

Ensuring Seed Quality By Uniformity in Seed Testing

Role of Seed Testing in the Future World



Keshavulu Kunusoth

Message from the ISTA President

Feature a message from the ISTA President regarding the 100 years of ISTA.

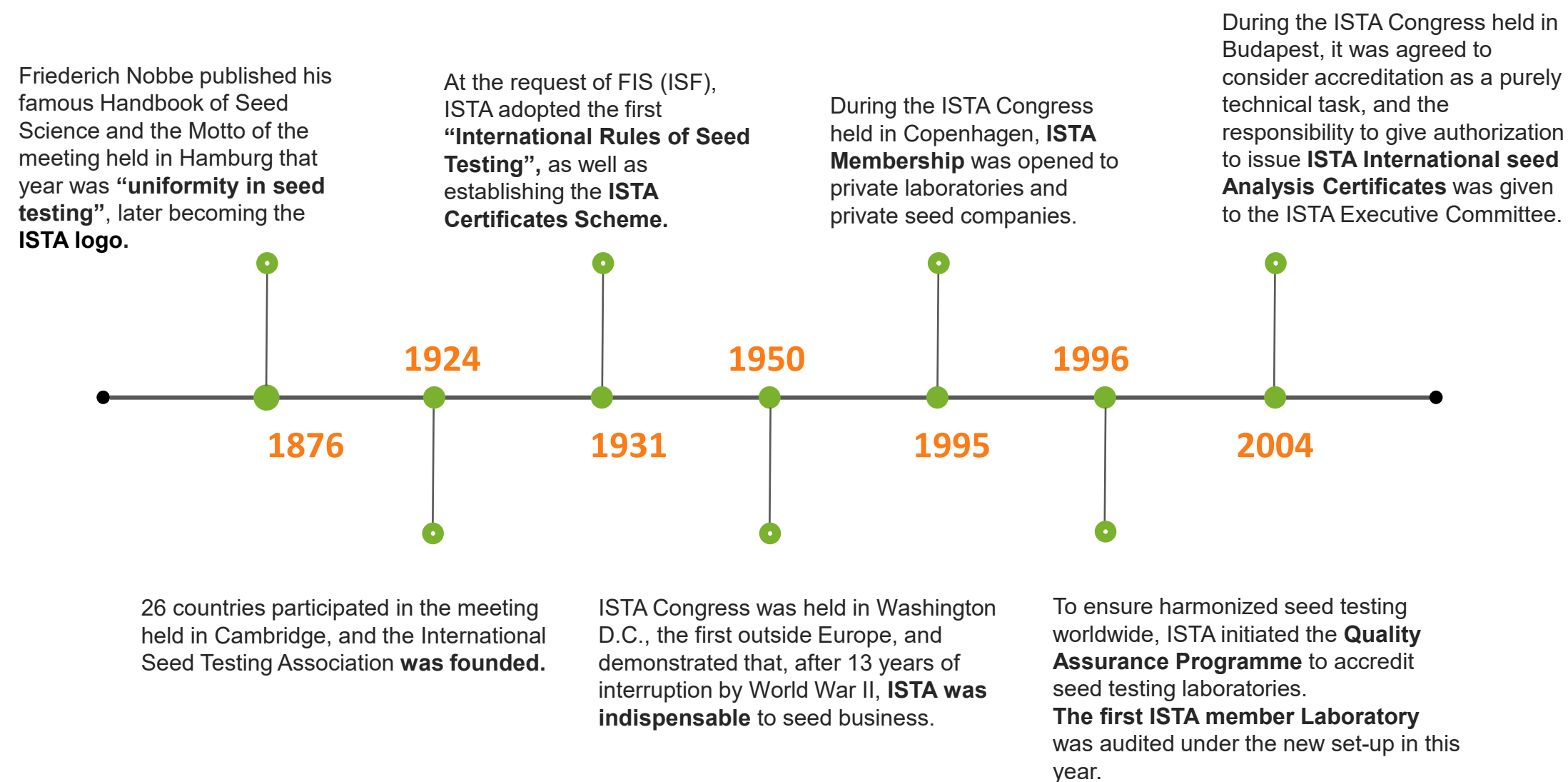
In Focus

