

## GMO TASK FORCE

The GMO Task Force is composed of 17 members, who hold voting rights within the task force in cases where official voting is required, and 2 ex-officio members, who will be fully informed on all activities of the Task Force.

Chair:	Christoph Haldemann	Switzerland
Members:	Sylvain Grégoire	France
	Jean-Louis Laffont	France
	Enrico Noli	Italy
	David Grothaus	United States
	David Zhang	France
	Elizabeth Bates	Belgium
	Sofia Ben Tahar	France
	Charlotte Leonhardt	Austria
	Benjamin Kaufmann	United States
	Michael Stahr	United States
	Anna Laura Vicario	Argentina
	Cheryl Dollard	Canada
	Brigitte Roth	Germany
	Lutz Grohmann	Germany
	Kirk Remund	United States
Gerhard Schuon	ISTA Secretariat	
Ex-officio members:	Bernard Le Buanec	ISF Secretary General
	Michael Muschick	ISTA Secretary General

Regarding the Working Programme, the tasks below have been identified to be of importance in the work of the Task Force for the period 2007-2010.

### **Permanent tasks**

#### **Continuation of the Proficiency test**

The main tasks are the working out of the testing plans of the proficiency test and the successful execution of the proficiency test (organization of the necessary material, preparation of the samples, sending out of the samples).

WG leader: Sylvain Grégoire

Members: Cheryl Dollard, Lutz Grohmann, David Zhang, Gerhard Schuon, Christoph Haldemann

### **Continuation of the accreditation programme (performance-based approach)**

The main task is to define the conditions and requirements of the performance based approach and the evaluation of the proficiency test results in regards to the status of accredited labs.

WG leader: David Zhang

Members: Charlotte Leonhardt, Sofia Ben Tahar, Sylvain Grégoire, Brigitte Roth, Kirk Remund

### **Information exchange: webpage and workshops**

The main task is to provide information for the update of the ISTA webpage, consider the structure of the ISTA webpage and make enhancements and the participation in the organization or lecturing in ISTA GMO workshops.

WG leader: Benjamin Kaufmann

Members: Enrico Noli, Charlotte Leonhardt, Michael Stahr, Cheryl Dollard, Christoph Haldemann

### **Reference material distribution in the framework of the performance-based approach.**

The main task is the organization of the material for the reference samples and the preparation of the reference samples as well as the sending out of the samples.

WG leader: Brigitte Roth

Members: David Grothaus, Benjamin Kaufmann, Elizabeth Bates

### **Temporary tasks**

#### **Participation in the Organizing Committee of the first global conference of GM analysis**

The main task is to support the ISTA delegate in the organizing committee with information and consider the usefulness of the programme from a viewpoint of GM seed testing.

WG leader: Elizabeth Bates

Members: Michael Stahr, Sylvain Grégoire, Ana Laura Vicario

## **ISTA Seminar on Specified-Trait Seed Testing**

The main task is to decide on the aims and a programme for this Seminar and identify possible speakers for this seminar.

WG leader: Ana Laura Vicario

Members: David Grothaus, Enrico Noli, Benjamin Kaufmann, Michael Stahr

## **Identification of stacked genes**

The main task is to find an approach to identify stacked genes in seeds.

WG leader: Jean-Louis Laffont

Members: Sylvain Grégoire, Kirk Remund, Elizabeth Bates, Lutz Grohmann

## **Publication of the results of the Proficiency Test**

The main task is to evaluate and consider the results of the ISTA proficiency test from various angles and make a publication out of it in a scientific style.

WG leader: Kirk Remund

Members: Sylvain Grégoire, Jean-Louis Laffont, Gerhard Schuon, Christoph Haldemann

## **Activity Report 2007**

Besides the challenging working programme, the following activities can be mentioned:

- After the ISTA congress in Brazil, the body of the GMO Task Force was newly established. To enhance progress, for each task, listed in the working programme, a leader was nominated.
- The 8th and 9th ISTA Proficiency Test on GMO testing was accomplished, including the utmost time consuming procurement of the seed material, the laborious sample preparation and sample dispatch. In this context, it has to be mentioned that for each Proficiency Test, obtaining suitable sample material is a particular challenge that requires an intense cooperation with companies providing the seeds.

For PT09 a first feedback report was sent to all participating laboratories.

The rating for the qualitative and quantitative results is scheduled to be issued by the end of the year.

- A rating for the qualitative and quantitative results of Proficiency Test 6, 7 and 8 was computed and sent out to all laboratories that participated.
- Preparation of the 10<sup>th</sup> ISTA Proficiency Test
- Intensive collaboration with the ISTA Statistics Committee, e.g.:
  - Support for the rating computation
  - Consulting for the design of the Proficiency Tests
  - Research and development of a tool for the distinction of non-stacked/stacked genes
  - Enhancement of SeedCalc and other statistical tools
- Consolidation of the Proficiency Test Database
- ISTA GMO Workshop: Methods for Detection and Statistical Aspects, at the Ege University in Izmir, Turkey together with the Statistics Committee.  
This workshop was financed by the participants and supported by the Turkish Research Council, (TUBITAK)
- Presentations of the GMO Task Force activity in various organizations