



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

Secretariat, Zürichstrasse 50, P.O. Box 308, 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

To all participants
ISTA GMO Proficiency Test
PT09

Bassersdorf, December 20, 2007

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

Proficiency Test Results and Rating

Please find enclosed all participants' test results and ratings for PT09.

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

Samples were either negative, i.e. did not contain any transgenic events, or positive, i.e. contained the transgenic events MON863 and/or NK603. When preparing the positive samples, defined numbers of seeds were mixed with non-GM seeds. The genetic purity was tested prior to the sample preparation.

Each participating laboratory received 12 numbered maize seed samples, containing approximately 2000 seeds (578g) based on the 1000 seed weight.

Each sample set comprised one negative sample and eleven samples with spiking levels of either 2 or 16 GM seeds (c.f. table below). A graphical presentation of the spiking levels is given in figure1.

Samples for testing the GM purity contained 50 seeds and were spiked with conventional seeds. The event in both samples was MON863 (figure2).

PT09 sample details

Spiking level	0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	90%	96%
Event		Mon863	NK603	MON863 +NK603	MON863+ NK603	MON863+ NK603	MON863	MON863
Lot No	1	2-4	5, 6	7, 8	9, 10	11, 12	13	14
Number of samples	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	1
Number of non-GM seeds	2000	1998	1998	1984	1984	1984	5	2
Number of GM seeds	0	2	2	8+8	4+12	12+4	45	48