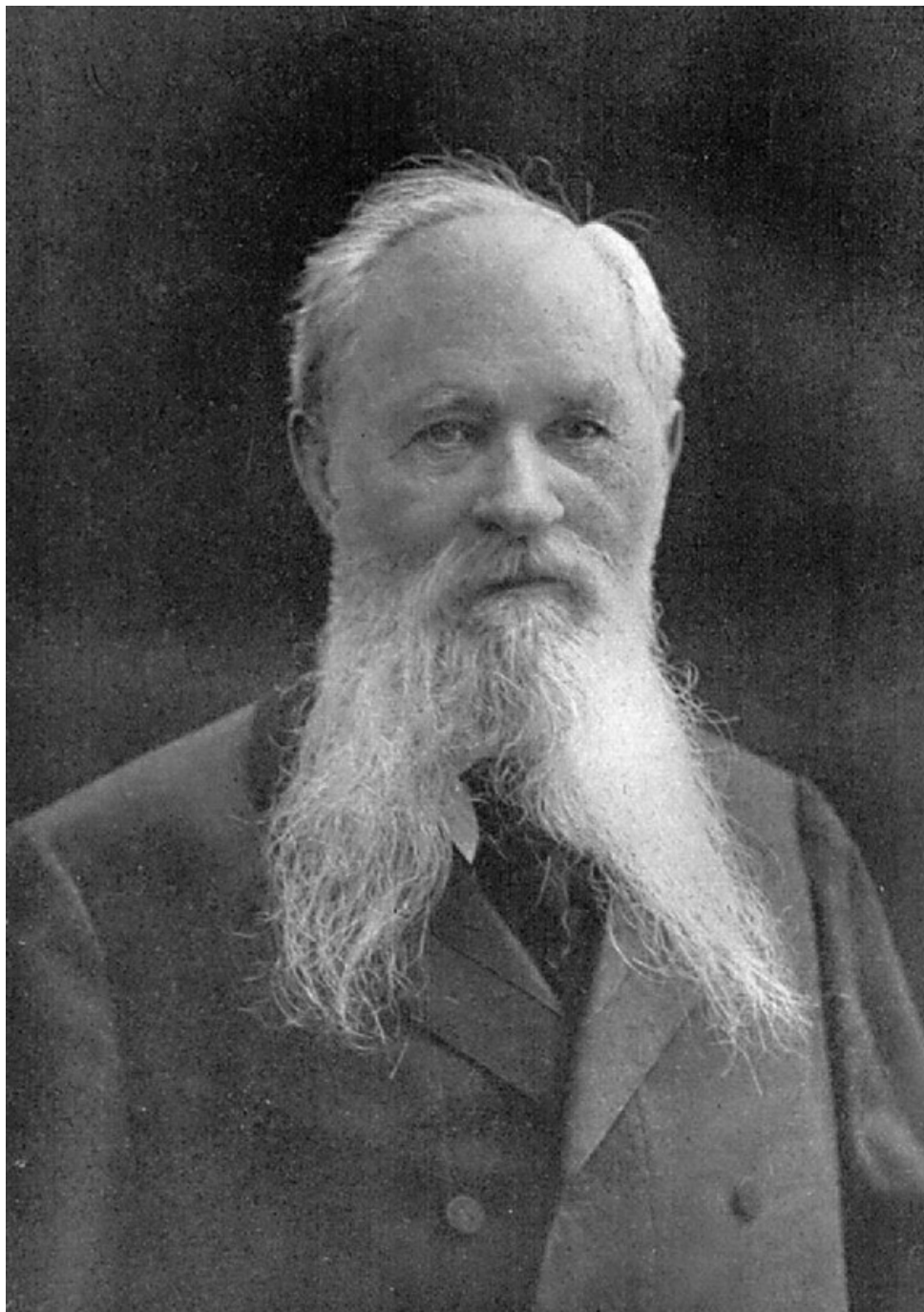
The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) is an international, non-profit association of seed testing laboratories and individual seed professionals.

ISTA operates under the governance of the governments of member countries and distinct economies.



