



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

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To all participants  
ISTA GMO Proficiency Test PT10

Bassersdorf, August 20, 2008

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

**Proficiency Test Results and Rating**

Please find enclosed your laboratory's test results and ratings for PT10.

**EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN**

All samples contained the transgenic events MON531 and/or MON1445. Four samples contained the stacked event MON531 x MON1445 and these samples were not taken into consideration for the quantification rating. When preparing the 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 cotton seed samples, containing approximately 2500 seeds (290g) based on the 1000 seed weight.

Each sample set comprised twelve samples with four spiking levels of 0.6, 0.8, 1.2 or 1.4 % (number of seeds) GM seeds (c.f. table below).

**PT10 sample details**

<b>Spiking level</b>	<b>0.6 %</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>Event</b>	MON531	MON1445	MON531 x MON1445	MON531 +MON1445	MON531 +MON1445	MON1445 + MON531 x MON1445
<b>Lot No.</b>	1, 2	3, 4	5, 6	7, 8	9, 10	11, 12
<b>Number of samples</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Number of non-GM seeds</b>	2470	2470	2470	2460	2430	2440
<b>Number of GM seeds</b>	30	30	30	20+20	30+40	20+40

**EVALUATION**

Sample sets were sent to 30 laboratories. Twenty five participants submitted their results, five provided qualitative results only.

**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 involves false negative results. In addition, missing results for individual samples were also evaluated as misclassifications.

rate	Misclassified samples	Misclassified samples absolute numbers	Number of laboratories
A	0% - 5%	0	24
B	>5% - 10%	1	0
C	>10% - 20%	2	0
BMP	>20%	>2	1

**QUANTITATIVE RATING**

The quantitative rating is based on the quantification results for the eight samples with non-stacked events. 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 principles 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

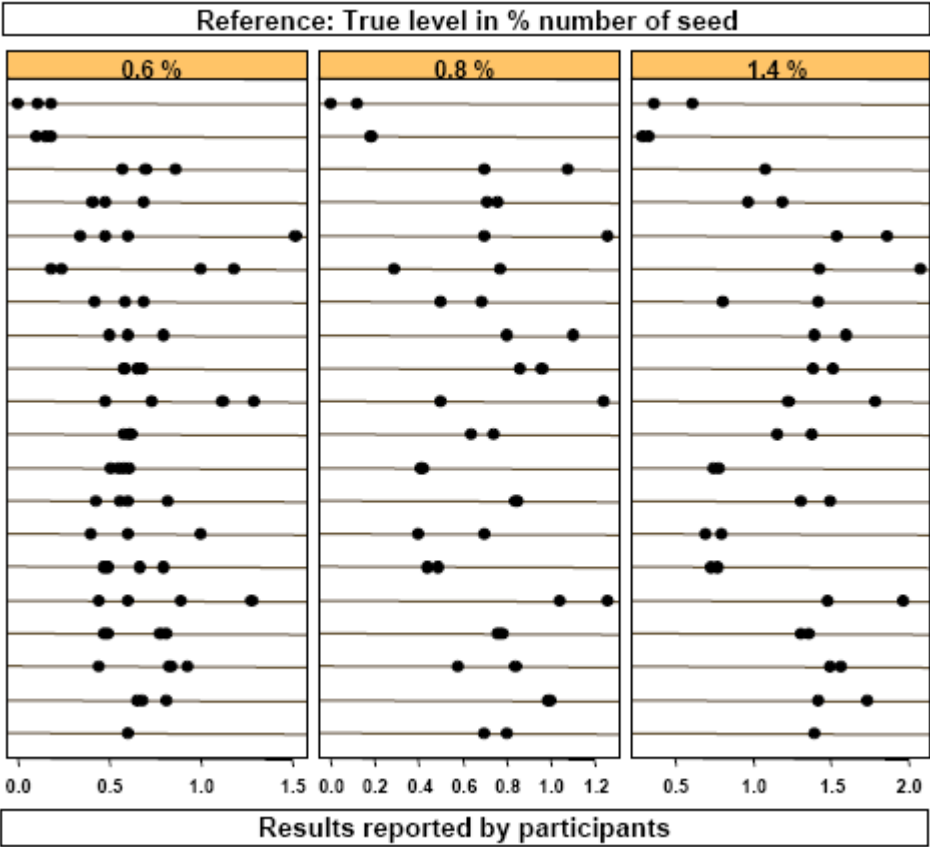
The ratings awarded in this round were as follows:

Rating	Number of laboratories
A	11
B	3
C	4
BMP	2

The reporting units used by participants were as follows:

Reporting unit	Number of laboratories
% number	6
% mass	8
% DNA copies	6

The spread of results obtained by individual participants at the three different spiking levels is shown in the following diagram.



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,

Dr. Norberto De Atrip  
TCOM Coordinator

Encls: mentioned