by the Secretariat and distributed to the membership, main stakeholders, the participants of the Meeting and posted on the ISTA Website.

Mr Jones, explained that because of discussions during Technical Committee meetings of the past two days, some of the proposed Rules Changes had major or minor changes, and that he had also made the decision, as the Rules Chairman, that in some cases where the changes were too major the corresponding proposal would be deferred for a year.

He had however allowed for minor word changes or minor deletions or inclusions of sentences where it did not alter the sense of the original proposal.

The Chairman opened the ballot by reading the first item of the proposed rules changes.

Proposals of Amendments to the ISTA International Rules for Seed Testing, Edition 2004

~~Text proposed for deletion~~

[Proposed new text](#)

[Text added or amended since printing](#)

ITEM 1 GENERAL EDITING ISSUES

Item 1 Corrections

The following are editorial changes/errors that have been noticed in the 2004 edition of the Rules.

Item 1a List of edits

Table 5A Part 2

Pinus densiflora – there is a missing temperature for prechilling:

Add '[at 3-5 °C](#)': so it will read 'Prechill 14 days at 3-5°C'

Pinus strobus: missing words 'Double test' as both no prechill and prechill are recommended.

Add '[Double test](#)': so it will read "1. No prechill and prechill 28 days at 3-5°C. Double test."

In Table 5A Part 2 make sure that the singular term 'double test' is used throughout and not the plural term 'double tests' for the following species: *Nothofagus oblique*, *Picea glauca*, *P. glehnii*; *P. jezoensis*, *P. sitchensis*, *Pinus contorta*, *P. elliotii*, *P. palustris*, *P. ponderosa*, *P. taeda*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Syringa reflexa*, and *Zelkova serrata*.

Page 13A-1 & 2

The change to 'double test' also applies to the header text for Table 13A and entries in Table 13A.

For header text for Table 13A delete the phrase 'The less desirable methods are placed in brackets in the Table.' As there are no methods in brackets.

Page 7-4

7.4.3 Specific directions

Additions and/or deletions to these lists can be found in ~~the~~ [Seed Testing International](#) ~~ISTA News Bulletin~~ or on... (Note: alter any other similar instances)

Page 8A-14

8.6.A.5 Figures 1-4

Fig 2: ...; other patterns arise from self-pollination (same ~~patterna~~ [patterns](#) as female) or ...

Pages 7-017-5 and 7-018-6 in Annexe to Chapter 7: Seed Health Methods

Should read 'Bacto Malt Agar (Cat No 0024-01-1 Difco USA) 30 g 15 g' (not 45 g 15 g)

[Page 13-3 Change to section 13.5 'number' to 'percentage', reverse change. Should be 'number'.](#)

[Tables 15.5 and 15.6, references to Miles are incorrect and should be omitted.](#)

[Appendix A This is now a Rule so need to remove the word 'Recommendation' in the title.](#)

No need to vote as changes are editorial correction of errors.

However have included this time as a proposal.

Vote on accepting all changes.

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	41
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	0
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

Agreement from the meeting that editorial changes do not need to be voted on in future.

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	42
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	1
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

ITEM 2 PROPOSALS FOR CHAPTER 2 AND ANNEXE, SAMPLING

Item 2a New definition for primary sample

Current:

2.2.2 Primary sample

A primary sample is a small portion taken from one point in the lot.

Proposed:

2.2.2 Primary sample

A primary sample is a small portion taken from [the seed](#) lot [during one single sampling action](#).

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	42
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	0
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

Item 2b Changes in submitted and working sample weights for *Oryza sativa*

Species	Maximum weight of lot	Minimum sample weights		
		Submitted sample	Working sample for purity analysis	Working sample for count of other species
	Chapter 2	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4
1	2 kg	3 g	4 g	5 g

Current:

Oryza sativa L. 25 000 400 40 400

Proposed:

Oryza sativa L. 25 000 [700](#) [70](#) [700](#)

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	38
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	0
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

ITEM 3 PROPOSALS FOR CHAPTER 3, PURITY

Item 3a Change to the uniform blowing method for *Poa pratensis* varieties

3.5.2.A.5. Uniform blowing method

This method is obligatory for *Poa pratensis*, *Poa trivialis* and *Dactylis glomerata*.