ISTA Facilitates seed trade since 1924



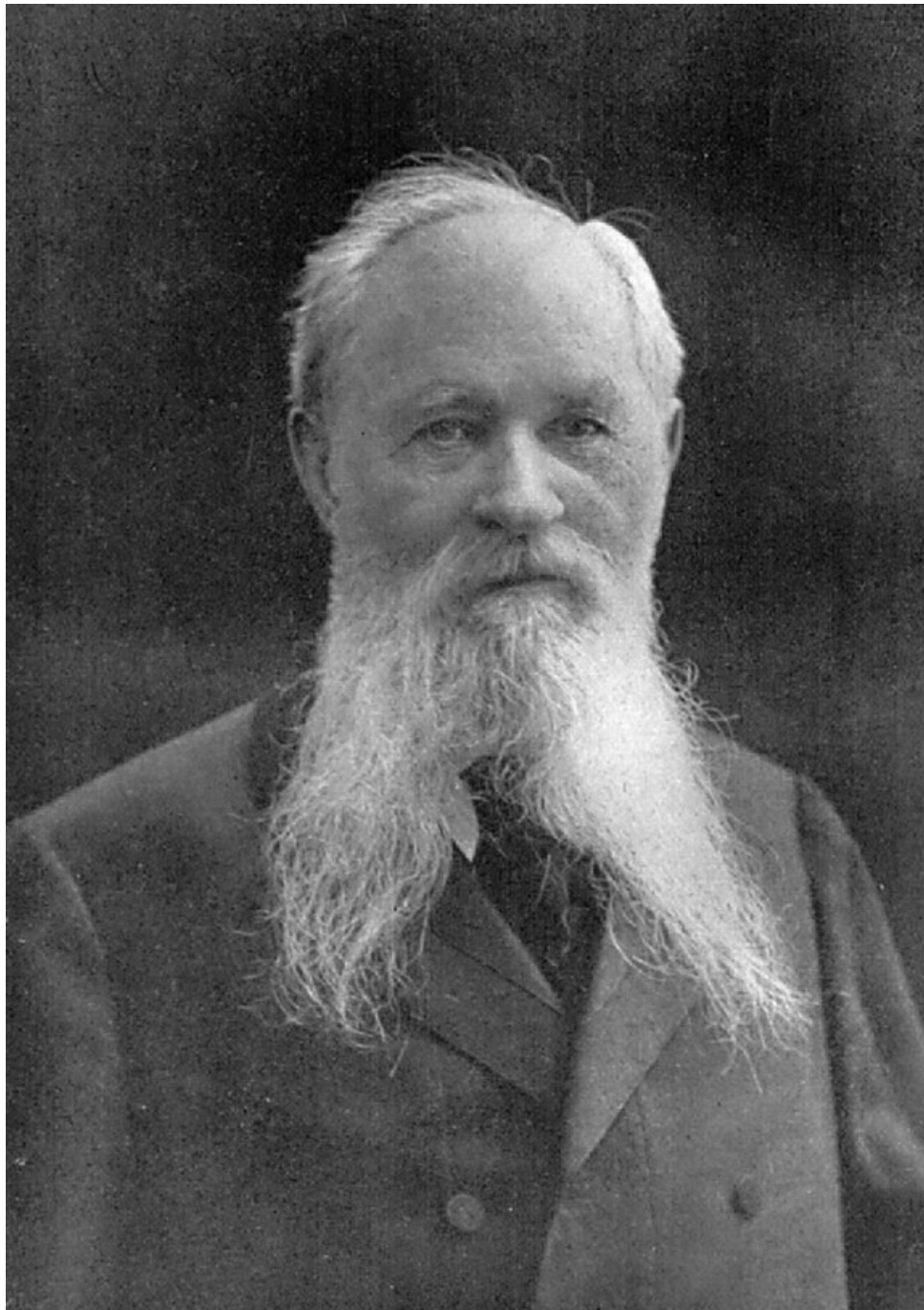


Nobbe's Inquiries Over 150 Years Ago

- Is the seed sold to farmers of the desired botanical species?
- How many seeds are of the desired botanical species?
- What other botanical species can be found in the seed sold?
- Does the seed sold have the potential to produce a healthy plant?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hK_wNrJu09Q

Nobbe's Requirements Over 150 Years Ago



- Science-based laboratory Testing
- Sampling is critical
- Standardised Methods for all tests needed (Rules)
- All Tests completed before seed sold to end-user
- Statistics is fundamental to Seed Testing

ISTA Objectives

Develop, adopt, and publish **Standard Procedures** for Sampling and testing seeds and promote uniform application of these procedures, for evaluation of seeds moving in international trade.

Promote Research in all areas of seed science and technology.



