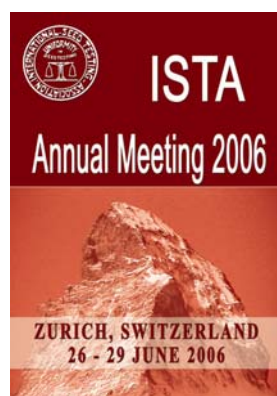


MINUTES OF THE ISTA ORDINARY MEETING 2006

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISION AT THE
ORDINARY MEETING 2007**



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING 2006

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International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)
Zurichstrasse 50, P.O. Box 308
8303 Bassersdorf, CH-Switzerland

E-mail: ista.office@ista.ch • Url: <http://www.seedtest.org>

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INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes and concludes the discussions and decisions of the ISTA Ordinary Meeting 2006 in Glattbrugg/Zurich, Switzerland, June 28 and 29. 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 Website www.seedtest.org or from the ISTA Secretariat.

THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Ordinary Meeting was opened on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 09:00 by the President of ISTA, Mr. Pieter Oosterveld who welcomed all participants, especially the invited guests from FAO (Mr. Michael Larinde), OECD (Mr. Michael Ryan), ISF (Mr. Bernard Le Buanec), AOSA (Mr. Wayne Guerke), ISST (Mr. Brent Reschly) and SADC (Mr. Edward Zulu). As a special guest and representative from ESA, Mr. Gisbert Kley had been invited to speak about the development of the seed industry in Europe and the role of ISTA. The presentation of Mr. Kley obtained a lot of interest and appreciation from the delegates and is available for download from the ISTA Website.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

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) Presentation of the ISTA Draft Strategy
- (8) Discussion of the ISTA Draft Strategy with the ISTA Membership
- (9) Constitution Changes
- (10) Fixation of annual subscriptions
- (11) Consideration and Adoption of the proposed Rules Changes 2006
- (12) Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Technical Committees
- (13) Announcement of the place and date of the next Ordinary Meeting
- (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) President's closing address
- (17) Adjournment

(2) PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President of ISTA referred to his address published in the April 2006 issue no. 131 of *Seed Testing International* where he had given a report on the latest activities of the Association and his speech today would give an update on the developments made since then until the meeting of the Executive Committee which was held three days ago. He stated that the Association in general is doing well in view of the Executive Committee, as good progress is made on many items. Mainly he accentuated on the ISTA Technical Committees and their presentations given during the past two days.

As further positive developments he mentioned ISTA's position internationally, the enlargement of the membership of the Association, the increase of interest in the work of ISTA and the successfulness of the introduced annual meetings. A particular achievement was the successful signing of a memorandum of understanding with FAO and the President expressed sincere thanks to Ms. Louise Fresco, Mr. Arturo Martinez and Mr. Michael Larinde from FAO for their cooperation in making this recognition of ISTA possible.

He then called up the ISTA Executive Committee member by member and thanked them for their active work and support, especially in regards to the fact that there is no financial support supplied to the members of the Executive Committee by ISTA for any travel or other expenses occurring in relation to their efforts for the Association:

Attilio Lovato (Italy)	Honorary President
Katalin Ertsey (Hungary)	1 st Vice-President
Silmar Peske (Brazil)	2 nd Vice-President
Joseph Ahenda (Kenya)	Member-at-Large
Jose Manuel Chavez Bravo (Mexico)	Member-at-Large
John Hampton (New Zealand)	Member-at-Large
Steve Jones (United Kingdom)	Member-at-Large
Joël Léchappé (France)	Member-at-Large
Susan Maxon (United States)	Member-at-Large
Grethe Tarp (Denmark)	Member-at-Large
Rita Zecchinelli (Italy)	Member-at-Large

As no Asian country is currently represented in the Executive Committee, the President particularly invites delegates from this region to candidate for election at the ISTA Congress 2007 during which new members will be appointed for the Executive Committee for the upcoming triennium.

The President then assured the audience that the working groups of the Executive Committee are active and have achieved a lot of progress. Besides the members of the Executive Committee, he specially thanked the Secretary General for his huge engagement in the work of these working groups in all of which he is involved as a member.

He then referred to the presentation of the Accreditation Department the day before and praised the developments in the ISTA Accreditation Standard which was successfully installed 10 years ago and the good performance of the ISTA accredited laboratories in comparison with non-ISTA accredited laboratories. The latest developments in this area are the implementation of ISTA accreditation for the testing of specified traits which is an achievement reported by the ISTA GMO Task Force on the previous day.

The President then continued in updating the audience on the progress of the various Executive Committee Working Groups:

A presentation from the Method Validation Working Group of the Executive Committee was announced for the next day as a development from the decision made to implement method validation as an important part of method development. The President explained the Executive Committee prepares to make the final decision the ISTA Method Validation Programme in November 2006, agreeing to put it into force on January 1, 2007.

Based on the conclusion that it has no value to developing a monitoring system without considering the need for it, the President informed the membership of the corresponding decision of the Executive Committee last year to dissolve the Working Group on Monitoring. He further elucidated for those governments that still want to monitor the laboratories within their country, the Executive Committee recommends the use of the monitoring system of OECD.

A report from the Working Group on Tropical Seed was announced to be held later during the meeting. But the President informed the audience about a meeting with delegates from Africa that had been held as a follow up on the first meeting in 2001, where a lot of requests had been put forward requiring ISTA to do more work in the area of tropical seeds. As a reaction on this, the Executive Committee had installed a Working Group on Tropical Seed, with the aim to bring together people from the tropical areas to cooperate

in this work. After this second meeting the President was happy to conclude that this work was progressing well.

The aim of the Working Group on Fundraising is to collect resources to support the work of the Association in activities that can not be financed from the current budget. The fundraising of the working group will mainly focus on the ISTA Training Programme, which was also part of the discussion in the meeting with the African delegates. In this regard the President mentioned the collaboration with FAO and AFSTA in particular. The plan of the working group is to establish an adequate a training programme with the aim to increase the number of ISTA accredited laboratories in Africa, and to make a programme which is attractive for sponsors.

ISTA has also reacted to the requests for a programme for seed analyst training. The corresponding Working Group of the Executive Committee has worked out an uncomplicated and convincing approach, which will allow ISTA accredited laboratories to perform their own training programme for seed analysts under the umbrella of ISTA, under the precondition that the ISTA Committee which will be put in place for this purpose, agrees that this training programme of the ISTA accredited laboratory in conformity with the requirements of ISTA. If this is assured, the laboratory may perform its training as ISTA Seed Analyst Training and the successful participants would get an official ISTA Certificate for the passed education. This programme is still under discussion in the Executive Committee and will be finalised at their meeting in November 2006 and should come into force on January 1st, 2007.

The President did not go into details on the efforts of the Working Group on the updating of the Constitution, as the 'Proposed Changes to the ISTA Constitution' to be voted on later in the meeting was a result of their work everyone was aware of.

Based on the suggestions from the Working Group on ISTA Congresses and Meetings, the Executive Committee has reached a decision concerning a new structure for ISTA Congresses, to be implemented after 2007. The President explained that the changes would not impact the frequency of ISTA Meetings which would remain at triennial Congresses with two Annual Meetings in the years between. But the order of affairs within the Congress should be changed.

Currently the Congress starts with 2 days of Technical Committee Meetings followed by 3 days Seed Symposium and concluded by 2 days Ordinary Meeting. After the Congress in Brazil the Executive Committee will change the structure to be 3 days Seed Symposium followed by 2 days Technical Committee Meetings, 1 day business unit meetings and 1 day Ordinary Meeting.

Also structural changes are foreseen for the Annual Meetings which will in future include a 1 day symposium and the Ordinary Meeting would be reduced to 1 day only as for the new Congress structure. The reason is that the Executive Committee realised that since the introduction of annual meetings in 2002 which allows for more regular discussions of the affairs of the Association, these can be dealt with in 1 day of Ordinary Meeting in future.

Regarding the Working Group on Certificates, the President reflected on the presentation and discussions on the day before and concluded that there were two items to consider in this regard. One was the question of the deletion of the Green Certificates, the other one was the corresponding changes in the text as published in the 'Proposed Rules Changes 2006'. Whereas the deletion of the Green Certificates seemed to get the general support from the members of the Association, there were quite some discussions regarding the proposed text for the ISTA Rules Chapter 17. Following the discussions with the membership on the day before, the Executive Committee had concluded that the current text did not enough reflect the wishes inside and outside the Association. Furthermore, the re-drafting of a corresponding new text during the meeting was not considered to be a good solution, as this new text could not be circulated to other members of the

Association which were not present at the meeting. Consequently, the members of Executive Committee recommend an other solution which should be distributed in writing to all participants during the meeting (see page XX). The President explained that they would like to discuss now the question of deleting the Green Certificate and get a decision on this item from the voting delegates during the meeting. Yet, the decision of the voting delegates would not come into force until approval of a new text for the ISTA Rules Chapter 17. A revised text taking into account the feedback from the discussions during this meeting would be prepared by the Executive Committee for vote in the 'Proposed Rules Changes 2007'.

Another discussion dealt with by the Working Group on Certificates is the question of languages on the Certificates. The ISTA Certificates currently read 3 languages, which is English, French and German. The Association has received requests for making available its Certificates also in other languages. A solution suggested is to also give the option of ISTA Certificates in English and any other second language of desire. The pre-condition for releasing this kind of ISTA Certificates would be that the additional costs arising from the printing of these Certificates would have to be borne by the claimant.

The President then informed the audience that the Executive Committee was dealing with a request from an ISTA accredited company laboratory to put the ISTA Logo on seed bags. After some discussion on the subject, the members of the Executive Committee have decided to consult with ISF on this question. The President explained that the Executive Committee generally was positive on the question of having the ISTA Logo on seed bags, however the consequences for the seed trade could must be realised and a patent procedure needs to be elaborated on the basis of this.

With this information he closed the reports on the various Working Groups of the Executive Committee.

Before concluding his address, the President did not fail to congratulate and thank the various ISTA Technical Committees, the ISTA GMO Task Force and the ISTA Editorial Board for their active work and strong commitment to the Association.