The working sample size is 1g for *Poa pratensis* and *Poa trivialis* and 3g for *Dactylis glomerata*. The blowing pressure is determined for *Poa pratensis* and *Dactylis glomerata* by means of a calibration samples issued under the authority of the International Seed Testing Association.

The blowing pressure for the varieties of *Poa pratensis* listed below with an average weight of 1000 seeds <0.35g is obtained by multiplying the blower setting for *Poa pratensis* by 0.82 (applies only for General Seed Blowers). Seed identified as 'variety not stated' is excluded from the list.

The blowing pressure for *Poa trivialis* is obtained by multiplying the blower setting for *Poa pratensis* by 0.82 (applies only for General Seed Blowers).

Prior to calibration both the calibration and working samples must be exposed to room conditions.

~~For those not having a General Seed Blower, please contact the International Seed Testing Association Secretariat.~~

Table 3.5.2.A.5

List of varieties of *Poa pratensis* with an average weight of 1000 seeds <0.35g.

Variety	1000 seed weight
Balin	0.34g
Compact	0.34g
Julia	0.33g
Limousine	0.33g
Enprima	0.32g
Oxford	0.32g
Ikone	0.31g
Sobra	0.31g
Pegasus	0.29g
Platini	0.29g
Slezanka	0.28g
Mardona	0.27g
Tommy	0.26g
Lato	0.24g
Harmony	0.23g

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	35
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	1
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

Item 3b Amendment to Chapter 1 section 1.2

1.2 Guidelines for the introduction of new species and methods into the Rules

Small seeded varieties of *Poa pratensis*:

Before a small seeded variety is included in 3.5.2.A.5, a determination of the 1000 seed weight must be performed on at least 20 samples from different seed lots, representing seeds grown either in two different harvest years or in two different countries.

The determination of the 1000 seed weight shall be carried out on pure seeds, obtained by blowing a 1g sample of *Poa pratensis* using the standard blower setting (factor 1.00). Only seed remaining in the heavy fraction shall be used for the 1000 seed weight. See Chapter 10 for the weight determination procedure.

Seed identified as 'variety not stated' is excluded from the list.

Results shall be submitted to the ISTA Purity Committee with a request to change the ISTA Rules.

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	34
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	1
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

ITEM 4 PROPOSALS FOR CHAPTER 5, GERMINATION, ANNEXE

Item 4a Amendment to entry for *Chloris gayana*

Species	Prescriptions for:		Additional directions including		
	Substrate	Temperature °C	First count (days)	Final count (days)	Final recommendations for breaking dormancy
1	2	3	4	5	6
Current: <i>Chloris gayana</i>	TP	20-35; 20-30	7	14	KNO ₃ ; Light; Prechill
Proposed: <i>Chloris gayana</i>	-	-	-	-	<u>Test by the weighed replicates method (see Chapter 13, Table 13B)</u>

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	3
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	12
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	FAILED

Item 4b Amendment to entry for *Eucalyptus* spp. in Table 5

Species	Prescriptions for:		Additional directions including		
	Substrate °C	Temperature count (days)	First count (days)	Final count (days)	Executive Committee recommendations for breaking dormancy
1	2	3	4	5	6
Current:					
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	All <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. should be tested by weighed replicates method (see Chapter 13, Table 13A)
Proposed:					
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	All <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. test by weighed replicates method (see Chapter 13, Table 13A)

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	35
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	0
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

Item 4c Addition of ‘*Pinus brutia* Ten.’ to ISTA Rules

1. Add ‘*Pinus brutia* Ten.’ to Table 2A Part 2 -Tree and shrub seeds, and repeat the current figures for ‘*Pinus halepensis* Mill.’ in columns 2, 3 and 4.
2. Use the same pure seed definition (PSD 47) for ‘*Pinus brutia* Ten.’ as for ‘Pines II’ from Table 3.2.1.A.1 Part 1
3. Add ‘*Pinus brutia* Ten.’ to Table 5A Part 2 -Tree and shrub seeds, and repeat the current prescriptions for ‘*Pinus halepensis* Mill.’ in columns 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
4. Apply the existing Tetrazolium testing procedures to ‘*Pinus brutia* Ten.’ as currently appear for ‘*Pinus* spp.’ in Table 6A Part 2.
5. In common with moisture content testing for ‘All tree species’ – Apply Table 9B.

