



INTERNATIONAL SEED TESTING ASSOCIATION (ISTA)

Secretariat, Zuerichstrasse 50, 8303 Bassersdorf, CH-Switzerland

Phone: +41-44- 838 60 00, Fax: +41-44-838 60 01, E-Mail: ista.office@ista.ch, Web: <http://www.seedtest.org>

How to become an ISTA Technical Committee Member

Introduction to ISTA's Technical Committees

The principle objective of ISTA is to develop and standardise methods for sampling seed lots and testing seed quality parameters such as germination, purity, moisture, viability, vigour and seed health, using the best scientific knowledge available. An important aim is to promote research in all areas of seed science and technology through publication, training programs and meetings.

These tasks are subject-focused in 15 Technical Committees where scientists from different research fields and specialisms from all over the world work closely together for the improvement of seed testing. The Technical Committees perform comparative studies for validation of test methods, surveys and exchange information about specific issues. A committee may have several working groups on specific subjects composed of experts in the particular field of work. Committees are responsible for the development and improvement of the 'International Rules for Seed Testing', and for ISTA Handbooks on seed sampling and testing methods.

List of ISTA Technical Committees

Advanced Technologies
Bulking and Sampling
Flower Seed Committee
Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee
Germination Committee
GMO Committee
Moisture Committee
Nomenclature Committee
Seed Health Committee
Purity Committee
Statistics Committee
Storage Committee
Tetrazolium Committee
Variety Committee
Vigour Committee

In addition, ISTA has:

a **Proficiency Test Committee** – responsible for organising and evaluating proficiency testing for ISTA's member laboratories

a **Rules Committee** – responsible for the International Rules for Seed Testing; members of this committee are the chairs of the above Technical Committees

an **Editorial Board** – responsible for the publication of ISTA's scientific journal, Seed Science and Technology

Where to get more information about the ISTA Technical Committees

If you would like to receive more information about the work of the ISTA Technical Committees please visit the 'Approved Working Programme and Membership of ISTA Committees' posted on the ISTA website: www.seedtest.org (TECHNICAL COMMITTEES/Working Programme), or ask the ISTA Secretariat for a copy (email: ista.office@ista.ch)

Who can become a Technical Committee Member

The ISTA Technical Committees welcome scientists of different research fields of seed science and specialists in seed testing from seed testing laboratories, universities, research institutes and companies from all over the world.

How to become ISTA Technical Committee Member

1. Choose a Technical Committee

From the information regarding the ISTA Technical Committees on the ISTA website choose a Technical Committee which fits in with your expertise and interest.

2. Contact Chairperson

After you have chosen a Technical Committee the second step is to contact the Chairperson of this committee to indicate your interest. Contact details of the Chairperson are available on the ISTA website: www.seedtest.org (TECHNICAL COMMITTEE).

Alternatively send an application and an up to date *curriculum vitae* to the Technical Committee via the ISTA Secretariat: (email: ista.office@ista.ch) In your application you should give details of your qualifications and you should explain briefly your position and the technical duties you perform at your seed testing station, institute or company. Your application should also include your contact details including name, mailing address, phone and fax number, and e-mail address.

The committee decides whether an applicant fulfils the requirements to become a committee member. It should be noted that in many cases there may not be any vacancies and there could be a waiting list of candidates. If there are no vacancies, you may be offered the possibility of membership of a working group within the committee. Working group membership allows you to participate in committee business and demonstrate that you fulfil the requirements for committee membership.

3. Membership approval by the ISTA Executive Committee

If there is a vacancy and the committee decides that you meet the requirements for membership, your application will be sent via the ISTA Secretariat to the ISTA Executive Committee for approval as a committee member. The committee will provide the Executive Committee with their recommendation and any relevant information regarding your expertise.

4. Contact details are sent to the ISTA Secretariat

If you are approved as a new ISTA Technical Committee Member by the ISTA Executive Committee, your contact details will be recorded in the ISTA Secretariat database and you will receive a Certificate indicating your Technical Committee membership until the end of the current triennium.