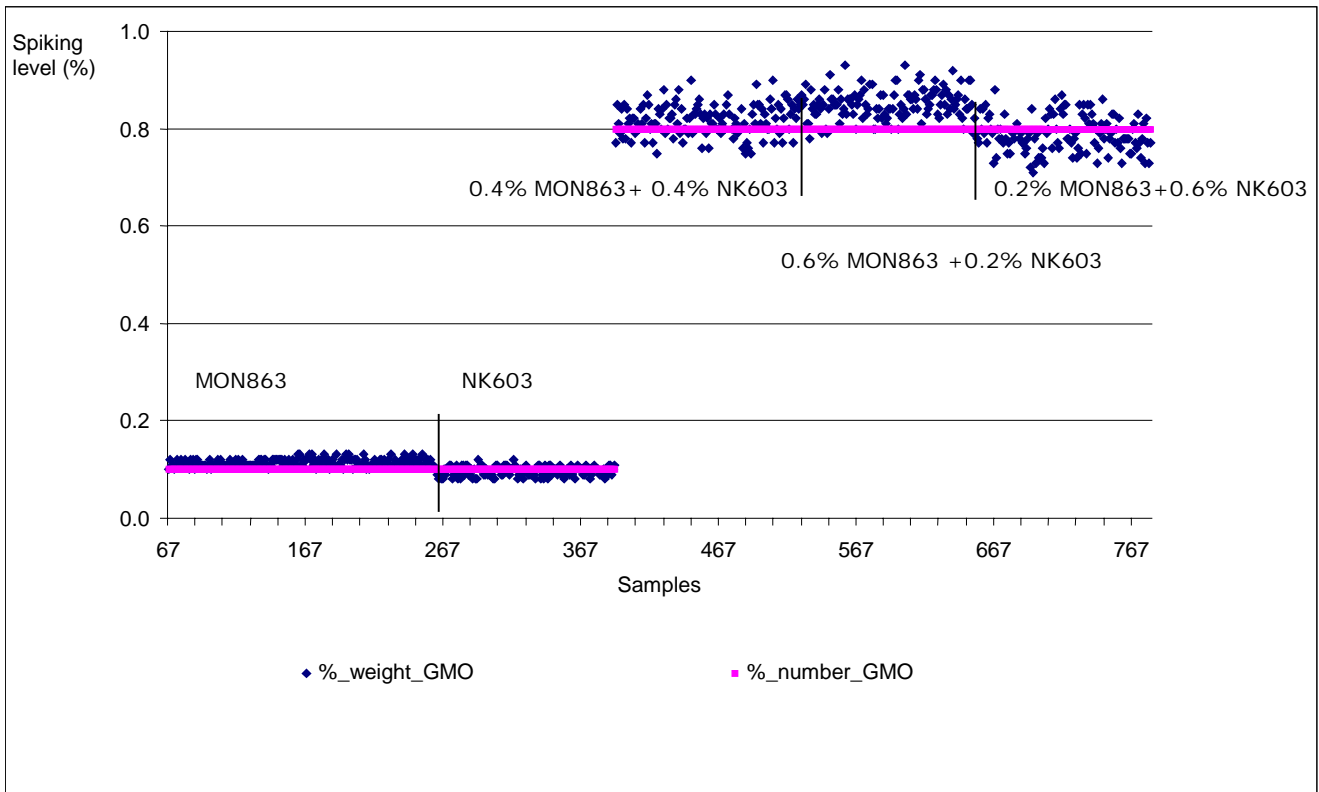


Figure 1: Spiking levels by number and by mass of seed for samples lot No 2-12

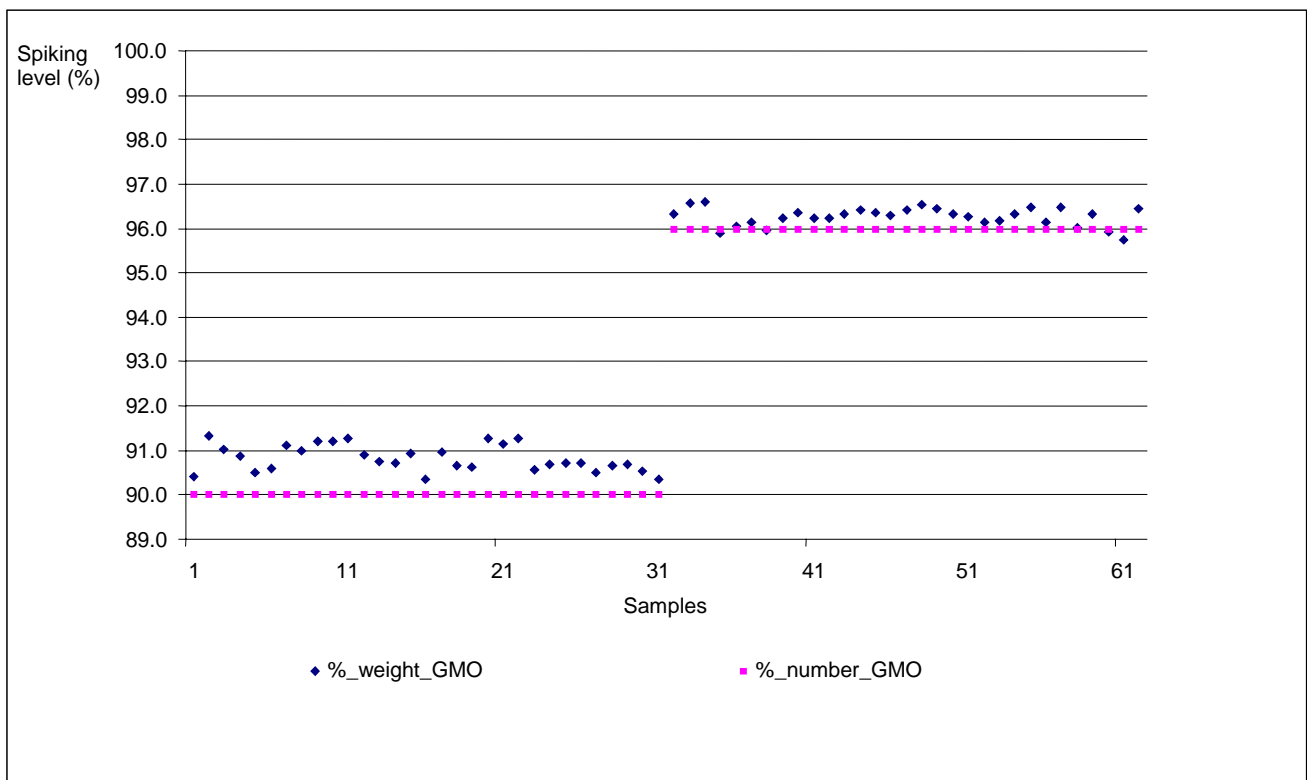
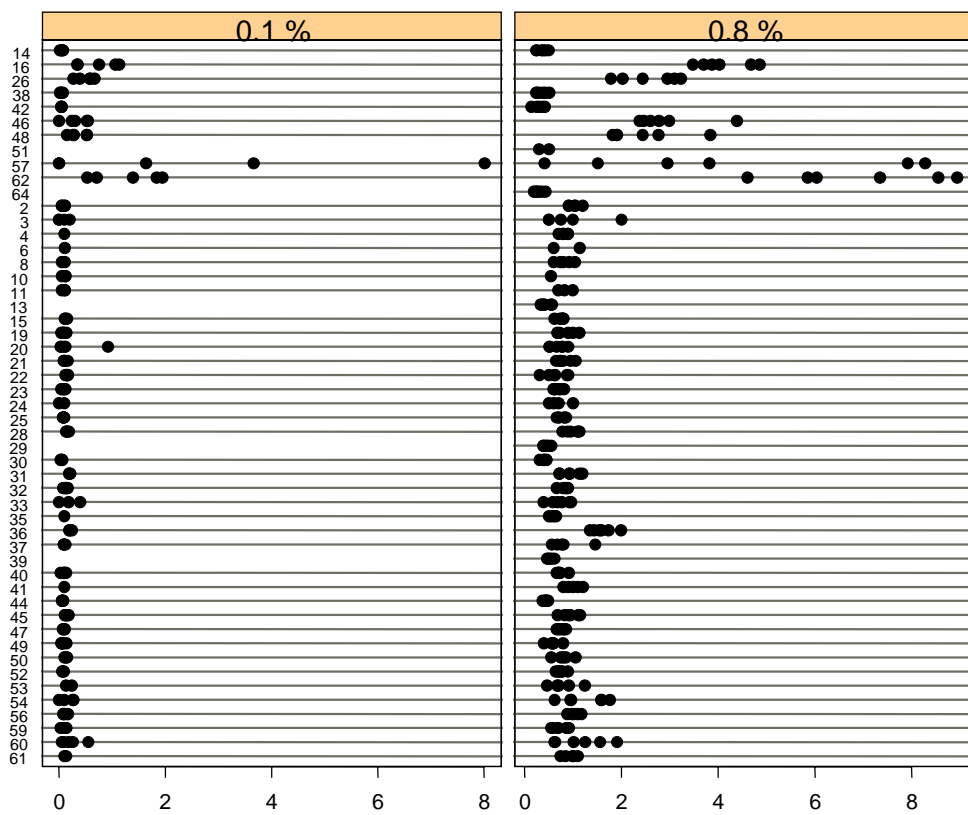