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	36
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	0
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

Item 4d Clarification of the term 'Double test'

Text following heading to Chapter 5 Germination, Table 5A Part 2 Tree and shrub seeds.

Current:

For certain species indicated in column 6, duplicate tests (with and without prechilling) are necessary. The less desirable methods are placed in brackets in the table.

Proposed:

For certain species in column 6, a double test (with and without prechilling) is mandatory. Alternative methods are placed in brackets in the table.

NOTE: Given the above changes in Item 4d, Table 13A will also need amending:

Proposed: For certain species in column 7, a double test (with and without prechilling) is mandatory.

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	37
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	0
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

Item 4e Clarification of how to report ungerminated seeds

5.6.5.A.3. Ungerminated seeds:

.....

2. Fresh seeds: Measures as described in Annexe 5.6.3.A. must be taken to induce germination, especially if large numbers are found. If fresh seeds are to be reported at a rate of 5% or more, it must be verified that these seeds have the potential to produce a normal seedling. This may be done with a tetrazolium test (Chapter 6) or other appropriate method (such as dissection, or embryo excision ~~or x-ray~~). If there is any doubt as to whether the seed is fresh or dead, then it must be classified as dead. The ungerminated and apparently fresh seed are then reclassified as fresh and any ungerminated dead seed added to the numbers of any dead seed already found.

.....

MAJOR Modification since printing. Withdraw?

5.6.5.A.3. Ungerminated seeds:

.....

2. Fresh seeds: measures as described in Annexe 5.6.3.A. must be taken to induce germination, especially if large numbers are found. If 5% or more fresh seeds are to be reported ~~at a rate of 5% or more, they~~ it must be tested with ~~verified that these seeds have the potential to produce a normal seedling. This may be done with a~~ tetrazolium ~~test~~ (Chapter 6) or other suitable appropriate ~~method~~ (such as dissection, or embryo excision ~~or x-ray~~) to verify that they are potentially viable and not dead. The number of seeds verified as potentially viable are retained in the fresh category. The number of seeds not verified as fresh are added to the number of dead seeds reported. If there is any doubt as to whether the seed is fresh or dead, then it must be classified as dead. The ungerminated and apparently fresh seed are then reclassified as fresh and any ungerminated dead seed added to the numbers of any dead seed already found.

.....

Proposed text would read:

5.6.5.A.3. Ungerminated seeds:

.....

2. Fresh seeds: measures as described in Annexe 5.6.3.A. must be taken to induce germination, especially if large numbers are found. If 5% or more fresh seeds are to be reported, they must be tested with tetrazolium (Chapter 6) or other suitable method (such as dissection or embryo excision) to verify that they are

potentially viable and not dead. The number of seeds verified as potentially viable are retained in the fresh category. The number of seeds not verified as fresh are added to the number of dead seeds reported.

.....
Vote to withdraw 4e to be voted on next year

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	32
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	2
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

Vote to accept 4e

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	

ITEM 5 PROPOSALS FOR ANNEXE TO CHAPTER 7, SEED HEALTH TESTING METHODS
Item 5a: Modifications and additions to the validated seed health testing methods.

New Method: 7-019 Detection of *Xanthomonas campestris* pv *campestris* (Black rot) on *Brassica* spp. (WITH centrifugation step)

Crop: *Brassica* spp. **Pathogen:** *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Campestris*

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	1
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	17
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	FAILED

New Method: 7-020 Detection of *Xanthomonas campestris* pv *campestris* (Black rot) on *Brassica* spp. (WITHOUT centrifugation step)

Crop: *Brassica* spp. **Pathogen:** *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris*

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	21
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	0
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

ITEM 6 PROPOSALS FOR CHAPTER 10, WEIGHT DETERMINATION

Items 6a Allowing pure seed for the 1000 seed weight determination to be taken from a fraction of the submitted sample

10.4. Procedure

Either the whole working sample (10.4.2.) or replicates of pure seed from it or from a representative fraction of the submitted sample (10.4.3.) shall be used.

10.4.1 Working sample

The working sample shall be the entire pure seed fraction of a purity analysis carried out in accordance with Chapter 3 of these Rules, or pure seed taken from a representative fraction of the submitted sample.....

