



INTERNATIONAL SEED TESTING ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESSAIS DE SEMENCES
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG FÜR SAATGUTPRÜFUNG

Secretariat, Zürichstrasse 50, 8303 Bassersdorf, CH-Switzerland -
Phone: +41-44-838 60 00 - Fax: +41-44-838 60 01 - Email: ista.office@ista.ch - <http://www.seedtest.org>



13th ISTA GMO Proficiency Test
Canola / Oil Seed Rape
(*Brassica* sp.)
Announcement



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13th ISTA GMO Proficiency Test on Canola/Oil Seed Rape

(*Brassica* sp.)

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1. AIM

The aim of the proficiency test is to check the ability of individual laboratories in detecting GM seeds and in quantifying and identifying their presence in samples of conventional seeds of Canola.

Since GMO testing has been included in the ISTA Accreditation Programme, the participation in the ISTA Proficiency Tests on GMO Testing is compulsory for those laboratories currently in the process of accreditation in GM seed testing.

2. SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

Each participating laboratory will receive 12 numbered Canola seed samples. Each sample contains 3000 seeds based on the 1000 seed weight. Samples may be positive (i.e. contain GM seeds) or negative (i.e. contain no GM seeds). The positive samples are spiked with defined quantities of seeds with one or more of the following events: RF3 and T45.

3. QUALITATIVE TEST

A qualitative result, i.e. the detection of GM seeds, is required. This can be either derived from the quantitative test result or from a separate test on the sample.



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4. QUANTIFICATION OF GM SEEDS IN POSITIVE SAMPLES

Participants are required to quantify the content of GM seeds in the positive samples **either by** a sub-sampling quantification (semi-quantitative test) **or** by a quantitative test.

The choice of the method used for testing is at the laboratory's discretion.

Sub-sampling quantification (Semi-quantitative test)	Quantitative test
<p>The laboratory shall report the number of sub-samples tested the size of the sub-samples (in number of seeds) and the number of positive sub-samples.</p> <p>These elements can be used to compute and estimate the percentage of GM seeds in the sample.</p> <p>The laboratory shall provide the result in percent seed by number.</p> <p>Seedcalc8 available on the ISTA Website can perform this computation: http://www.seedtest.org/en/content--1--1143.html</p>	<p>The laboratory shall report the GM content in the test sample.</p> <p>Results must be reported in percent either related to the number of seeds or to the mass of seeds or DNA copy numbers. For more information see the clarification document "Unit" available at the ISTA GM information platform: http://www.seedtest.org/upload/cms/user/GMPT_Clarificationpaper-unitsandstandards_FinalMay2008_.pdf</p>

5. PARTICIPATION FEE

For the 13th ISTA GMO Proficiency Test non-members of ISTA pay a participation fee of 350 CHF (approx. 330 US\$). The fee covers costs for seed material, sample preparation, GMO purity check and phytosanitary tests, packaging and shipment (priority).

ISTA Members do not have to pay a participation fee. They must identify themselves on the registration form by referring to their ISTA member code.

6. REGISTRATION

Please send your registration form by email, mail or fax to the ISTA Secretariat stating the laboratory's name, the person in charge, the mail address (for sample delivery), the phone and the fax number.



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7. MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT (MTA)

Participating laboratories must return the signed Material Transfer Agreement (MTA). Samples will only be dispatched after the MTA has been received at the ISTA Secretariat.

The MTA will be sent to you upon registration for the proficiency test. You are kindly asked to check name and address of the person in charge for correctness on the MTA provided and inform the ISTA Secretariat if changes are necessary.

Please submit the signed MTA by mail (two copies) or by fax to the ISTA Secretariat. We will return one signed copy.

8. SHIPPING

The dispatch of the samples to the laboratories will start by **November 9, 2009**.

The package contains 12 samples, each of about 3000 seeds of Canola, in total about 0.2 kg. The seeds have not been treated. The samples are packed in hermetically sealed foil bags and the consignment will be labelled 'seeds for scientific propose only'. If necessary, a phytosanitary certificate will be enclosed. If there are special requirements for shipping samples into your country, please let us know.

9. REPORTING RESULTS

Results are expected to be reported to the ISTA Secretariat latest by **February 28, 2010**.

Please submit the results together with the information requested on the forms provided (result sheets) either by mail, fax or email.

The laboratory may submit more than one set of result sheets for different test methods but must clearly indicate which set of results should be evaluated. Only one set of result sheets per laboratory is accepted for the evaluation.

Laboratories not having sent the results to the ISTA Secretariat two weeks before the deadline will receive a reminder. Laboratories encountering difficulties to report on time have to inform the ISTA Secretariat before the deadline stating reasons for the delay and an indication when results will be reported. It will be decided on a case by case basis whether delayed results can be included or not.

Participants who have sent in their results, will receive a preliminary and a final result report containing the following:

- the positive and negative samples,
- the spiking level of each sample,
- the laboratory's qualitative test results,
- the laboratory's quantitative test results.

The final result report will show a rating for the qualitative and the quantitative results as appropriate. A summary of the results reported by all laboratories participating in this test round will be sent to the laboratories and published on the ISTA Website.



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10. TIME SCHEDULE

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| 1. Registration of laboratories interested in participation | starting August 24, 2009 |
| 2. MTA for signing and directions of payment sent to participant | upon receipt of registration |
| 3. Submission of the signed MTA and payment of participation fee | before October 26, 2009 |
| 4. Sample shipment | starting November 9, 2009 |
| 5. Submission of test results to the ISTA Secretariat | before February 28, 2010 |
| 6. Reporting of preliminary performance results by the Secretariat | March 31, 2010 |

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Norberto De Atrip
ISTA Secretariat

Address: ISTA Secretariat, CH-8303 Bassersdorf, Switzerland
Phone: +41-44-838-6000. Fax: +41-44-838-6001. E-mail: tcom@ista.ch