ISTA Membership

Member Laboratory

- Is a laboratory engaged in the testing of seed, which supports ISTA's objectives
- Participates in the **Proficiency Testing Programme** (mandatory for accredited Laboratories)
- Receives free online, multi-user access to the **International Rules of Seed Testing**
- Purchases ISTA publications at the member's reduced rate
- Member Laboratories have a free **Personal Member**
- Receives a free copy of newly published **ISTA Handbooks** upon release

All staff members receive priority booking at any **ISTA Event**. (Reduced registration fees for ISTA Congress, Annual Meeting, Symposia and Workshops)

*The term Member Laboratory also counts for Sampling Entities

Fees

ISTA Laboratory Membership
annual fee*:

5 214 Swiss Francs (CHF)

Accreditation fee (applies for
accredited laboratories only)*:

1 224 Swiss Francs (CHF)

Audit fee (paid annually, for
accredited laboratories only)*:

4 330 Swiss Francs (CHF)

*2024 minus 10% for early birds



ISTA Membership

Personal Member

- Is a person engaged in the science and practice of seed testing or its technical control, who supports ISTA's objectives
- Receives free online, multi-user access to the [International Rules of Seed Testing](#)
- Purchases ISTA publications at the member's reduced rate
- Receives a free copy of newly published [ISTA Handbooks](#) upon release
- Has priority at any [ISTA Event](#). (Reduced registration fees for ISTA Congress, Annual Meeting, Symposia and Workshops)

Fees

ISTA Personal Membership
annual fee*:

1 049 Swiss Francs (CHF)

*2024 minus 10% for early birds



ISTA Membership

Associate Member

- Is a person engaged in the science and practice of seed testing or its technical control, who supports ISTA's objectives
- Purchases online, single-user access to the **International Rules of Seed Testing** and other ISTA Publications like ISTA Handbooks at the members reduced rate
- **ISTA Events** (Reduced registration fees for ISTA Congress, Annual Meeting, Symposia and Workshops)

Fees

ISTA Associate Membership
annual fee*:
214 Swiss Francs (CHF)