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	42
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	0
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	PASSED

ITEM 7 PROPOSALS FOR CHAPTER 17, CERTIFICATES

ITEMS 7a, 7b and 7c

have been withdrawn by the Committees who submitted them

Item 7a Changes to the certificate statements

17.4.2 Orange International Seed Lot Certificate

- (j) ~~The following statement signed by Signature of the director of the issuing laboratory, or his assignee:~~ With his signature the signatory confirms the statement written on the back of the Certificate which reads as follows: ...

17.4.3 Green International Seed Lot Certificate

- (j) ~~The following statement signed by Signature of the director of the issuing laboratory, or his assignee:~~ With his signature the signatory confirms the statement written on the back of the Certificate which reads as follows: ...

17.4.4 Blue International Seed Sample Certificate

- (f) ~~The following statement signed by Signature of the director of the issuing laboratory, or his assignee:~~ With his signature the signatory confirms the statement written on the back of the Certificate which reads as follows: ...

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	WITHDRAWN

Item 7b Changes to the Green International Certificate statements

17.4.3 Green International Seed Lot Certificate

(j) ...:

“I certify that sampling, sealing and testing have been carried out in accordance with the International Rules for Seed Testing of the ISTA and that the tests have been made at ~~the Official Station authorised a~~ [laboratory accredited](#) by the International Seed Testing Association to issue International Seed Analysis Certificates.”

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	WITHDRAWN

Item 7c Changes to the Orange International Certificate statements

17.4.2 Orange International Seed Lot Certificate

For an Orange International Seed Lot Certificate, ~~the submitted sample must be tested by an authorised seed testing laboratory of the country in which the lot is located. The~~ [the](#) testing laboratory shall be responsible for sampling, sealing, labelling, testing and issuance of the Certificate.

NUMBER OF YES VOTES	
NUMBER OF NO VOTES	
DECISION (PASSED OR FAILED)	WITHDRAWN

After item 7c the Rules Chairman closed the voting procedure and opened the floor for discussion items where discussion with the membership was important.

The meeting continued with several technical items which should be discussed among the ISTA Membership to give guidance to the future work of the concerned Technical Committees and Task Forces.

ISTA GMO Task Force: Discussion Paper on how to include GM testing in the ISTA Rules

The Rules Chairman gave the floor to the Leader of the Rules Chapter Working Group of the ISTA GMO Task Force, Mr Michael Kruse, who elaborated on the background of what ultimately led to the discussion paper presented at the meeting ('Discussion Paper on how to include GM Testing into the ISTA Rules'). He further explained the performance based approach and pointed out the scope of the proposed new Chapter 8 of the Rules in a graph.

Representatives from South Africa, Australia and from ISF acknowledged the progress made and complimented the Working Group for its achievements. Mr Le Buanec stated that the approach had proven its viability in the ring tests conducted under the auspices of the GMO Task Force and that close cooperation with other bodies involved in conformity assessments and organising ring tests shall be sought. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, existing schemes for accreditation of GM testing may be recognised as equivalent. Ms Dixon and Mr Blackstock echoed this opinion. The latter further expressed his doubts in ISTA having the mandate to venture into activities that were outside its traditional scope.

The Chair expressed his conviction that ISTA had the competence and mandate to work on including GM testing in the Rules and solicited the meetings comment whether to continue the work done by the Task Force. The following contributions indicated that there were implications that needed to be taken into account, like questions pertaining to accreditation issues, to subcontracting and to the appropriateness of including GM testing in the chapter on purity analysis.

After a lively discussion the Chairman of the corresponding Working Group, Mr Kruse, concluded that the membership supported the idea of having a rules proposal for the inclusion of GM testing in the ISTA Rules which will be presented at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Association in 2005.

The membership also supported the idea to continue to work on a performance based approach.

The Chair concluded to continue this work, together with ISF and OECD. With regard to mutual recognition arrangements with other accreditation bodies, as suggested by various comments, he stated that ISTA was in contact with other conformity assessment bodies. He stressed that ISTA Certificates were the means of reporting test results under ISTA Accreditation and solely for the use by ISTA Accredited laboratories.

Reformatting of the ISTA Rules: Amalgamation of Rules and Annexes

Mr Jones was asked to give a presentation on reformatting the Rules.

The Rules Chair acknowledged Mr Jim Sheppard's considerable contributions in the past, notably towards the new format of the Rules. He pointed out recommendations following discussions with Technical Committees and the Executive Committee. The proposal recommended by the Executive Committee and the Chairpersons of the Technical Committees was to fully merge the rules and annexes of the current ISTA Rules into one text.