Also he expressed his thankfulness to the several universities, institutes and companies making this work possible in allowing their employees to use part of their working time for ISTA activities.

The President only mentioned two items related to Technical Committees, as their activities had been reported to the participants already earlier in the week. The first item is the amalgamation of the ISTA Rules, an ongoing process involving all Technical Committees of the Association. The work on this merger is tremendous, but evolving well and the time line of January 1st, 2009 for the new amalgamated version of the ISTA Rules likely to be achieved.

The second item put in the picture by the President were the Workshops of ISTA. He mentioned how pleased he was that the aim of performing more ISTA Workshops has been achieved so successfully. He explained that an overview on the ISTA Workshops already performed and yet to come would be given later in the report of the Secretary General and thanked again FAO and APSA for their support and collaboration in this area.

With regards to international cooperation of the Association the President confirmed the continued exchange with international and regional governmental and trade associations as well as scientific/technical non-governmental organisations. He pointed out that the Secretary General is very active in this area and participates in a lot of such meetings where he is discussing a great deal with the representatives of other organisations. The Executive Committee finds it extremely important for ISTA to be represented in this framework of international discussions to promote the Association and its work on international level.

At these meetings, there are a lot of dialogues with other people. One conclusion from these discussions is that the clear benefits of ISTA need to be highlighted more during these meetings to make people more aware of the extensive and excellent work of ISTA. In particular the orientation of ISTA on newly arising techniques like DNA technology in GM and variety testing needs to be stressed more to better underline the work of the Association in these fields. With all respect and appreciation to the work of the ISTA Technical Committees, the Executive Committee thinks that the picture that some people have who do not know the Association well should be taken serious. Considering this, the Executive Committee has agreed on the installation of a Committee on Advanced Technologies. The aim of the Committee should be to perform the signalling of emerging technologies that may be important for ISTA members and will report these to the ISTA Executive Committee. Valuable technologies acknowledged by this committee would then be passed on to the relevant ISTA Technical Committee. In addition the Committee should be a new possibility for interaction with the seed people that may currently have the impression that ISTA is not active in their fields of interest, and to help ISTA to exchange information with the outside.

The President then referred to a conversation he had with the ESA representative Mr. Gisbert Kley regarding major concerns about the developments in the financing of scientific research on seed testing and development of methods. They had agreed that this challenge was not to be solved on an international level, but rather country by country. Mr. Kley had then invited ISTA to supply him with a description of the demands of the near and long term future research in our areas which could then be brought to the attention of the respective governments for funding. If the seed trade could achieve more funding for the areas of activities of ISTA, this could only be of benefit to the Association.

The Executive Committee had established a Draft ISTA Strategy to be discussed with the ISTA Members during the meeting. The final strategy paper should be implemented at the ISTA Ordinary Meeting in 2007. Therefore the President highlighted how important it is to get the opinions of the members on the draft strategy now, in order to enable the Executive Committee to discuss the comments received and to re-examine the paper if necessary.

Regarding the finances of the Association, details would be provided in the report of the Secretary General later on. Nevertheless, the President found it essential to mention that although the financial situation of the Association is in order, owed to the good management of it by the staff of the ISTA Secretariat, funding would always be welcome.

Coming back to the ISTA Secretariat, the President underlined that the staff of ISTA works very hard for the Association. In their office based in Switzerland, a lot of requests come in both from inside and outside ISTA and the staff does its utmost to assist to these requests and to the members, Technical Committees and the Executive Committee of ISTA at its best.

Summarising his address, the President concluded that the Executive Committee is very pleased about the achieved Memorandum of Understanding with FAO, the increasing interest in the work and activities of the Association, that ISTA has and continues to have good relations within the international network, the sound financial situation of the Association, the work provided by the Technical Committees and the Task Force and the fact that the Executive Committee is a good team. In closing he thanked the professional staff of ISTA and the participants present at the meeting for their support.

(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. The Secretary General clarified that he was to read out the list of Designated Members entitled to vote for each country as confirmed by the corresponding Designated Authority and approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of ISTA. He asked each Designated Member called upon to please stand up to receive the envelope containing the voting cards valid for this meeting.

The Secretary General then explained that there would be a count of validated Designated Members at the beginning of the second day of the Ordinary Meeting and at any other time that it appeared that the number may have significantly decreased.

The roll call was read out by the Secretary General in alphabetical order, following the ISO country codes (0 = no delegate entitled to vote present from this country, 1 = voting delegate present):

Albania (AL):	0
Argentina (AR):	1
Austria (AT):	0
Australia (AU):	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA):	1
Bangladesh (BD):	0
Belgium (BE):	1
Bulgaria (BG):	1
Bolivia (BO):	0
Brazil (BR):	1
Canada (CA):	1
Switzerland (CH):	1
Chile (CL):	1
China (CN):	0
Colombia (CO):	0
Cyprus (CY):	1
Czech Republic (CZ):	1
Germany (DE):	1
Denmark (DK):	1
Estonia (EE):	1
Egypt (EG):	1
Spain (ES):	1
Finland (FI):	1
France (FR):	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (GB):	1
Greece (GR):	0
Croatia (HR):	0
Hungary (HU):	1
Ireland (IE):	1
Israel (IL):	0
India (IN):	0
Iran (IR):	0

Italy (IT):	1
Japan (JP):	1
Kenya (KE):	1
Korea, D.P.R. of (KP):	0
Korea, Republic of (KR):	0
Sri Lanka (LK):	0
Lithuania (LT):	1
Luxembourg (LU):	1
Latvia (LV):	0
Malawi (MW):	0
Mexico (MX):	1
The Netherlands (NL):	1
Norway (NO):	1
Nepal (NP):	0
New Zealand (NZ):	1
The Philippines (PH):	1
Pakistan (PK):	0
Poland (PL):	1
Portugal (PT):	0
Romania (RO):	1
Russia (RU):	0
Sweden (SE):	1
Slovenia (SI):	0
Slovakian Republic (SK):	1
Syrian Arab Republic (SY):	0
Thailand (TH):	0
Tunisia (TN):	0
Turkey (TR):	0
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (TW):	1
Tanzania (TZ):	0
Ukraine (UA):	0
Uganda (UG):	1
The United States (US):	1
Uruguay (UY):	0
Vietnam (VN):	0
Serbia and Montenegro (YU):	1
South Africa (ZA):	1
Zambia (ZM):	1
Zimbabwe (ZW):	1
Total number of Voting Delegates present to carry out the voting rights On behalf of their government according to the roll call:	42

The Secretary General asked if there was any country with Designated Members present that had not been called and apologised for any incorrect pronunciation of delegates names.

He then cited the Article X(d) of the ISTA Constitution 'Designated Members designated by forty percent of the Designated Authorities shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the Association. In determining the percentage, fractions less than 0.50 shall be dropped and those 0.50 or greater shall be regarded as a whole number'.

The Secretary General concluded that according to the roll, the total number of countries entitled to vote was 71, meaning that 28 voting delegates needed to be present at the meeting to reach the quorum. Therefore, with 42 voting delegates being present, the Secretary General declared the meeting quorate.

For clarification of the voting, the ISTA Constitution Article IX(a) was cited: 'Irrespective of the number of Designated Members designated by a single Government, only one vote may be cast on behalf of that Government'.

The Secretary General continued to give further clarification in regards to the voting procedure as determined by the Executive Committee: a majority will at all times be based on those actually voting on any motion, and not on those eligible to vote. The number deemed to be voting is the sum of the 'yes' and the 'no' votes. An abstention is a decision not to vote and therefore has no effect on the calculation of votes. The required majority, two third or simple, is calculated from the number of those voting. The actual number required for a two third majority may therefore differ for each motion.

For simple majority voting at Ordinary Meetings of the Association, if a clear majority of either 'yes' or 'no' cards can be identified by viewing the audience, the votes will not be counted. However, vote counts will be made in case of such a request from a member or on request of the President if in doubt.

He elucidated that with the right to vote goes the right to abstain from voting, but there will not be any call for abstentions.

All voting delegates received an envelope containing a green 'yes' card and a red 'no' card for the voting on all items proposed. According to Article IX(b) of the ISTA Constitution, the following categories of motions require for adoption a two thirds majority of those voting: motions to alter the Constitution, motions to dissolve the Association and motions arising during the meeting and relating to temporary adjournment, closing of debate or postponement of action. All other motions require a simple majority of those voting for adoption.

In closing the Secretary General appointed Mrs. Anne Bülow-Olsen and Mr. Sylvain Grégoire to perform the counting of votes and drew the delegates' attention to the fact that all statements were recorded.

(4) READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Association held on April 27, 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand were published by the Secretariat as document 'Minutes of the ISTA Ordinary Meeting 2005' [document Internal Items/M/D(2005)55] and distributed to the membership, main stakeholders, the participants of the Meeting and were posted on the ISTA Website in November 2005.

The Secretary General declared that he had not received any comments from the membership on the minutes and the President then asked if there were any questions to the minutes from the audience, which was not the case.

Hence the minutes were unanimously accepted by the members by applause and the Secretary General declared the minutes as adopted.

(5) REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President of the Association reminded the participants that the report of the Executive Committee has been published by the Secretariat in the 'Activity Report 2005 of the ISTA Committees' [document Internal Items/M/D(2006)03] on pages 3 to 6 and distributed to the membership, main stakeholders, the participants of the Ordinary Meeting and posted on the ISTA Website. Also he had highlighted the most of the items that the Executive Committee is working on in his address at the beginning of the Ordinary Meeting.

The floor was then given to Ms. Grethe Tarp as chair of the Executive Committee Working Group on Tropical Seeds for an update on their activities.

Ms. Tarp reported that a questionnaire on tropical seeds had been sent out to the ISTA Members in November 2004. The compiled results had been reported at the ISTA Annual Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand in April 2005.

One result from the questionnaire was a list of tropical seeds which are not yet described in the ISTA Rules. However, after examination of this list, the Working Group has found that some of these species already are described in the ISTA Rules, and that a number of names which had been indicated were synonyms to species that already are described in the ISTA Rules. Another amount of species indicated are not normally being reproduced by seed. As a result, the list could be reduced considerably to include a number of only 12 species of tropical seeds that are not yet described in the ISTA Rules.