*2024 minus 10% for early birds

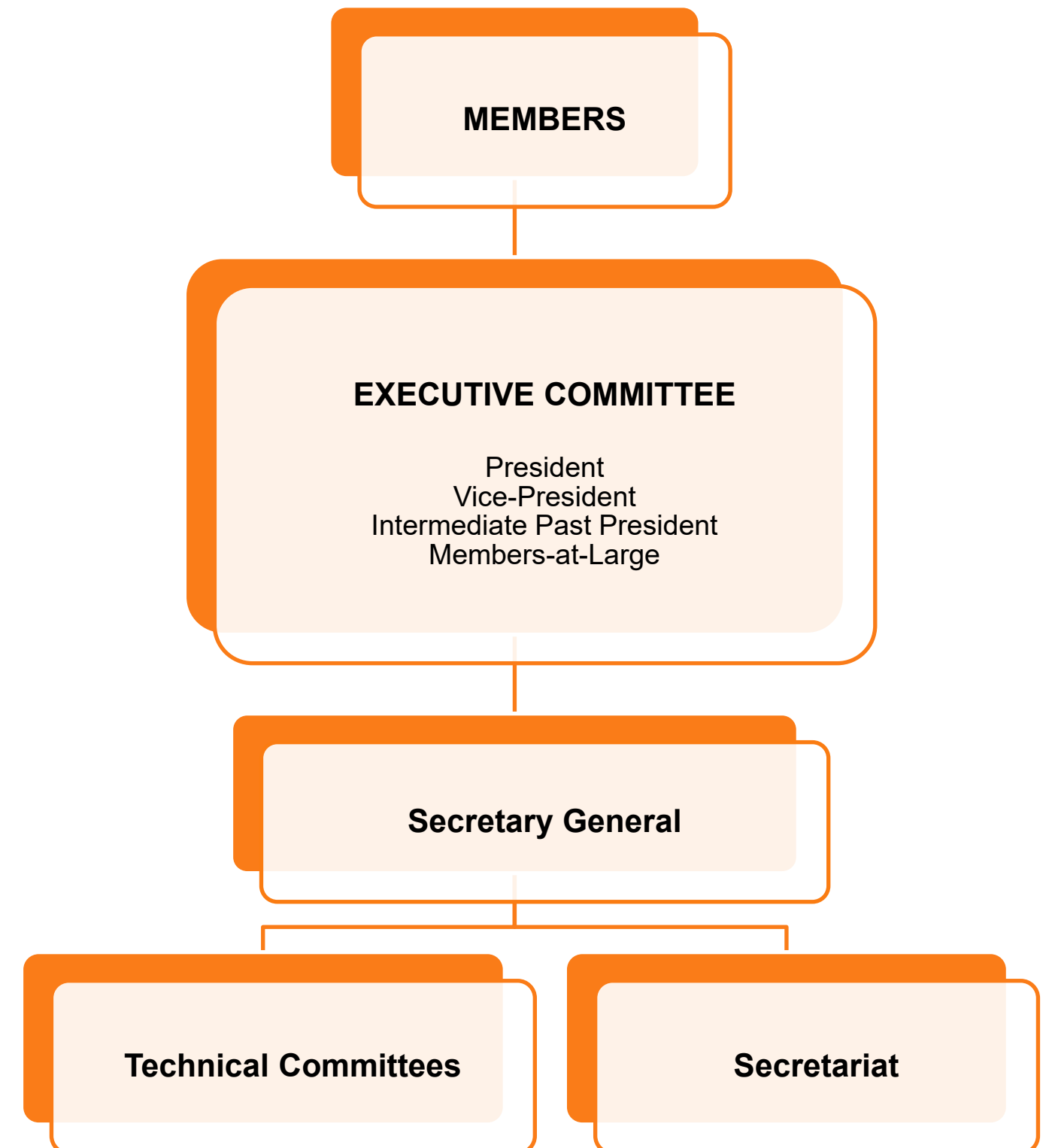
ISTA Structure

Government Governance

Personal Members may become Designated Members (and Voting Members), if nominated by their Designated Authorities

Designated Members have passive (and if Voting Members also active) voting rights during ISTA ordinary Meetings

This means that finally the Designated Authorities (Government Representatives) vote on Article, Rules, Membership Fees, Accreditation, the Executive Committee Members etc. of the Association





ISTA Executive Committee



KESHAVULU KUNUSOTH

President
India



ERNEST ALLEN

Vice - President
United States



STEVE JONES

Immediate Past President
Canada

MEMBERS AT LARGE



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Argentina



SERGIO PASQUINI

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CRAIG MCGILL

New Zealand



VANESSA SOSA

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ISTA Secretariat



ANDREAS WAIS
Secretary General



FLORINA PALADA
Head of Accreditation &
Technical Department



AGNES HEGEDUES
Finance, Sales &
HR Management



ANDREEA PINAR
TCOM Administrator



BRANISLAVA OPRI
System Auditor, Quality Management
& Standard PT Coordinator



BEATA HÜBNEROVÁ
Administration
Assistant



KAREN DE LA ROSA
Marketing &
Communications Assistant



NADINE ETTTEL
TCOM Manager



NEELAM OEK
Audit, Accreditation &
PT Administrator
On Maternity Leave



OLGA STOECKLI
Events, Membership &
Documentation Manager



SEJAL PATEL
IT Business Solutions
Manager



STELLA MARCU
System Auditor & PT
Administrator



YOANA UZUNOVA
Marketing and
Communications
Manager

ISTA TCOM Chairs



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Technologies
Committee



CORINNE GUIMIER

Bulking and
Sampling
Committee



FIONA R. HAY

Editorial Board of
Seed Science and
Technology



SARAH DAMMEN

Flower Seed
Testing Committee



ELISA VIEIRA

Forest Tree and
Shurb Seed
Committee



ENRICO NOLI

GMO Committee



GILLIAN MUSGROVE

Germination
Committee



AXEL GOERITZ

Moisture
Committee



MELANIE SCHORI

Nomenclature
Committee



DIDIER DEMILLY

Proficiency Test
Committee



RUOJING WANG

Purity Committee



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Rules Committee



RUUD BARNHOORN

Seed Health
Committee



BRIGITTE HAMMAN

Seed Science
Advisory Group



JAYANTHI NADARAJAN

Seed Storage
Committee



KIRK REMUND

Statistics
Committee



SERGIO PASQUINI

Tetrazolium
Committee



ANA LAURA VICARIO

Variety Committee



ALISON A. POWELL

Vigour Committee



GIL WAIBEL

Wild Species
Working Group

20 Technical Committees



- Advanced Technologies Committee
- Bulking and Sampling Committee
- Flower Seed Testing Committee
- Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee
- Germination Committee
- GMO Committee
- Moisture Committee
- Nomenclature Committee
- Proficiency Test Committee
- Purity Committee
- Rules Committee
- Seed Health Committee
- Statistics Committee
- Seed Storage Committee
- Tetrazolium Committee
- Variety Committee
- Vigour Committee
- Editorial Board (SST)
- Seed Science Advisory Group
- Wild Species Working Group