He further mentioned that to proceed efficiently in that question the Rules Committee needed some powers.

He equally suggested transferring Chapter 17 to the beginning of the Rules (as Chapter 1) in order not to have to renumber it every time a new chapter was included.

He gave a comprehensive overview of the intended structure of the Rules.

He also proposed to install a group of scrutinisers to efficiently control the work of the Rules Chair. The scrutiny team should be existing of people who have long term commitment with ISTA and severed in the Executive Committee.

As a time frame he proposed a step by step approach, most likely chapter by chapter.

In the discussion, the concern was raised whether this change was really needed and driven by concerns of seed analyst.

Also as costs were involved, laboratories had already invested in translating previous or the current version of the rules and the time frame for achieving the amalgamation was not yet defined.

There was consensus that all aspects have to be balanced carefully.

The incoming President, Mr Oosterveld stated that this task will be managed by the Executive Committee and that before starting, the total efforts and costs need to be evaluated. Based on these figures the Executive Committee would make a decision.

The Chairman of the Bulking and Sampling Committee, Mr Kruse, requested a decision of the Executive Committee quickly.

The President adjourned the meeting at 1752 hrs on May 20, 2004 to be continued the next day.

DAY 2, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2004

The President opened the meeting at 0835 hrs, Friday, May 21, 2004.

As a first item a list of candidates for the new Executive Committee was presented in preparation of the election to be held later on.

For the office of the First Vice-President two candidates applied:

Ms Katalin Ertsey, Hungary
Mr John Hampton, New Zealand

As Members-at-large of the Executive Committee the following candidates applied:

Mr Joseph Ahenda, Kenya
Mr José Manuel Chavez Bravo, Mexico
Mr Wen-Deh Chen, Taiwan
Ms Katalin Ertsey, Hungary
Mr John Hampton, New Zealand
Mr Steve Jones, United Kingdom
Mr Joël Léchappé, France
Mr Jeffrey Luhanga, Malawi
Ms Susan Maxon, United States
Ms Grethe Tarp, Denmark
Ms Rita Zecchinelli, Italy

Report from the Accreditation Department

This presentation was given by the Head of the ISTA Accreditation Department, Ms Martina Roesch, based on the Auditors Annual Meeting, held in the previous Sunday in connection with the Congress. In reply to a number of questions from the house, Ms Roesch confirmed that a complaint procedure at the Accreditation Department was in place and that minutes from the auditors meeting will be circulated to reflect discussions about the various topics. To the question how auditors were recruited, Ms Roesch made reference to requirements related to such appointment and that no requests from some areas of the world had been received. Mr Hampton reiterated the Executive Committee's endeavour to have technical auditors in all regions of the world, not implying that they were only to work in their respective area.

Reports from the Technical Committees

The President of the Association proceeded to thank the Technical Committees and the Editorial Board for their excellent work and called the Committees' representatives on stage to answer questions from the audience. The Technical Committees' work had been presented during the last days and in the 'Activity Report 2003/2004 of the ISTA Committees' [document Internal Items/M/D(2004)05] published by the Secretariat and distributed to the membership, main stakeholders and the participants of the Meeting and posted on the ISTA Website. Presents were handed over to each Committee Chair or representative:

Rules Committee (represented by Mr Steve Jones, Chair)
Bulking and Sampling Committee (represented by Mr Michael Kruse, Chair)
Purity Committee (represented by Mr Ken Allison, Chair)
Germination Committee (represented by Mr Joël Léchappé, Chair)
Tetrazolium Committee (represented by Mr Ronald Don, Vice-Chair)
Seed Health Committee (represented by Ms Valerie Cockerell, Vice-Chair)
Variety Committee (represented by Mr Harm Huttinga, Chair)
Moisture Committee (represented by Mr Harry Nijënstein, Chair)
Vigour Committee (represented by Ms Alison Powell, Chair)
Nomenclature Committee (represented by Mr Ken Allison, Member)
Seed Storage Committee (represented by Mr David Mycock, Chair)
Flower Seed Committee (represented by Ms Rita Zipka, Chair)
Tree and Shrub Seed Committee (represented by Ms Zdenka Prochazkova, Chair)
Statistics Committee (represented by Mr Sylvain Grégoire, Chair)
Proficiency Test Committee (represented by Mr Doug Ashton, Chair)
Editorial Board (represented by Ms Anne Bülow-Olsen, Chief Editor)
GMO Task Force (represented by Mr Norbert Leist, Chair and
 Mr Michael Kruse, Rules Chapter Working Group Leader
 Ms Bettina Kahlert, Proficiency Test Working Group Leader
 Mr Enrico Noli, Information Exchange Working Group Leader)

The committee representatives thanked their respective collaborators for their contributions and answered questions from the audience with respect to activity reports.