Most relevant tropical species to be included in the ISTA Rules

From the ISTA Questionnaire on Tropical Seeds

Kenya

Species:	Methods in order of priority:			
	Purity:	Germination viability:	Moisture:	Other methods, please specify:
<i>Cleome hassleriana</i>	PSD NO. 10	TP: 20-30 ⁰ C; 7, 21 days	Grind, low const. temp. oven method	
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	PSD NO. 10	TP: 20-30 ⁰ C; 7, 14 days	"	
<i>Physalis peruviana</i>	PSD NO. 10	TP: 20-30 ⁰ C; 7, 21 days	"	
<i>Passiflora edulis</i>	PSD NO. 10	Sand: 20-30 ⁰ C; 7, 14 days	"	
<i>Carica papaya</i>	PSD NO. 10	Sand: 20-30 ⁰ C; 7, 28 days	Cut into pieces, dry at high const. temp. oven method	
<i>Bupleurum rotundifolium</i>	PSD NO. 15	TP: 20-30 ⁰ C; 7, 28 days; KNO ₃ ; pre-chill	Grind, low const. temp. oven method	
<i>Zantedeschia spp.</i>	PSD NO. 10	TP: 20-30 ⁰ C; 7, 42 days	Grind, low const. temp. oven method	

India

Species:	Purity:	Germination:	Moisture:	Tetrazolium:
<i>Benincasa hispida</i>	yes	yes	yes	yes
<i>Echinochloa colona</i>	yes	yes	yes	yes
<i>Guizotia abyssinica</i>	yes	yes	yes	yes
<i>Pennisetum pedicellatum</i>	yes	yes	yes	yes
<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>	yes	yes	yes	yes

This list has been presented to the participants of the meeting held between the ISTA representatives of Africa and the ISTA Executive Committee two days ago. It had been agreed that the representatives of the laboratories from the region would indicate to the Working Group on which species they would take the lead on. How to proceed would then be discussed at the forthcoming ISTA Purity Workshop in Kenya next month, where they would use the Draft ISTA Method Validation Programme.

Ms. Tarp elucidated that the work on the introduction of new species is a continuous work and therefore encouraged to bring forward other relevant suggestions in the area of tropical seeds.

The President thanked the Working Group for the efforts and progress made and concluded the report of the Executive Committee since there were no more questions to it from the audience.

(6) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretary General of the Association, Mr. Michael Muschick, highlighted that the details of his report was presented in the 'Activity Report 2005 of the ISTA Committees' [document Internal Items/M/D(2006)03], pages 7 to 27, and had previously been circulated to the membership, main stakeholders and the participants of the Ordinary Meeting and posted on the ISTA Website.

Mr. Muschick started by concluding that the year 2005 had been a successful year for the Association in many ways, with good developments in the membership, sound finances and good progress in the Technical Committees.

With regards to membership, the Secretary General gave an overview on the current situation which is stable with a small but steady increase.

He then reported on the first of the four business areas of ISTA, the Quality Assurance System. Three ISTA Proficiency Tests have been conducted in 2005 and some data was shown as to the differences in the performance level of ISTA Accredited towards non-ISTA Accredited laboratories, confirming the accreditation efforts of ISTA in reaching the goal of uniformity in seed testing worldwide. A total of 26 laboratories have been newly accredited (6) or re-accredited (20) in the past year, adding up to a total of 99 laboratories accredited by ISTA worldwide by the time of the meeting.

Regarding development of seed testing methods, he summarised the highlights in 2005 as being the introduction of an approach and accreditation system for GM testing laboratories, the complete revision of the Chapters 2 and 8 of the ISTA *International Rules for Seed Testing*, the introduction of a new method for the detection of *Xanthomonas hortorum* pv. *Carotae*, and the introduction of organic growing media as primary substrate for sunflower germination, next to the 15 Rules Proposals that had been put forward for voting at the Ordinary Meeting 2005.

As to the sales of the ISTA Rules, he declared that the number of copies sold was stable at an approximate number of 350 issues sold per annum.

In the area of seed science, the Secretary General was satisfied to report that for the for ISTA's journal *Seed Science and Technology* the figures remained at the high level of 600 subscriptions sold per year as already in 2004. The financial situation of the journal concluded with a small profit in 2005, a rewarding fact after the previous years of creating a loss for the Association.

Under the subject of promotion of uniform application of the ISTA Rules, Mr. Muschick could report eight educational workshops performed by ISTA on different areas of seed testing issues during the year 2005.

Coming to the sales of ISTA Handbooks, it is obvious that much less ISTA publications could be sold in 2005. This clearly is due to the fact that in 2004 an enormously high number of ISTA publications were sold in conjunction with the release of a number of new handbooks in that particular year, whereas in 2005 no new ISTA publications were issued.

Finishing his report, the Secretary General reminded the Ordinary Meeting that the financial statements of the Association including the report of the financial auditors are presented on page 24 to 27 in the report of the Secretary General. The finances of the Association were assessed by auditors of the BDO Visura, upon which they recommended the approval of the financial statements of the Association by the ISTA Members.

Since there were no questions from the audience, the Secretary General asked the voting delegates to give their approval for the report of the Secretary General including the financial statements which was done by applause.

Finally BDO Visura were confirmed as external financial auditors for the year 2006 by the members by applause.

As for the Budget 2007 which was announced as preliminary due to the forthcoming strategy discussions next, the Secretary General highlighted that a final budget for the year 2007 would be presented to the members in the ISTA Activity Report 2006.

(7) PRESENTATION OF THE ISTA DRAFT STRATEGY

(8) DISCUSSION OF THE ISTA DRAFT STRATEGY WITH THE ISTA MEMBERSHIP

The President referred to the document 'Draft ISTA Strategy' which had been distributed to the members and were posted on the ISTA Website in preparation of the discussions to take place during this Ordinary Meeting.

He also reminded of his speech this morning, and said again that the paper distributed should be considered a draft which the Executive Committee would like to discuss now with the membership. The considerations and opinions of the members would be taken into account by the Executive Committee for the preparation of the final ISTA Strategy document to be voted on at the Ordinary Meeting 2007 in Brazil.

The President went through the document to encourage the discussion on the different items. He agreed that perhaps the impression could be given, that the document is a working programme more than a strategic plan. The Executive Committee is aware of that, but is of the opinion that especially in international discussions like in ISTA, it is better to present concrete plans and directions rather than difficult wording without concrete contents.

First Mr. Oosterveld asked if there were any comments on the vision presented in the draft document. The representative of the Netherlands, Mr. Joost van der Burg noted that a part is missing which indicates the aim ISTA to facilitate the movement of seed in international trade as he remembered had been announced previously as an aim in other statements of the Association.

The word was given to the President of AOSA who had been invited to the ISTA Ordinary Meeting as observer. Mr. Wayne Guerke questioned the sentence 'ISTA IS THE INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SEED TESTING' claiming that also AOSA is working on international level and implied that 'THE' should therefore be replaced by 'A'.

The President received no comments on the headlines presented for the development of ISTA over the past ten years, also not on the considerations and conclusions on page 2 of the draft document, so he continued with the Strategy points listed on page 3.

Ms. Anne Bülow-Olsen from Denmark remarked that in her opinion, the main strategy of ISTA is the sentence 'The increasing interest in ISTA and its activities indicates the importance of ISTA as a service provider for governments, international organisations, and the national and international seed trade.' mentioned as a first sentence on page 2 of the document under 'Considerations'. In her view, this sentence should therefore be moved upfront near the headline of the Strategy part on page 3, indicating this as the purpose of the strategy of the Association. The phrasing of the further points mentioned on this page might then be changed to accommodate that strategic headline.

Some questions for clarification were raised in relation to the paragraph on training. As a result, the representative of New Zealand, Mr. John Hampton suggested to considering changing the word 'programme' into 'system' which corresponds more to the intention of ISTA in this context.

Regarding the statement about exploring the advantages and disadvantages of changing the wording from 'ISTA Certificates' to 'ISTA Seed Testing Reports', the representative of ISF, Mr. Bernard Le Buanec welcomed this intention of the ISTA Executive Committee to changing or at least analysing this wording, as this had been a regular request from ISF for a number of years coming from circumstances where confusion arose between seed certification and ISTA Certificates.

Mr. Norbert Leist from Germany remarked that 'seed testing report' would not fully compensate the value of an ISTA Certificate, as not only seed testing results were reported on the ISTA Certificate, but also it assures that sampling and testing have been done in accordance.

To end the discussion, the President asked the delegates if there were any concerns towards the Executive Committee in exploring the advantages and disadvantages of changing the name of the ISTA Certificate, which was not confirmed and hence taken as agreement.

Mr. Geoffrey Kananji from Malawi proposed to consider the possibility of having additional ISTA offices in other regions like for example in Africa.

A suggestion came from Ms. Anne Bülow-Olsen to delete paragraph 9. 'Membership' with the reason that a strategy of ISTA is survival, which can only be assured by the membership. Therefore this paragraph is obsolete in her opinion. Furthermore, she

suggested to move all sentences containing the word 'will' to the beginning of each paragraph concerned.

The representative of United Kingdom, Mr. Ronald Don made a general point in stating that in his opinion a link between the ISTA strategy and the end user/farmer is missing and suggested to add a paragraph on what ISTA can do for agriculture in a country.

The representative of Finland, Mr. Matti Puolimatka, suggested to restructure the paper in starting with the mission, which should answer the question why ISTA exists, followed by the vision to explain the aims of ISTA and then the strategy how these aims can be reached.

A further comment came from Mr. Johan van Asbrouck who indicated that he was missing the reference to the use of pellets in the strategy of ISTA.

For completeness, the representative of Australia, Mr. John Blackstock suggested to include a general statement on cooperate governance to strive for cost-effective and governance arrangements.

The AOSA representative, Mr. Wayne Guerke was given the word to indicate the need for harmonisation between ISTA and AOSA. He therefore wondered if ISTA would consider adding a paragraph on cooperation for harmonisation.

Mr. Oosterveld closed the session by assuring that the questions and comments indicated will be taken into consideration by the ISTA Executive Committee for the final proposal for the ISTA Strategy to be presented for vote in 2007.