Figure 2: Spiking levels by number and by mass of seed for samples lot No.13 and 14

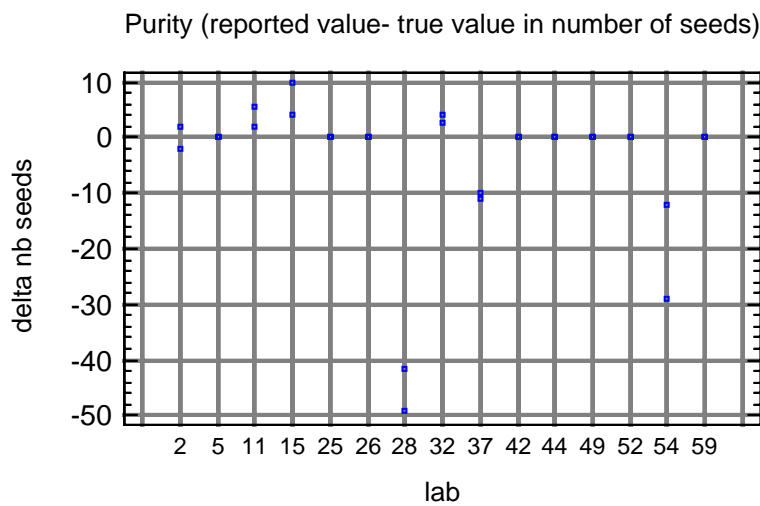
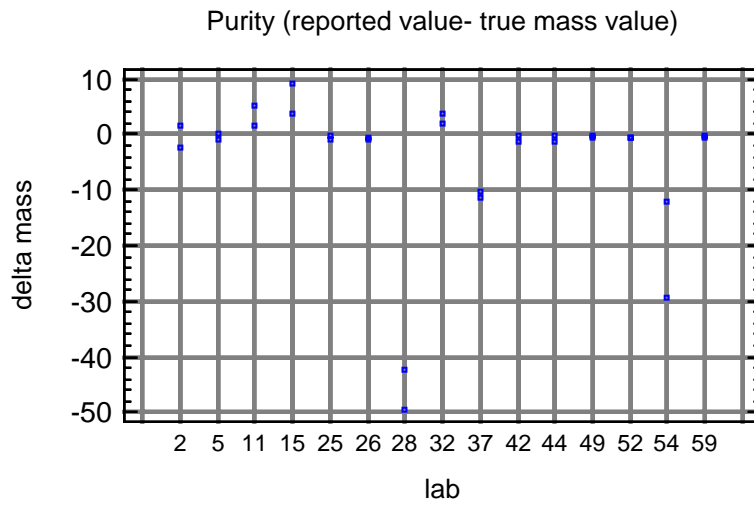
EVALUATION

Sample sets were sent to 64 laboratories. Fifty six participants submitted their results, four provided qualitative results only.



Quantitative results reported by participating laboratories

A total of 31 participants had requested the two additional samples for testing for genetic purity. From these, 15 submitted purity results.



QUALITATIVE RATING:

The rating for the presence/absence (qualitative) results is based on a percentage of misclassified samples out of the total of 12 samples. Misclassification may either be a false positive or a false negative result. Missing results for individual samples are evaluated as misclassification.

rate	Misclassified samples	Misclassified samples absolute numbers	Number of laboratories
A	0% - 5%	0	48
B	>5% - 10%	1	2
C	>10% - 20%	2	3
BMP	>20%	>2	3

QUANTITATIVE RATING

The quantitative rating is based on the quantification results for the eleven positive samples and their reference value. The reference value is either the number of GM seeds in percent, the mass of the GM seeds in percent or the median of the results reported by the participants in the unit '%DNA copies'. Which of the reference values is chosen is determined by the panel of experts appointed for each round, the guiding principle being:

Sub-sampling quantification: %number

results reported in %number: %number

results reported in %mass: %mass

results reported in any other unit, such as number DNA copies: median

rate	Number of laboratories
A	27
B	11
C	1
BMP	13

If you require a more comprehensive explanation of the rating system, please refer to Seed Testing International, The ISTA News Bulletin No 130 (quantitative rating) and No 128 (qualitative rating) or contact the ISTA Secretariat.

Sincerely yours,

Gerhard Schuon
TCOM Coordinator

Encls: mentioned