Mr Kruse, Bulking and Sampling Committee (BSC) Chair, pointed out that the experiment on the increase of seed lot size for herbage crops has been finalised. The BSC will be prepared to participate in the development of a new experiment on the increase of the seed lot size on herbage seed lots provided that other relevant bodies (e.g. OECD, ISF, EU) will also participate in that meeting. However he indicate that ISTA will not take the lead or initiative to start such an experiment.

On a request towards ISTA regarding the increase in seed lot size from 25 to 30 tonnes in cereals, Mr Kruse explained that due to the decision and recommendation of ISF and OECD the BSC will provide a rules proposal for the Ordinary Meeting 2005 to increase the lot size for cereals from 25 to 30 tonnes. He pointed out that no data on 30 ton lots are available at this moment. The BSC will make efforts to collect existing data.

He further declared to be looking at the next year for finalising the merging of the two parts of Chapter 2 of the Rules. Revising the chapter and including paragraphs dealing with different lot sizes may take longer, depending on discussions to be held with the Rules Committee.

Mr Allison, Purity Committee, announced the next Chair to be Ms Maria-Rosaria Mannino.

Mr Léchappé, Germination Committee, announced the next Chair to be Mr Ronald Don.

Mr Don, Tetrazolium Committee, announced the next Chair to be Ms Stefanie Krämer.

Ms Cockerel, Seed Health Committee, announced to take over the Chair from Mr Sheppard, whom she thanked for his work of the last decade.

Mr Huttinga, Variety Committee, announced Mr Rainer Knoblauch to take over the Chair from beginning of next year.

Mr Grégoire, Statistics Committee, explained that the Statistics Handbook was available as hardcopy from the Secretariat or as download from the website.

Mr Ashton, Proficiency Test Committee, announced the next chair to be Mr Günter Müller and made reference to his previous presentation on changes in the rating of proficiency

test rounds. A re-evaluation of recent rounds will be made, based solely on normal seedlings for germination tests and on a separation of retrieval from identification in other seed determination (OSD). He further reported that it had not yet been decided whether to disregard generally problematic species for the use as inclusion (OSD). Ms Mazor raised a concern having differences between reporting for the purpose of proficiency tests and reporting test results on ISTA Certificates.

Looking at the species to be used for proficiency tests in the coming triennial period, Mr Ahenda from Kenya judged it to be a well-balanced choice and volunteered to assist in providing material for tropical species.

Ms Bülow-Olsen, Editorial Board, was asked for the reasons for the allegedly high rejection rate for articles submitted for publication to the journal 'Seed Science and Technology'. Two reasons were stated, one being the costs involved in increasing the number of pages of the publication, the second being the quality requirements for articles presented.

Ms Kahlert, Proficiency Test Working Group Leader of the GMO Task Force, had previously given a presentation (0953 - 1015) on a draft on "The ISTA Proficiency Test Programme on GM Seed Testing", which was complemented by Mr Grégoire's explanations concerning evaluation and rating of test results. In reply to questions from the audience, she confirmed that other species than maize would be taken into consideration in future. She also confirmed that participation would remain open to non-members along the lines of arrangements for non-member participation in the regular proficiency test rounds. The increasingly problematic dispatch of samples to participants was acknowledged.

Mr Kruse, as Leader of the Rules Chapter Working Group of the ISTA GMO Task Force, explained the further ongoing in regards the to the ISTA GMO Rules Chapter. He emphasised that due to the short time that is left for working on the Rules Chapter for inclusion as Rules Proposal for the ISTA Ordinary Meeting 2005, two options are thinkable: Albeit having little time, in the range of half a year, a proposal could be drafted to attempt to be voted on at the next Ordinary Meeting, however would require some special efforts. The second option he presented was to elaborate a handbook first, gather experience and eventually use this in formulating a relevant Rules Chapter to be included after 2005.