(9) CONSTITUTION CHANGES

The President passed on the word to the Chairman of the Constitution Working Group of the Executive Committee, Mr. John Hampton. The Chairman presented some background information and explanations to the on the document 'Proposed Changes to the ISTA Constitution – for consideration and decision at the Ordinary Meeting 2006' [document Internal Items/M/D(2006)31], which had been distributed to the members well before the meeting.

The following four proposals were submitted to the delegates for their decision:

1. To align the ISTA Membership Categories with the present Subscription Categories
2. To introduce a new Membership Category 'Corporate Member'
3. To introduce a new Membership Category 'Associate Member'
4. To introduce a new Membership Category 'Honorary Life Member'

After answering some questions for clarification, the President asked the delegates to vote on Proposal 1. to align the ISTA Membership Categories with the present Subscription Categories with the result that Proposal 1. was accepted by 38 'yes' votes and 0 'no' votes.

No questions were asked on the next item, Proposal 2. suggesting the introduction of a new Membership Category of Corporate Membership. The vote on the Constitution Change Proposal 2. was accepted by 39 'yes' votes and 0 'no' votes.

Also the next vote for Proposal 3. and the introduction of Associate Member as new Membership Category was accepted by 41 'yes' votes and 0 'no' votes.

Finally, Proposal 4. went for vote as no questions were raised on this item. The introduction of Honorary Life Member as a new membership category was accepted by 41 'yes' and 0 'no' votes.

(10) FIXATION OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES

After these approvals of the proposed Constitution Changes 2006 the President went on to ask the delegates to cast their votes on the proposed membership fees for the newly introduced membership categories 'Associate Member' and 'Corporate Member'.

The fees, as laid down in the document 'Proposed fixation of annual subscriptions' [Internal Items/M/D(2006)32], which had been circulated to the members for consideration before the meeting, were suggested to be Swiss Francs CHF 200.- per year for an Associate Member and Swiss Francs CHF 10'000.- correspondingly for a Corporate Member.

Both proposals were accepted by the voting delegates by majority vote.

The President thanked the voting delegates for accepting all proposals and Mr. Hampton for the work done in his Working Group.

(11) CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED RULES CHANGES

Before Mr. Steve Jones, Chair of the ISTA Rules Committee started to lead the meeting through the consideration and adoption of the Proposed Rules Changes 2006, the voting delegates were asked to raise their green 'yes' cards to confirm that the meeting was quorate.

The rules changes had been presented in the Rules Committee session two days before and in the relevant document 'Proposed Rules Changes 2006' published by the Secretariat and distributed to the membership, main stakeholders, the participants of the Ordinary 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. He had 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 session by reading the first item of the proposed rules changes.

**Proposals of Amendments to the ISTA International Rules for Seed Testing,
Edition 2006**

~~Text proposed for deletion~~

Proposed new text

Text added or amended since printing

ITEM 1. GENERAL EDITING ISSUES.

Item 1a. Editorial corrections.

The following are editorial changes/errors that have been noticed in the 2006 edition of the Rules.

List of edits

Chapter 2: reference in 2.5.4.3 to 2.5.1.4.1 should be 2.5.1

Chapter 2: Table 2B. Purity analysis should be 2 500 not 2 000.

Chapter 3: reference in 3.5.1 to 2.7 should be 2.5.2

Chapter 3: reference in 3.5.1 to 2.6 should be 2.5.1

Chapter 8. section 8.5.4., second paragraph, first line; it should be 8.9 instead of 8.8.2

Chapter 8: reference in 8.8.4.3.2 not paragraph 8.8.4.3.1.1 must be 8.8.4.3.1

Chapter 8: page 8-22: it must be 8.8.5.5 and not 8.5.5

Chapter 8: references under 8.8.5.4 need also to be corrected to 8.5.5

Chapter 17: reference in 17.4.1 to 2.4 should be 2.5.4

Chapter 17: reference in 17.4.1 to 2.6 should be 2.5.1

Chapter 17: reference in 17.5.1 to 2.6.7 should be 2.5.1.6

Table 5A: *Avena sativa* column 6 entry insert :GA₃

Seed health method 7-019

Treated Seed

.....It ~~should~~ must only be performed on untreated seed.

No Voting required editorial only item 1a.

ACCEPTED

Item 1b. Editorial merger of Chapters 6, 7, 9 and 15.

For Chapters 6, 7, 9 and 15 the rules and annexes have been editorially merged. This has been confirmed by Doug Ashton and Simon Cooper. Therefore, these chapters do not require a vote. Chapters 6, 7 and 15 can be reprinted for edition 2007. For Chapter 9 the merger is the first part of a major revision that will require a vote in 2007 so Chapter 9 will not be reprinted until after a successful vote in 2007 but is available on the ISTA Website for reference.

Any cross references will be checked and amended if necessary.

The report from Doug Ashton and Simon Cooper (scrutiny team) confirms that:

- **Chapter 6 accept main text as editorially merged.**
- **Accept changes to Table 6A Part 1 as editorially merged, except for the change of ‘prescribes’ to ‘recommends’.**
- **Reject changes to Table 6A Part 2.**
- **Chapter 7 accept all changes to main text.
(Note: changes to seed health method sheets were not included/required).**
- **Chapter 9 accept all changes as editorial.**
- **Chapter 15 accept all changes as editorial.**

As was the procedure last year the only vote for editorially merged chapters will be to accept the report of the scrutiny team by applause.

**Vote to accept the report of the scrutiny team.
ACCEPTED by applause**

Extra Item 1c

Seed health method 7-019

Treated Seed

~~Chemical s~~ Seed treatments may affect the performance of this test.

Note: Brassica seed subjected to a physical treatment, for example, hot water is regarded as treated seed.

**Acceptance to vote on Item 1c.
ACCEPTED (by majority ‘yes’ votes)**

**Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 1c.
ACCEPTED (by majority ‘yes’ votes)**

**Acceptance to vote on Item 1d.
ACCEPTED (28 ‘yes’ votes / 9 ‘no’ votes)**

Extra Item 1d

Table 6 Procedures for tetrazolium tests

The table ~~prescribes~~ recommends procedures.....

**Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 1d.
ACCEPTED (29 ‘yes’ votes / 9 ‘no’ votes)**

ITEM 2. PROPOSALS FOR CHAPTER 2 AND ANNEXE, SAMPLING

Item 2a. Amendment to section 2.5.4.3.

The Bulking and Sampling Committee have concerns about the new rule 2.5.4.3 with regard to the necessity to completely seal seed lots in large containers while they are waiting to be packed into the smaller containers in which they will be sold. This situation often arises with vegetable seed lots and in grass seed companies.

For example, with the new rule 2.5.4.3 a grass seed lot can be sampled when filling the large paper boxes and the results are still valid when the lot is repacked into the final size 25 kg bags. However rule 2.5.4.3 would require that the first set of paper boxes to be completely sealed. This is not practicable and the same holds true for some types of repacking operations from silos/bulk bins. If you take an ISTA sample and the boxes are not permanently under the control of the seed sampler, they would need to be completely sealed. So the idea was, to have a paper cover for these boxes to prevent cross contamination.

The following rules proposal aims to solve the difficulty.

New sentence following at the end of the second paragraph of section 2.5.4.3:

Seed lots in large containers (> 100 kg) need not be sealed if the seed is to be repacked and sealed into other containers at the same facility and the large containers are covered appropriately to avoid cross contamination.

No vote / Item 2a. withdrawn by the Bulking and Sampling Committee.

ITEM 3. PROPOSALS FOR CHAPTER 3, PURITY.

Item 3a. Move *Cannabis* from PSD 1 to PSD 4.

Some samples of *Cannabis sativa* present bracts attached to the seed and removing the bracts is very time consuming. *Cannabis* is the only Cannabaceae genus taken into account in the PSD 1 and no other Cannabaceae are included in other PSD. Other genera taken into account in PSD 1 are not concerned by bracts.

Therefore PSD 4 is considered to better apply to *Cannabis*. PSD 1 and PSD 4 have the same seed descriptions except that PSD 4 has the additional possibility of bracts attached to the seed.

3.2.1. A.1 Part 1 Pure Seed Definition numbers by genus and family.

...

Cannabis Cannabaceae + 4

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 3a.

ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 3b. Move *Consolida* from PSD 4 to PSD 10.

This proposal comes from the Flower Seeds Committee that is working on the new Handbook for Flower Seeds. PSDs of *Consolida* and *Delphinium* are currently PSD 4 and PSD 10 respectively but these genera have almost identical seeds. Therefore it is proposed to move *Consolida* to PSD 10.

3.2.1. A.1 Part 1 Pure Seed Definition numbers by genus and family.

...

Consolida Ranunculaceae + 10

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 3b.

ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 3c. Modify PSD 22.

This modification is necessary to adapt it to allow the addition of *Crambe* to the ISTA Rules by adding the term siliqua.

22. Pod or siliqua, with or without calyx or bracts, with one seed.
Seed, provided a portion of the testa is attached.
Piece of seed larger than one-half the original size, provided a portion of the testa is attached.
~~For Fabaceae (Leguminosae) only:~~ Seeds and pieces of seed without testa are regarded as inert matter.
For Fabaceae (Leguminosae) only: Separated cotyledons are regarded as inert matter irrespective of whether or not the radicle-plumule axis and/or more than half of the testa may be attached.

No vote / Item 3c. withdrawn by the Purity Committee.

Item 3d. Reporting results of Determination of Other Seeds by Number.

When the weight of 25 000 seeds is below the weight as fixed in Table 2A, 'Complete test' still applies but this creates an ambiguity. This is because the weight used will be not be the weight stated in Table 2A, but the weight of at least 25 000 seeds. When this situation occurs adding a statement to the ISTA Seed Analysis Certificate stating that the complete test is based on at least 25 000 seeds will help clarify the size of the working sample used.

4.7 Reporting results

...

When a sample is tested to determine 'other seeds by number' using at least 25 000 seeds and this sample weight is below the required weight stated in Table 2A, then the weight of seed examined and the statement 'Complete Test based on at least 25 000 seeds' must be stated on the certificate.

