



ISTA Press Release

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ISTA's 27th Congress, May 13-24, 2004, Budapest, Hungary

ISTA will be holding its 27th Congress in Budapest, Hungary, from May 13 - 24, 2004. As usual, the ISTA Congress will be the most outstanding event for seed scientists and technicians from around the world. During the two-week period the 27th Congress will address nearly all aspects of seed science and technology.

The Congress in Budapest will be separated into three official parts. From May 13 – 15 the ISTA Technical Committees will meet, then from May 17 – 19 the Congress continues with the ISTA Seed Symposium, followed by the Ordinary Meeting of ISTA on May 20 – 21. May 22 – 24 has been reserved for the Post-Congress Tours.

During the meetings of the Technical Committees discussion will mainly evolve around the further enhancement of the International Rules for Seed Testing, the training and education programme including new publications of the Technical Committees and discussion on the presented Rules Changes 2004. These meetings are open to everyone and we welcome all representatives from the public and the private sector as well as all interested seed scientists and technicians to attend.

The ISTA Seed Symposium will be 'the largest international gathering of applied seed scientists and a unique forum for the interchange of ideas between seed scientists and technicians' as stated in the newsletter of the International Society of Seed Science. **'Towards the future in seed production, evaluation and improvement'**, is the theme of the Seed Symposium, which is structured into 7 sessions (for more details please visit our website at www.seedtest.org).

As usual, during the Ordinary Meeting the voting delegates, appointed by their respective governments of the current 73 ISTA member countries, will decide on the latest rules change proposals. But also important questions on the governance will be discussed. Essential questions such as the voting rights and the authorisation rights to issue ISTA Certificates will be addressed and possibly decided on during that Ordinary Meeting.

After the historic changes of the ISTA Constitution in the 1995, this Ordinary Meeting in Budapest could see changes, which could transform the face of ISTA tremendously. The 27th Congress could become a significant milestone in the history of ISTA.