About 270
TECHNOLOGISTS AND SCIENTISTS
AROUND THE GLOBE

Over 50
SEED PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE
TRAINING YEARLY IN ISTA WORKSHOPS

Discover more: [Technical Committees](#)



ISTA
100 YEARS

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS IN SEED QUALITY ASSURANCE

ISTA Pillars

International
Standardisation of
Reporting Results

Dissemination of
Knowledge

International
Standardisation of
Methodologies

International
Standardisation of
Laboratory results



ISTA Publications

The International Rules for Seed Testing are published in 4 languages:

- English - French
- English - Spanish
- English - German

ISTA Handbooks

The subject-focused handbooks give valuable background information to seed testing procedures.

Seed Testing International (STI)

ISTA bi-annual news bulletin published as hard copy and online.

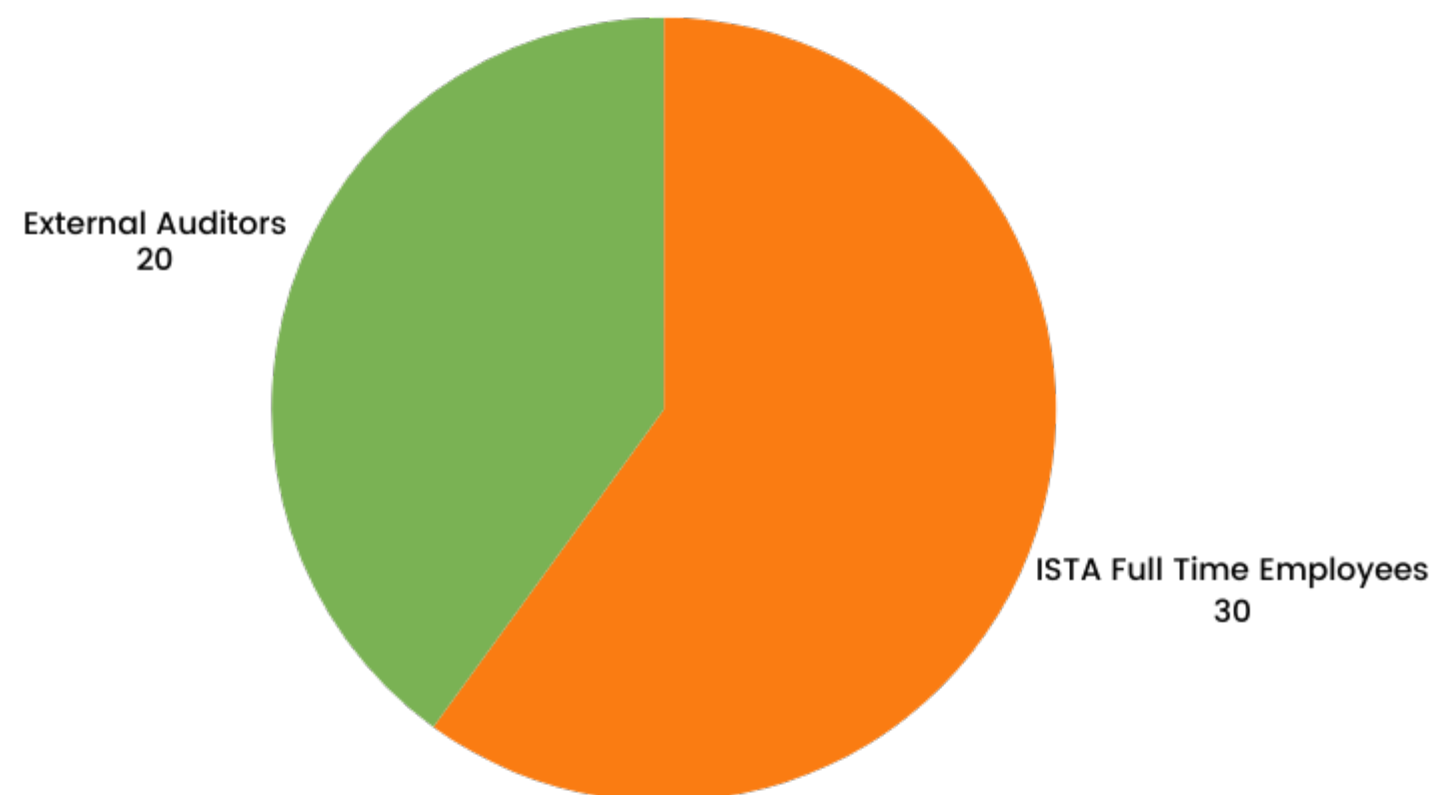
Seed Science and Technology (SST)