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 3d.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 3e. Reporting results of purity.

Erase, move and add sentences to "17.5.A.2.1 Purity" for harmonisation with the statement in 3.7 Reporting result: "When on the request of the applicant, the content of a particular kind of inert matter, species of other seed, Multiple Seed Unit (MSU) or seeds with appendages attached as specified in 3.5.2.A.8 has been determined, the percentage of such material must be shown on the ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificate."

As printed and circulated

17.5.A.2.1 Purity

....

~~The percentage by weight of a species be reported if it is 1.0% or more. If required by the applicant, the percentage by weight for a specified species must be reported.~~ The percentage shall be stated immediately after the name of the species to the nearest 0.1%. Species for which the percentage by weight shall be stated are listed first. ~~On the request of the applicant, the percentage by weight for a specified species must be reported.~~

...

If required by the applicant multiple seed units shall be reported as ...% MSU.

If required by the applicant seeds with appendages attached shall be reported as ...% seeds with appendages attached.

...

If required by the applicant, the kinds of inert matter shall be reported, together with the percentage by weight of any particular kind found to the extent of 1.0% or more (to one decimal place).

17.5.A.2.1 Purity

The percentage by weight of pure seed, inert matter, and other seeds shall be given to one decimal place. If the percentage by weight is below 0.05, it shall be stated as 'TR' (for 'Trace'). If no 'Inert matter' or 'Other seeds' are found, this should be entered as '0.0'.

....

~~The percentage by weight of a species be reported if it is 1.0% or more. If required by the applicant, the percentage by weight for a specified species shall ~~must~~ be reported.~~ The percentage shall be stated immediately after the name of the species. ~~to the nearest 0.1%.~~ Species for which the percentage by weight shall be stated are listed first. ~~On the request of the applicant, the percentage by weight for a specified species must be reported.~~

...

If required by the applicant the percentage by weight of multiple seed units shall be reported as ...%, TR% or 0.0% MSU.

If required by the applicant seeds with appendages attached shall be reported as ...%, TR% or 0.0% seeds with appendages attached.

...

If required by the applicant, the percentage by weight of particular kinds of inert matter shall be reported. ~~together with the percentage by weight of any particular kind found to the extent of 1.0% or more (to one decimal place).~~

No vote / Item 3e. withdrawn by the Rules Committee.

Item 3f. Modify PSD 47.

This modification is necessary as PSD 47 includes seeds with and without wings.

47. Seed, with or without wing or integument, provided a portion of the testa is attached.
Piece of seed larger than one-half the original size, with or without wing or integument, provided a portion of the testa is attached.

N.B. 'Integument' refers to the tissue attaching the wing to the seed. In *Pinaceae* with this definition, the integument is not intimately associated with the seed and is usually removed in processing thus removing the wing. However, if an integument (with or without wing) is still attached to any seed during the purity analysis such seed will be regarded as 'winged seed' and must be left intact - neither the integument nor wing should be deliberately removed. Winged seed (i.e. seed with an attached integument with or without a wing of any size) must be weighed and reported as a separate percentage from 'pure seed' according to paragraphs 3.5.2.A.9 and 3.7. After weighing, the winged seed and pure seed fractions should be recombined and used in representative proportions for counting out the germination replicates

No vote / Item 3f. withdrawn by the Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee.

Item 3g. Modify PSD 51.

This modification is necessary as PSD 51 includes seeds with and without wings. It also improves PSD 51 and adapts it to genera with an integument fused to the seed (*Pseudotsuga* and *Larix*) and also to genera with integument intimately associated with the seed (*Abies*, *Cedrus* and *Tsuga*).

51. Seed, with or without wing, with (but occasionally without) integument, provided a part of the testa is attached.

Piece of seed larger than one-half the original size, with or without wing, with (but occasionally without) integument, provided a portion of the testa is attached.

Seed with integument fused or attached is considered to be 'pure seed'.

N.B. 'Integument' refers to the tissue attaching the wing to the seed. ~~In *Pinaceae* with this definition,~~

Only for *Pseudotsuga* and *Larix*: the integument is fused to the seed, ~~is rarely removed in processing,~~ and is impossible to ~~consistently~~ remove in processing ~~without causing damage.~~ Only the wing can be removed without causing damage. Hence, seed with fused integument attached is considered to be 'pure seed'.

Only for *Abies*, *Cedrus* and *Tsuga*: the integument is intimately associated with, but is not fused to, the seed. The integument is difficult to consistently remove in processing without causing damage. Hence, seed with integument attached is considered to be 'pure seed'.

Winged seed - i.e. seed with an attached integument ~~plus with or without wing~~ still attached of any size must be weighed and reported as a separate percentage from 'pure seed' according to paragraphs 3.5.2.A.9 and 3.7. After weighing, the winged seed and pure seed fractions should be recombined and used in representative proportions for counting out the germination replicates

No vote / Item 3g. withdrawn by the Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee.

Item 3h. Modify Rule 3.5.2.A.9.

If item 3g is accepted, rule 3.5.2.A.9 needs to be harmonized with the new PSD 51.

3.5.2.A.9 Winged seed

For seeds with PSD 47 and PSD 51, winged seeds are those which retain an integument either with or without wing. ~~For seeds with PSD 51, winged seeds are only those which retain an integument plus wing.~~ Whenever present such appendages must be left attached to the seed and the content of 'winged' seed reported on the certificate according to 3.7.

No vote / Item 3h. withdrawn by the Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee.

Item 3i. Move *Pinus* I (*P. palustris*, *P. rigida*) from PSD 51 to PSD 47.

This allows all Pinaceae to be covered by PSD 47.

<i>Pinus</i>	Pinaceae	51 47	C
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No vote / Item 3i. withdrawn by the Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee.

Item 3j. Move *Calocedrus* from PSD 51 to PSD 49.

Calocedrus decurrens bears two wings not one so PSD 49 applies rather than PSD 51.

<i>Calocedrus</i>	Cupressaceae	51 49	C
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No vote / Item 3j. withdrawn by the Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee.

Item 3k. Move *Sequoiadendron* from PSD 50 to PSD 49.

Sequoiadendron seeds do not form within arils so PSD 49 applies rather than PSD 50.

Sequoiadendron Taxodiaceae ~~50~~ 49

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 3k.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 3l. Move *Taxus* from PSD 10 to PSD 50.

Taxus seeds develop within arils so PSD 50 applies rather than PSD 10. If this item is voted through Taxaceae needs to be removed from PSD 10 as there are no longer any members of Taxaceae family covered by PSD 10.

Taxus Taxaceae ~~10~~ 50

10. Seed, with or without testa.
Piece of seed larger than one-half the original size, with or without testa.
Fabaceae (*Leguminosae*), *Brassicaceae* (*Cruciferae*), *Cupressaceae*, ~~*Taxaceae*~~, *Taxodiaceae*:
.....

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 3l.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 3m. Modify Rules 3.2.1 and 3.2.3 and PSD 10.

The mention of Pinaceae has already been deleted in PSD 10 (voted during OM 2005), but not yet changed in the paragraphs 3.2.1 and 3.3.3 of ISTA Rules. If item 3l is voted through Taxaceae also needs to be removed from 3.2.1 and 3.2.3.

3.2.1 Pure seed

...

2. From the above main principles certain exceptions are made for particular genera or species (3.2.1.A).
1. Seed units of the families *Fabaceae* (*Leguminosae*), *Brassicaceae* (*Cruciferae*), *Cupressaceae*, ~~*Pinaceae*~~, ~~*Taxaceae*~~ and *Taxodiaceae* with seed coats entirely removed shall be regarded as inert matter (3.2.3 (5)).
Separated cotyledons of *Fabaceae* (*Leguminosae*) are regarded as inert matter, irrespective of whether or not the radicle-plumule axis and/or more than half of the testa may be attached.

...

3.2.3 Inert matter

...

5. Seeds of *Fabaceae* (*Leguminosae*), *Brassicaceae* (*Cruciferae*), *Cupressaceae*, ~~*Pinaceae*~~, ~~*Taxaceae*~~ and *Taxodiaceae* with the seed coat entirely removed.
Fabaceae (*Leguminosae*): separated cotyledons are regarded as inert matter, irrespective of whether or not the radicle-plumule axis and/or more than half of the testa may be attached.

...

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 3m.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

ITEM 4. PROPOSALS FOR CHAPTER 5, GERMINATION.

Item 4a. Modification to dormancy breakage for *Hordeum vulgare*.

Proposal from the Germination Committee.
Data has been provided to show KNO₃ successfully breaks dormancy in *Hordeum vulgare*. The supporting data is available on the ISTA Website.

Table 5A, modified entry for *Hordeum vulgare*

Species	Prescriptions for:		Additional directions including recommendations for breaking dormancy		
	Substrate	Temperature °C	First count (days)	Final count (days)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	BP; S	20	4	7	Preheat (30-35°C); Prechill; GA ₃ ; KNO₃

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 4a.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 4b. To allow the possibility of testing *Betula pendula* and *B. pubescens* germination by counted (4 x 100 seeds) replicates as well as by weighed replicate.

Proposal from Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee.
Based on the requirements of the Council Directive 1999/105/EC the seed lots marketed must be accompanied by a label or other document from the supplier ('the supplier's label or document') giving, beside others, information about seed quality. This information includes purity, germination or viability, weight of 1000 seeds and the number of germinable (viable) seeds per kg (see below). In many, if not most cases, laboratories perform purity test, then count 8 x 100 seed replicates for determination of the weight of 1000 pure seeds. Four, one hundred seed replicates are then used for germination or viability tests. In Annex I List of Tree Species and Artificial Hybrids, two birch species are listed: *Betula pendula* and *Betula pubescens*. According to the 2006 ISTA Rules the seed germination of those two species can only be tested by the Weighed Replicates Method (Chapter 13). The Forest Tree and Shrub Committee therefore recommend the following change to allow the possibility of testing germination by counted (4 x 100 seeds) replicates as well as by weighed replicate. This proposal is also supported by the Germination Committee.

