



**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
PT15

Bassersdorf, 10 August 2011
Dear Madam, dear Sir,

Proficiency Test Results and Rating

Please find enclosed your laboratory's test results and ratings for PT15.

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

Samples with Flax / Linseed seeds were either negative, i.e. did not contain any transgenic events, or positive, i.e. contained the transgenic event FP967.

When preparing the positive samples, defined numbers of seeds were mixed with non-GM seeds.

The genetic purity of the negative and positive material was pre-tested prior to the sample preparation.

Each participating laboratory received 8 numbered Flax / Linseed seed samples, containing approximately 1500 seeds (~8.2 gram) based on the 1000 seed weight.

Each sample set comprised 8 samples with three spiking levels of 0.13, 0.2, 0.8 % (number of seeds) GM seeds (c.f. table below).

PT15 sample details

Spiking level	0%	0.13%	0.2%	0.8%
Event	None	FP967	FP967	FP967
Lot No.	1, 2	3, 4	5, 6	7, 8
Number of samples	2	2	2	2
Number of non-GM seeds	1500	1498	1497	1488
Number of GM seeds	0	2	3	12

EVALUATION

Sample sets were sent to 31 laboratories. 29 participants submitted their results, 15 provided qualitative and quantitative results, 14 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 eight samples. Misclassification may either be a false positive or a false negative result. Missing results for individual samples are evaluated as misclassification.

Rating	Misclassified samples	Misclassified samples absolute numbers	Number of laboratories
A	0% - 5%	0	27
B	>5% - 10%	-	-
C	>10% - 20%	1	1
BMP	>20%	>1	1

QUANTITATIVE RATING

The quantitative rating is based on the quantification results for the six positive samples and their reference value (samples with zero spiking level are not used in quantification rating). 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

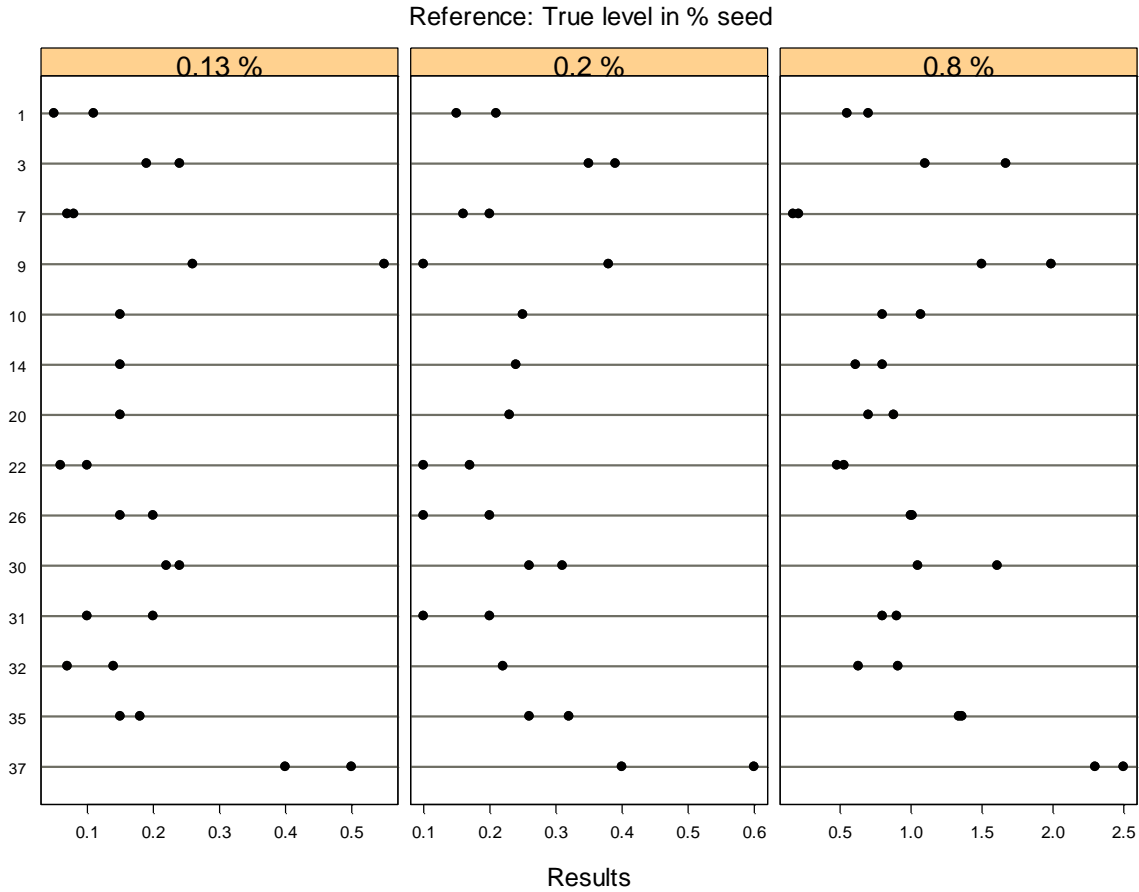
The ratings awarded in this round were as follows:

Rating	Number of laboratories
A	11
B	1
C	1
BMP	2

The reporting units used by participants were as follows:

Reporting unit	Number of laboratories
% number	5
% mass	6
% DNA copies	4

The spread of results obtained by individual participants at the five 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 for further questions or assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Christof Neuhaus
Head of Technical Development

Encls: mentioned