Seed Science and Technology (SST) is an international journal featuring original papers and articles on seed quality and physiology related to seed production, harvest, processing, sampling, storage, genetic conservation, habitat regeneration, distribution and testing.



Accreditation

About 50 ISTA Audits each year



More than 150 ISTA Accredited Laboratories Worldwide

1996

The Quality Assurance Programme was first introduced to accredit seed testing laboratories*

Every 3 years

ISTA Accredited Laboratories are audited in order to obtain re-accreditation

*The term seed testing laboratory also counts for sampling entities.

ISTA Proficiency Tests

ISTA offers the following PTs:

Standard PT: 3 per year
GMO PT: 1 per year
Seed Health PT: 1 per year
New: DNA PT: 1 per year

Standard Proficiency Test Programme Plan 2023-2025

Round	Species	Test round scope	Crop group	Crop group
PT23-1	Vicia sativa	PUR, OSD, GER	4	Pulses
PT23-2	Raphanus sativus	PUR, OSD, GER, MOI, VIG (conductivity test), OIC	5 (and 6)*	Other agricultural crops and vegetable
PT23-3	Trifolium hybridum	PUR, OSD, GER, TSW	3	Small legumes
PT24-1	Triticum aestivum subsp. aestivum	PUR, OSD, GER, MOI, TZ, VIG (radicle emergence), TSW, OIC	2	Cereals
PT24-2	Alcea rosea	GER	8	Flowers
PT24-2	Arachis hypogaea	GER	4	Pulses
PT24-3	Bromus inermis	PUR, OSD, GER, TZ	1	Grasses
PT24-3	Coriandrum sativum	GER	6	Vegetables
PT25-1	Beta vulgaris ** (pelleted seeds)	GER	5	Other agricultural crops
PT25-1	Lactuca sativa	PUR, OSD, GER	6	Vegetables
PT25-2	Oryza sativa	PUR, OSD, GER, TZ, TSW OIC	2	Cereals
PT25-3	Pinus sylvestris	GER, MOI, TZ	7	Forests
PT25-3	Chenopodium quinoa	GER	5 (and 6)*	Other agricultural crops and vegetables

* Laboratories accredited for each crop group will be considered as obligatory participants

** Round on Beta vulgaris is to be confirmed; laboratories ISTA accredited both for crop group 5 and coated seed are considered as obligatory participants (accreditation for the crop group 5 only without accreditation for coated seed will for this round be considered as voluntary participation)



ISTA Certificates

Orange For Seed Lots (Including ISTA Sampling)
Blue For Seed Samples and Mixtures

About **200,000** Certificates issued globally every year.

A glance to the near future:

ISTA Certificates going electronic!



Highlights and Special Projects

ISTA Social Media:

LinkedIn: (> 11,121 followers)

X: (> 2,491 followers)

YouTube: (> 1,410 subscribers)

ISTA Pest List:

23 Crops (Pest List V9)

World Seed Partnership: www.worldseedpartnership.org

Young@ISTA:

LinkedIn Group: Support to Young Seed Professionals

440 Members



International Partners



APSA

asta



UPOV





ISTA 100 YEARS

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS IN SEED QUALITY ASSURANCE





34th ISTA
CONGRESS
CHRISTCHURCH

-- NEW ZEALAND --



04-10 May
2025



ISTA
100 YEARS

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS IN SEED QUALITY ASSURANCE

THANK YOU!

www.seedtest.org



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