Amend entries in Table 5A. Part 2. Tree and shrub seeds

Species	Prescriptions for:		First count (days)	Final count (days)	Additional directions including recommendations for breaking dormancy
	Substrate	Temperature °C			
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Betula pendula</i>	TP	20-30	7	21	No prechill and prechill for 21 days at 4 °C. Double tests. Testing by weighed replicates (Chapter 13) also allowed.

<i>Betula pubescens</i>	TP	20-30	7	21	Testing by weighed replicates (Chapter 13) also allowed.
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Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 4b.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

ITEM 5. PROPOSALS FOR ANNEXE TO CHAPTER 7, SEED HEALTH TESTING METHODS.

Item 5a. Modifications and additions to the validated seed health testing methods.

The following method sponsored by ISTA has been validated by the Seed Health Committee, and is submitted for acceptance by the membership to be included in Annexe to Chapter 7 of the International Rules for Seed Testing as Method 7-021. Any problems or errors should be directed to the Chairpersons of the Seed Health and Rules Committees. The full text of the proposed method and the method validation report are available on the ISTA Website.

New Method: 7-021 Detection of *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* (common blight) on bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*)

Crop: *Phaseolus vulgaris*

Pathogen: *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli*

Background:

Xanthomonas axonopodis pv. *phaseoli* (Xap) and *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* var. *fuscans* (Xapf) (previously known as *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *phaseoli*) (Vauterin *et al.*, 1995) are the causal organisms of common bacterial blight and fuscous blight of bean, respectively. In the past these organisms were considered as a single pathogen. However Xapf produces a diffusible brown pigment in culture that is enhanced by tyrosine (Goodwin and Sopher, 1994) and Xapf isolates are considered in general more pathogenic than Xap isolates. In addition several genetic studies based on repPCR, PFGE and RFLP revealed that this pathovar should be segregated into two subgroups and should obtain distinct taxonomic status (Mkandawire *et al.*, 2004).

Currently there is no standard seed health testing procedure for the detection of *Xap* or *Xapf* in bean seed lots. In comparative tests (Sheppard, 1998a) several semi-selective media were evaluated for the detection of *Xap* in bean seed lots. As a result two media, XCP1 and MT, have been chosen for their ease of use and selectivity for *Xap*. The media rely on the ability of *Xap* to hydrolyse casein and Tween (MT medium) or starch (XCP1 medium) (Sheppard, 1998a). In addition both media can be used to detect both Xap and Xapf as initially the morphology of fuscans and non-fuscans strains of *Xap* appear to be similar on medium. However after a longer incubation the fuscans colonies are distinguished by a distinct brown pigmentation. Especially on a tyrosine medium (MT) the production of the diffusible extra cellular brown, melanin-like pigment is prominent (Chan and Goodwin, 1999). A further advantage of MT medium is that it can also be used for identifying other bacterial seed-borne pathogens of beans, e.g. *Pseudomonas savastanoi* pv. *phaseolicola* and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*.

This method is derived from the validation studies carried out by ISTA in 2003, in collaboration with the International Seed Health Initiative for Vegetables (ISHI-Veg) (Sheppard and Remeus, 2005). For routine testing of bean seed a combination of two complementary semi-selective media, MT and XCP1, is recommended with a pathogenicity test to confirm suspect isolates.

Method Abstract:

Seeds are suspended in saline plus Tween 20 in polythene bags or containers, and soaked overnight at 5°C (+/- 2°C). The diluted extracts are plated on MT and XCP1 media. Plates are incubated at 27-28°C for 3-5 d and then examined for the presence of suspect colonies of *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli*. Suspect colonies are sub-cultured to plates of YDC medium and their identity confirmed by a pathogenicity test on susceptible bean seedlings.

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 5a.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

ITEM 6. PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION OF NEW SPECIES AND A CHANGE IN NOMENCLATURE.

Item 6a. Addition of *Triticum dicoccum* to the ISTA Rules

An application was received from one of the Italian ISTA accredited laboratories to add *Triticum dicoccum* Schrank ex Schübl. to the list of species for ISTA testing. Supporting data has been provided and is available on the ISTA Website. The relevant ISTA Technical Committees have been consulted and agree to the following proposal.

Table 2A, new entry for *Triticum dicoccum* Schrank ex Schübl.

Species	Maximum weight of lot	Minimum sample weights		
		Submitted sample	Working sample for purity analysis	Working sample for count of other species
	kg	g	g	g
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> Schrank ex Schübl.	30 000	1000	270	1000

Table 3.2.1.A.1, modify entry for PSD 40 and 33

Genus	Family	Pure seed Definition (PSD) number	Chaffyness
<i>Triticum</i> (excluding <i>T. spelta</i> and <i>T. dicoccum</i>)	Poaceae (Gramineae)	40	
<i>Triticum</i> (only <i>T. spelta</i> and <i>T. dicoccum</i>)	Poaceae (Gramineae)	33	C

Table 5A, new entry for *Triticum dicoccum* Schrank ex Schübl.

Species	Prescriptions for:			Additional directions including recommendations for breaking dormancy		
	Substrate	Temperature °C	First count (days)	Final count (days)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Triticum dicoccum	BP; S	20	4	8	Preheat (30-35°C); Prechill; GA₃	

**Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 6a.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)**

Item 6b. Inclusion of *Avena nuda* L.

Avena sativa is already included in the ISTA Rules and *Avena nuda* included in the ISTA Stabilised List and listed as an OECD species. To facilitate international trade it is suggested by the Executive Committee of ISTA that *Avena nuda* should be included in the ISTA Rules with the same details as for *Avena sativa*. *Avena nuda* is currently treated as a variety of *Avena sativa* within the European Union.

Table 2A, new entry for *Avena nuda*

Species	Maximum weight of lot	Minimum sample weights		
		Submitted sample	Working sample for purity analysis	Working sample for count of other species
	kg	g	g	g
Avena nuda L.	30 000	1000	120	1000

Table 5A, new entry for *Avena nuda*

Species	Prescriptions for:		Additional directions including recommendations for breaking dormancy		
	Substrate	Temperature °C	First count (days)	Final count (days)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Avena nuda L.	BP; S 20	5	10	Preheat (30-35°C);	Prechill: GA₃

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 6b.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 6c. Addition of *Crambe abyssinica* Hochst. ex R. E. Fr. into the ISTA Rules

An application was received from the Germination Committee to add *Crambe abyssinica* Hochst. ex R. E. Fr. to the list of species for ISTA testing. Supporting data has been provided and is available on the ISTA Website. The relevant ISTA Technical Committees have been consulted and agree to the following proposal.

Table 2A, new entry for *Crambe abyssinica*

Species	Maximum weight of lot	Minimum sample weights		
		Submitted sample	Working sample for purity analysis	Working sample for count of other species
	Kg	g	g	G
Crambe abyssinica Hochst. ex R. E. Fr.	10 000	200	20	200

Table 3.2.1.A.1, include entry for *Crambe* in PSD table

Genus	Family	Pure seed Definition (PSD) number	Chaffyness
Crambe	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	22-23	

Table 5A, new entry for *Crambe abyssinica*

Species	Prescriptions for:		Additional directions		
	Substrate	Temperature °C	First count (days)	Final count (days)	including recommendations for breaking dormancy
1	2	3	4	5	6

Crambe abyssinica TP; BP 20-30; 20 4 7 KNO₃
Hochst. ex R. E. Fr.

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 6c.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 6d. Wider interpretation of *xFestulolium* as a species

There is the need to allow the wider interpretation of *xFestulolium* as a species because more than just *xFestulolium braunii* crosses are available in commercial trade.

Amendment in Table 2A

Change the species name *xFestulolium braunii* (K. Richt) A. Camus to *xFestulolium* spp. Asch. & Graebn.

Amendment to Table 5A

Change the species name *xFestulolium braunii* to *xFestulolium* spp.

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 6d.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

ITEM 7. PROPOSALS FOR MODIFICATION TO CHAPTER 8.

The following proposals have all come from the Variety Committee.

Item 7a. *Zea mays* method. Distilled water as an optional extraction buffer.

Including distilled water as an optional extraction buffer.

8.8.5.1 Principle

The alcohol soluble proteins (zeins) or water soluble proteins are extracted.....

8.8.5.2.3 Solutions

a) Extraction solution - 30 % (v/v) 2 Chloroethanol: 30 ml 2-Chloroethanol made up to 100 ml with distilled water. This solution can be stored for at least two weeks at room temperature.

Optional extraction solution - distilled water.

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 7a.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 7b. *Zea mays* method. Inclusion of new gel solution.

Including an optional gel solution.

8.8.5.3.2 Gel preparation

Optional gel solution:

Stock gel solution (8.8.5.2.3d)	50 ml
Urea	16 g
Taurin	1.5 g
Ampholytes pH 5-8	2.90 ml
pH 2-11	1.50 ml

(Note: dissolve Taurin **first into the** Stock gel solution because of the slow solubility)

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 7b.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 7c. *Helianthus annuus*: Inclusion of new gel solution.

Including an optional gel solution.

8.8.7.3.2 Gel preparation

Optional gel solution:

Stock gel solution (8.8.7.2.3.d)	50 ml
Urea	16 g
Ampholytes pH 2-4	0.55 ml
pH 4-6	0.55 ml
pH 5-8	1.40 ml
pH 4-9	1.90 ml

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 7c.
ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 7d. Clarification and corrections to several sections.

Several improvements or additions to the text have been grouped together for one vote.

8.8.4.3.3.1 Main (resolving) gel

.....75 ~~ml~~ µl TEMED (full strength, straight out of the bottle).

8.8.4.3.3.2 Stacking gel

.....80 ~~ml~~ µl TEMED (full strength, straight out of the bottle).

8.8.4.3.4 Electrophoresis

....., between 5 and 15 ~~ml~~ µl is appropriate in most cases.

8.8.5.3.2 Gel Preparation

.....Gels not immediately used can be stored ~~in the gel cassettes~~ wrapped at 4 °C for at least one week.

8.8.5.3.3 Electrophoresis

.....

Samples (approx ~~15ml~~ 22 µl) are loaded in the applicator strip 0.5 cm below the bufferwick of the anode and focusing carried out at 2500 V, 15 mA, 40 W for about 1750 volt/hours (70 minutes) until completion (for one gel).