Mr Leist, Chair of the ISTA GMO Task Force took it from there and indicated that the time planning would remain an important topic, but needs to be placed on the agenda of the new Executive Committee for their upcoming meeting.

He further thanked the Working Group Leaders for having helped him by carrying most of the workload.

(14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY A MEMBER, OF WHICH NOTICE IN WRITING HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING

The Secretary General declared that no due notice of any other business to be discussed at the meeting had been received.

(15) ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY CONSENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chair took the opportunity to honour three outstanding members of the ISTA family for their extraordinary contributions to the Association: Mr Jim W. Sheppard, Mr Alexander (Sandy) B. Ednie and Mr Doug B. Ashton, all three from the Canadian Food

Inspection Agency (CFIA) in Ottawa. On behalf of the Executive Committee and the whole Association, he expressed his best wishes and presented three awards as a gesture of acknowledgment and appreciation.

(16) ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The two candidates to the office of the First Vice-President introduced themselves and gave a short presentation of approximately two minutes.

Ms Katalin Ertsey from Hungary expressed her conviction of bright prospects for ISTA. In case of her election, as the first lady and the first representative of an eastern European country on this position, she was prepared to face new challenges and, at the same time, maintain ISTA's traditional values.

Mr John Hampton from New Zealand highlighted its people and its truly international set-up as ISTA's greatest assets. As First Vice-President and ultimately President and after 30 years of work in the Associations' 80 years of existence, he would contribute to ISTA being a vital and important player for the next 80 years.

The Secretary General reminded the voting delegates of the procedure and appointed Ms Bülow-Olsen and Mr Grégoire together with himself and Ms Raubo as enumerators. He further appointed Mr Lovato as observer and opened the ballot. During enumeration the candidates standing for election as Executive Committee Members-at-large introduced themselves in short presentations:

Mr Joseph Ahenda, Kenya
Mr José Manuel Chavez Bravo, Mexico
Mr Wen-Deh Chen, Taiwan
Ms Katalin Ertsey, Hungary
Mr John Hampton, New Zealand
Mr Steve Jones, United Kingdom
Mr Joël Léchappé, France
Mr Jeffrey Luhanga, Malawi
Ms Susan Maxon, United States
Ms Grethe Tarp, Denmark
Ms Rita Zecchinelli, Italy

(17) INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Following enumeration of the votes, Officers and Members-at-large for the period 2004 to 2007 were announced as follows:

Officers:

President	Mr Pieter Oosterveld, The Netherlands
First Vice-President	Ms Katalin Ertsey, Hungary
Second Vice-President	Mr Silmar Peske, Brazil

Members-at-large:

Mr Joseph Ahenda, Kenya
Mr José Manuel Chavez Bravo, Mexico
Mr John Hampton, New Zealand
Mr Steve Jones, United Kingdom

Mr Joël Léchappé, France
Ms Susan Maxon, United States
Ms Grethe Tarp, Denmark
Ms Rita Zecchinelli, Italy

(18) ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOCATION AND DATES OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETINGS

During enumeration of votes, presentations were given by Mr Chulhathep Pongsroyech on Thailand and Mr Silmar Peske on Brazil.

Date and location for the next meetings were announced as follows:

- ISTA Ordinary Meeting 2005 - Bangkok, Thailand - April 25 - 28
- ISTA Ordinary Meeting 2006 - Zurich, Switzerland
- 28th ISTA Congress 2007 – Iguassu Falls, Brazil

(19) PRESIDENT'S CLOSING ADDRESS

The outgoing President thanked all participants, the Hungarian Organising Committee and the local organiser for their valuable contributions and for their hard work having made the event a successful congress. He presented certificates to the members of the previous Executive Committee in appreciation of their efforts. Mr Leist then officially handed over to the incoming President, Mr Oosterveld.

The President, in the name of the Association, expressed his thankfulness to Alice and Norbert Leist, extending it to Ms Jonitz and the staff of the former President's laboratory. Each of the outgoing Executive Committee members addressed Mr Leist in a short statement of appreciation.

(20) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on May 21, 2004 at 1550 hrs.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

(in alphabetical order by country, by participant name)

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