



# ISTA Press Release

ISTA Press Release 02/July 27, 2004

## ISTA Experiment on the Accreditation and Authorisation of Company Seed Testing Laboratories successfully finalised

In 1999 the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) initiated an experiment on the accreditation and authorisation of company seed testing laboratories, which expired at the end of June 2004.

Prior to and during the 27<sup>th</sup> ISTA Congress in Budapest, Hungary, the final results of the experiment were presented to the ISTA membership and the ISTA member governments.

From the data gained from the ISTA Proficiency Tests, the ISTA Audit Programme and monitoring data from some member countries, it could be concluded that in regards to the performance, there is no difference between company and non-company laboratories.

Therefore the ISTA member countries followed the recommendation of the ISTA Executive Committee and decided to finalise the Experiment on the Accreditation and Authorisation of Company Seed Testing Laboratories successfully and establish it as a permanent regime.

Consequently, company seed testing laboratories can become ISTA members, and from today on become accredited and authorised to issue ISTA Certificates.

Following the change in the ISTA Constitution Article VII (c) (15), an approval to issue ISTA Certificates from the national Designated Authority is no longer required (see Press Release number 01/2004).