.....

8.8.5.3.4 Fixing and staining

... with slow shaking for at least ~~30~~ 20 minutes. . .

The gel dried overnight at room temperature or in an oven at 70 °C for 20 minutes and can then. . .

8.8.7.3.2 Gel preparation

.....carrier sheet held on glass and a cover glass plate.

8.8.7.3.3 Electrophoresis

Samples (approx. ~~0.004 ml~~ 4 µl) are loaded ~~at the anode~~ in the applicator strip 0.5 cm below the bufferwick of the anode and focusing carried out at 2500 V, 15 mA, 40 W for about 1750 volt/hours (70 minutes) until completion (for one gel).

Vote to accept changes as proposed in Item 7d.

ACCEPTED (by majority 'yes' votes)

Item 8a. Removal of the requirement to use a Green International Seed Lot Certificate (GIC) instead of an Orange International Seed Lot Certificate

Several cases have been either discussed by auditors with laboratories, or resulted from direct enquiries from laboratories, about when and how to use the ISTA Green International Seed Lot Certificate (GIC). The main criteria for using the GIC surrounded the need to separate sampling and testing, then to consider whether the sampling and testing laboratories were within the same country. All ISTA accredited testing laboratories are able to issue the full range of ISTA Certificates, i.e. Orange, Green and Blue. The Head of the Laboratory is always responsible for establishing that the sampling is to ISTA standards when issuing results on an Orange or Green certificate. Therefore the need to distinguish between an Orange and Green Seed Lot Certificate on the basis of sampling in one country and testing in another is now considered unnecessary. In an attempt to simplify the process the Executive Committee set up a Working Group to look at Certificates. The Working Group recommends the deletion of the need for the Green International Seed Lot Certificate in Chapter 17 and supplies the following Rules proposal for a vote. If this proposal is accepted it will come into force on the 1st January 2007 but the Working Group also recommends that laboratories have until the 1st January 2008 to use up existing stocks of Green Certificates. If a positive vote is achieved this option will be explained in the preface of the 2007 edition of the ISTA Rules.

Chapter 17: Certificates

ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificates

17.2 Definitions

ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificates ~~a form of certificate produced only by the~~ are only available from ISTA, and only provided to authorised accredited member laboratories (see 17.2.5) and used for reporting the results of tests. These Certificates are the property of the ISTA and may only be issued under the authority of the Association.

17.2.1 ISTA Orange International Seed Lot Certificate

The ~~form~~ type of *ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificate* issued when the sample is drawn ~~officially~~ from the seed lot under the authority of an authorised accredited member laboratory. The procedure followed identifies the Certificate with the seed lot. It is coloured orange.

~~There are two types:~~

~~1.—Orange International Seed Lot Certificate~~

~~—The Certificate is issued when the sample is drawn officially from the lot and tests carried out under the authority of the same member laboratory and the procedure followed identifies the Certificate with the seed lot. It is coloured orange.~~

~~2.—Green International Seed Lot Certificate~~

~~—The Certificate is issued when the sample is drawn officially from the lot under the authority of one authorised member laboratory but the tests are carried out at another authorised member laboratory in a different country and the procedure followed identifies the Certificate with the seed lot. It is coloured green.~~

17.2.2 *ISTA Blue International Seed Sample Certificate*

The ~~form type~~ of *ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificate* issued when sampling from the lot is not under the responsibility of an authorised accredited member laboratory. The authorised accredited member laboratory is responsible only for testing the sample as submitted. It is not responsible for the relationship between the sample and any seed lot from which it may have been derived. The Certificate is coloured blue.

~~1.—Blue International Seed Sample Certificate~~

~~—The authorised member laboratory is responsible only for testing the sample as submitted. It is not responsible for the relationship between the sample and any seed lot from which it may have been derived. The Certificate is coloured blue.~~

17.2.3 *Duplicate Certificate*

An exact copy of a completed *ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificate*, marked DUPLICATE.

17.2.4 *Provisional Certificate*

A *Certificate* issued before the completion of a test or tests which includes a statement that a final *Certificate* will be issued upon completion.

17.2.5 *Authorised Seed Testing Member Laboratory*.

An authorised seed testing member laboratory is an accredited member laboratory authorised by the ISTA Executive Committee under Article VII of the ISTA Constitution to issue *ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificates*.

17.3 Principles

In case of any doubt as to the precise meaning of the sections that follow, they shall be interpreted in a sense that is compatible with the following principles.

- (1) An *ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificate* shall be issued only if sampling and testing were in accordance with the rules pertaining to the type of *Certificate* issued.
- (2) For the ISTA Orange International Seed Lot Certificate, each container in the lot must be sealed or be self-sealing and bear an identifying mark or number which also appears on the *Certificate* so that it is clear to which containers the *Certificate* refers.
- (3) A *Certificate* shall be valid until it is superseded by a *Certificate* subsequently issued on the same lot. Not more than one ISTA Orange International Seed Lot Certificate shall be valid for a lot at one time for any particular attribute. (see also 17.6).
- (4) The assessment of any attribute reported on a *Certificate* shall be calculated from tests of one submitted sample from the lot and shall represent its true quality insofar as this can be deduced from a consideration of all the tests of that attribute performed on that sample.

17.4 Conditions for Issuance of Certificates

17.4.1 *General conditions for issuance*

ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificates shall be issued only on forms obtained from the ISTA Secretariat and approved by the ISTA Executive Committee. The *Certificates* shall be multilingual and shall be of two kinds: ISTA Orange International Seed Lot Certificates and ISTA Blue International Seed Sample Certificates as defined in 17.2.

Duplicate and provisional *Certificates* as defined in 17.2 may be issued.

An *ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificate* may be issued only by the seed testing authorised accredited member laboratory which carried out tests to be reported, and provided that:

- (1) The issuing laboratory is currently authorised to do so by the Executive Committee.
- (2) The seed tested is of a species listed in Table 2A, lot and sample weights, of these [ISTA Rules](#). Where in other Tables, such as Table 5A and Table 6A, methods are prescribed as being for a group of species, only those species specifically listed in Table 2A shall be considered to be covered.
- (3) The tests are carried out in accordance with these Rules. However, additionally and on request, results of tests not covered by these Rules may be reported on an [ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificate](#) (see 17.5.5).
- (4) In the case of [ISTA Orange ~~or Green~~ International Seed Lot Certificates](#)
 - (a) The seed lot complies with the requirements prescribed in ~~2.4~~ [2.5.4](#);
 - and
 - (b) The submitted sample is drawn and dealt with in accordance with [2.5.1.6](#)

ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificates are issued on the understanding that:

- (a) In the case of [an ISTA International Orange Seed Lot Certificate](#) the results reported refer strictly to the lot as a whole at the time of sampling, and
- (b) in the case of [an ISTA Blue International Seed Sample Certificate](#), to the sample at the time of receipt.

17.4.2 Orange International Seed Lot Certificate

For an *ISTA Orange International Seed Lot Certificate*, the submitted sample must be tested at an authorised ~~seed testing member~~ laboratory ~~of the country in which the lot is located~~. The authorised testing laboratory shall be responsible for sampling, sealing, labelling, testing and issuance of the *Certificate*; unless the sample has been received from another authorised laboratory. If the testing laboratory was not responsible for the sampling then there must be confirmation that the sampling, sealing and labelling were according to the ISTA Rules.

The completed *Certificate* shall show the following information:

- (a) Name of issuing laboratory,
- (b) Name of sampling and sealing agency,
- (c) ~~Official m~~ Mark and seal of the lot,
- (d) Number of containers in the lot,
- (e) Date of sampling,
- (f) Date sample received by the testing laboratory,
- (g) Date Certificate issued,
- (h) Testing ~~laboratories~~ laboratory's test or sample number,
- (i) Results of tests,
- (j) The following statement signed by the director of the issuing laboratory, or his assignee:
"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 a laboratory accredited by the International Seed Testing Association to issue International Seed Analysis Certificates."

~~17.4.3 Green International Seed Lot Certificate~~

~~For a Green Seed Lot Certificate an accredited member laboratory in the country where the lot is located shall be responsible for the sampling and labelling and for the despatch of the submitted sample with pertinent information to the accredited member laboratory designated to carry out the tests (see 17.4.A.3). The testing laboratory shall be responsible for testing the sample and issuance of the Certificate.~~

~~— The completed Certificate shall show the following information:~~

- ~~(a) Name of issuing laboratory,~~
- ~~(b) Name of sampling and sealing agency,~~
- ~~(c) Official mark and seal of the lot,~~
- ~~(d) Number of containers in the lot,~~
- ~~(e) Date of sampling,~~
- ~~(f) Date sample received by the testing laboratory,~~
- ~~(g) Date Certificate issued,~~
- ~~(h) Testing laboratory's test or sample number,~~
- ~~(i) Results of tests,~~
- ~~(j) The following statement signed by the director of the issuing laboratory, or his assignee:~~

~~“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 by the International Seed Testing Association to issue International Seed Analysis Certificates.”~~

17.4.4 ~~3~~ Blue International Seed Sample Certificate

The Blue International Seed Sample Certificate refers only to the sample submitted for testing.

The completed Certificate shall show the following information:

- (a) Name of issuing laboratory,
- (b) Date sample received by the testing laboratory,
- (c) Date Certificate issued,
- (d) Testing laboratory's test or sample number,
- (e) Results of tests,
- (f) The following statement signed by the director of the issuing laboratory, or his assignee:
“I certify that testing has been carried out in accordance with the International Rules for Seed Testing of the ISTA and that the tests have been made at a laboratory accredited by the International Seed Testing Association to issue International Certificates.”

17.4.5 ~~4~~ Duplicate Certificate

A Duplicate Certificate may be issued on request to the owner of the seed lot. It shall be identical to the original Certificate in all respects, including the original date of issue, except it shall be marked DUPLICATE.

17.4.6 ~~5~~ Provisional Certificate

A provisional Certificate may be issued to the owner of the seed lot on request. It shall contain all the pertinent information required by 17.4.2, or 17.4.3 ~~or 17.4.4~~, plus a statement that a final Certificate will be issued on completion of all the tests requested. It shall be clearly marked PROVISIONAL.

17.5 Reporting results

17.5.1 Sampling and testing

From one sampling operation, only one sample may be submitted for testing. The sample may be subjected to one or more of the tests described in these ISTA Rules as requested by the applicant. However, in certain situations (see ~~2-6-7~~ 2.5.1.6) the submission of a separate moisture proof packed sample from the same sampling operation attached to the submitted sample is required.....

Annexe to Chapter 17: Certificates...

17.4.A Conditions for Issuance of Certificates

17.4.A.2-4 Certificates

The principles for completing ISTA Blue International Seed Sample Certificates are the same as for ISTA Orange ~~or Green~~ International Seed Lot Certificates.

- (4) All dates must be written in the ~~International Organization for Standardization (ISO)~~ ISO 8601 Calendar date representation format: year in full-month-day, with two figures for both month and day. (Example: ~~1996~~ 2006-07-01).....

17.4.A.3 Provision of seed lot and sampling information ~~for the Green International Seed Lot Certificate~~

If a sample is taken by one authorised accredited laboratory for submission to and testing at another authorised accredited laboratory, the ~~The director of the accredited~~ laboratory responsible for sampling, sealing and marking the seed lot shall supply information and a statement to the testing laboratory as follows:

- (a) The name of the sampling and sealing agency.
- (b) The ~~official~~ mark and seal of the lot.
- (c) Date of sampling.
- (d) Number of containers in the lot.
- (e) Information supplied by the applicant necessary to complete the Certificate, including the tests required.
- (f) Information concerning previously issued Certificates for the lot.

The director [of the authorised accredited laboratory](#) shall [sign the following](#) statement:

“I certify that sampling and sealing have been carried out in accordance with the current International Rules for Seed Testing of the International Seed Testing Association.”

...

No vote / Item 8a. withdrawn by the Executive Committee.



NEW PROPOSAL FOR ISTA RULES CHAPTER 17

The Executive Committee was impressed with the discussions that not only dealt with the deletion of the Green Certificate, but tried to solve issues of responsibilities and subcontracting.

The Executive Committee would like to have time to properly take on board all your comments.

Therefore the Executive Committee would like to produce a complete revision of Chapter 17 to be considered as a new text proposal and then voted on in the Ordinary Meeting 2007.

To allow the revision process to focus on the issues of responsibilities and subcontracting we would still like to vote on the deletion of the Green Certificate at this meeting in Zurich 2006. This decision would not be actioned until after the revised Chapter 17 has been presented to the members for acceptance at the Ordinary Meeting in 2007, to come into effect on January 1st, 2008.

If approved by the voting delegates of the Ordinary Meeting in 2007, revised text for Chapter 17 would come into effect on January 1st, 2008.

Zurich, June 28, 2006

**Vote on the removal of the ISTA Green Certificate.
No vote / Withdrawn by the Executive Committee.**

Item 8b. Clarification of the restrictions for issuing ISTA certificates

One case provided by the ISTA auditors has resulted in the following rules proposal to clarify the restrictions on issuing ISTA certificates and re-sampling ISTA seed lots. To keep item 8a (the removal of the need for GICs) self-contained proposal this is a separate proposal.

17.6 Validity of Certificates

~~It is not permissible for the director of the same seed testing laboratory to issue another Certificate of the same colour (see 17.5.2, 17.5.3 and 17.5.4) as a result of a further sampling from the same seed lot within one month of the previous sampling or to approve such sampling. Exceptions can be made for chemically treated or coated seed lots which have been previously tested in the untreated state.~~

An authorised accredited laboratory must not issue a new *ISTA Orange International Seed Lot Certificate* or *ISTA Blue International Seed Sample Certificate* as the result of resampling the same seed lot within 28 days. If

a *Certificate* of a different ~~category type~~ is required, or a *Certificate* is to be issued by a different ~~accredited seed testing~~ laboratory, or the ~~28 day one month~~ time limit is exceeded, another *Certificate* may be issued provided that the reference number, colour of the previous *Certificate* and the date of previous sampling are indicated ~~or the lot has been re-labelled and re-sealed. If the identity of the lot has not been changed, t.~~ There ~~should~~ **must** be a statement that the previous *Certificate* has been cancelled in respect of the tests reported in the later *Certificate*.

No vote / Item 8b. withdrawn by the Executive Committee.

After item 8b the Rules Chairman concluded that this ended the voting on the ISTA Rules Proposals 2006. The President took over the floor, thanked Mr. Jones for his work and for leading through the Rules Proposals, and expressed gratitude to the audience for their participation, comments and patience on these important items.

He also assured that in line with the huge work on the process of the amalgamation of the ISTA Rules and Annexes, the Executive Committee of ISTA would look at possibilities how to enhance the preparation of voting documents by more intense preparation work from the side of the Executive Committee in order to reduce the need for lengthy discussions during the actual voting meeting.

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

The Technical Committees' work had been presented in the sessions held on the first day of the ISTA Annual Meeting and in the 'Activity Report 2005 of the International Seed Testing Association' [document Internal Items/M/D(2006)03] published by the Secretariat and distributed to the membership, main stakeholders and the participants of the Meeting and posted on the ISTA Website.

The President of the Association asked each chairperson to come on stage to allow for possible questions from the audience. He thanked everyone personally for their excellent work and in recognition handed over a present to each of them.

All reports were approved by applause.

Bulking and Sampling Committee - represented by Mr. Michael Kruse, Chair
Purity Committee - represented by Mrs. Maria-Rosaria Mannino, Chair
Germination Committee - represented by Mr. Ronald Don, Chair
Tetrazolium Committee - represented by Mrs. Stefanie Krämer, Chair
Vigour Committee - represented by Mr. Michael Kruse, Vice-Chair
Moisture Committee - represented by Mr. Harry Nijënstein, Chair
Editorial Board - represented by Mrs. Anne Bülow-Olsen, Chief Editor
Statistics Committee - represented by Mr. Sylvain Grégoire, Chair
Seed Health Committee - represented by Mrs. Valerie Cockerell, Chair
Proficiency Test Committee - represented by Mr. Günter Müller, Chair
Variety Committee - represented by Mr. Rainer Knoblauch, Chair
Flower Seed Committee - represented by Mrs. Zita Ripka, Chair
Tree and Shrub Seed Committee - represented by Mrs. Zdenka Prochazkova, Chair
Nomenclature Committee - represented by Mr. John Wiersema, Chair
Seed Storage Committee - represented by Mrs. Theresa Aveling, Member
Rules Committee - represented by Mr. Steve Jones, Chair
GMO Task Force - represented by Mr. Norbert Leist, Chair

(13) ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PLACE AND DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Mr. Silmar Peske, 2nd Vice-President of ISTA was called on stage to give a presentation on Brazil and the city of Iguacu Falls, which is the place of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Association which will be held in conjunction with the 28th ISTA Congress and the XV Congresso Brasileiro de Sementes to take place from May 5-11, 2007. An overview on the ISTA Seed Symposium to be held in during the Congress from May 7-9 was then presented by Mr. Muschick on behalf of the Seed Symposium Convenor, Mrs. Alison Powell who could not be personally present at the meeting.

Both presentations are available for download from the ISTA Website.

For the year 2008, the ISTA Annual Meeting was announced to be held in Italy, Bologna from June 16-19 upon invitation of the University of Bologna which will celebrating the centenary of its establishment in 2008.

(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 business to be discussed under this agenda point at this meeting had been received.

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

The President declared that there were two items to be discussed under this agenda point at this meeting. Firstly a presentation on the ISTA Method Validation Programme by Mr. John Hampton as Chair of the corresponding Working Group of the Executive Committee; the second presentation by Mr. Joël Léchappé, Chair of the Executive Committee Working Group on Certificates, would give information about languages on the ISTA Certificates.

Mr. Hampton thanked for the floor and gave a brief introduction on the ISTA Method Validation Programme and the work done within the Association in this regard. He gave examples when ISTA Method Validation will be required and what kind of validation (Multi-laboratory, Peer- or Performance Validated Methods) would be required for different cases. In closing, Mr. Hampton summarised the Method Validation procedure in ISTA as a five step process: 1. Method selection and development; 2. Validation through comparative testing; 3. Review of comparative test results and preparation of a Method Validation Report; 4. Approval of validation status by the Technical Committee and preparation of a Rules Proposal; 5. Acceptance by the ISTA Membership and publication of the validated method in the Rules. The ISTA Generic Method Validation should come into force by January 1st, 2007 after approval of the final draft by the Executive Committee.

Mr. Léchappé informed about discussions within the Executive Committee Working Group on how to answer the demands of ISTA Members to have their own languages on the ISTA Certificates. This would be given by creating a new version of the ISTA Certificate, besides keeping the existing ones available in English, French and German. The new Certificate would have English as the main language and a second language of choice. The minimum condition would be that the financial balance for ISTA in producing this certificate would be nil or positive.

Both presentations are available for download from the ISTA Website.

(16) PRESIDENT'S CLOSING ADDRESS

The President invited all staff of the ISTA Secretariat to come on stage. As the Secretariat is based in Switzerland, the President was happy to introduce the complete number of staff to the meeting participants and to thank them for all the work they are providing to the Association in preparing the documents for the meeting, organising the meeting, answering questions and provide a lot of services to the ISTA Members, but also to a lot of non-ISTA Members. Then Mr. Oosterveld and Mrs. Ertsey thanked each staff member personally and handed over flowers and a bottle of wine to the ladies and gentlemen of the staff correspondingly under the applause of the meeting participants.

The President further was happy to state that the Members of the Executive Committee have evaluated the meeting as being very successful with good discussions and also good decisions, and concluded that ISTA is still a vivid Association with an inspiring membership. He thanked the meeting participants for their active contributions during the meeting, but also during coffee breaks and meetings aside the official programme. He thanked Mr. Attilio Lovato, the Honorary President of ISTA, for being with there and for actively participating in the meetings and discussions. Finally he thanked the participants on behalf of the Executive Committee for their partaking, wished them a good trip home, hoping to see them again at the next ISTA Congress in Brazil.

(17) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on June 29, 2006 at 14:30.