

Report of the Proficiency Test Committee (standard PT)

Didier Demilly, PTC Chair, Claudia Falch, PTC Vice-Chair,
Branislava Opra, Standard PT Coordinator & PTC observer



The strengths of the PT Committee

PTC Members / PT Leaders

Didier Demilly (chair) – FR

Claudia Falch (vice-chair) - ZA

Adrienn Abos – HU

Sarah Dammen - USA

Leanne Duncan – CA

Irena Gera – PL

Michaela Gheorghe - RO

Monika Holubicová – SK

Saruttaya Lapuk – TH

Carey Matthiessen – CA

Gillian Musgrove - UK

Sergio Pasquini - IT

Elena Perri – IT

Elena Takacova - SK (new member)

Branislava Opra (observer)

ISTA Secretariat

Branislava Opra, Standard PT coordinator

Stella Marcu, PT administrator

Florina Palada, Head of Accreditation and Technical Department

TCOM relationships

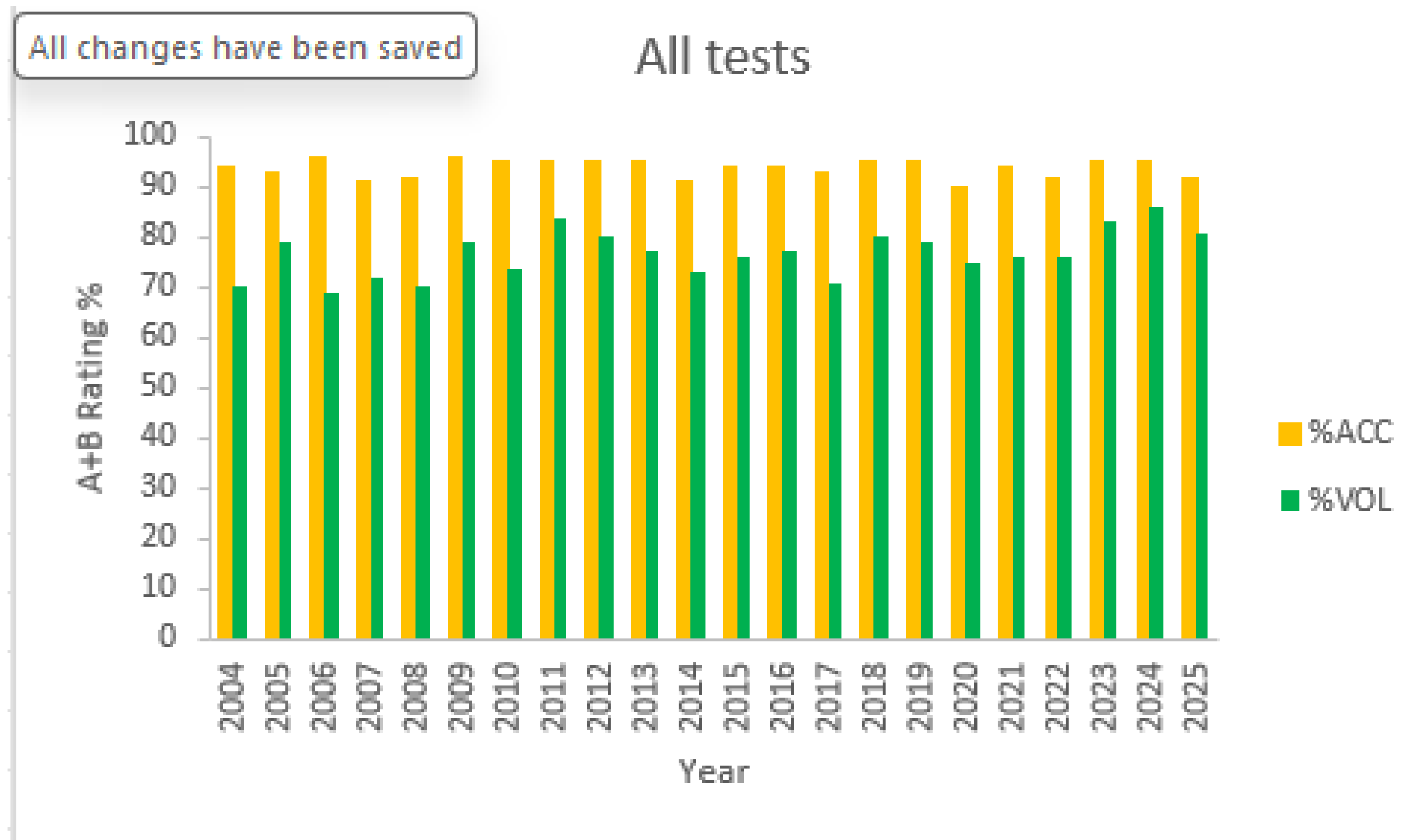
Collaboration exchanges:

- Programme plan
- Follow up actions
- Questions etc

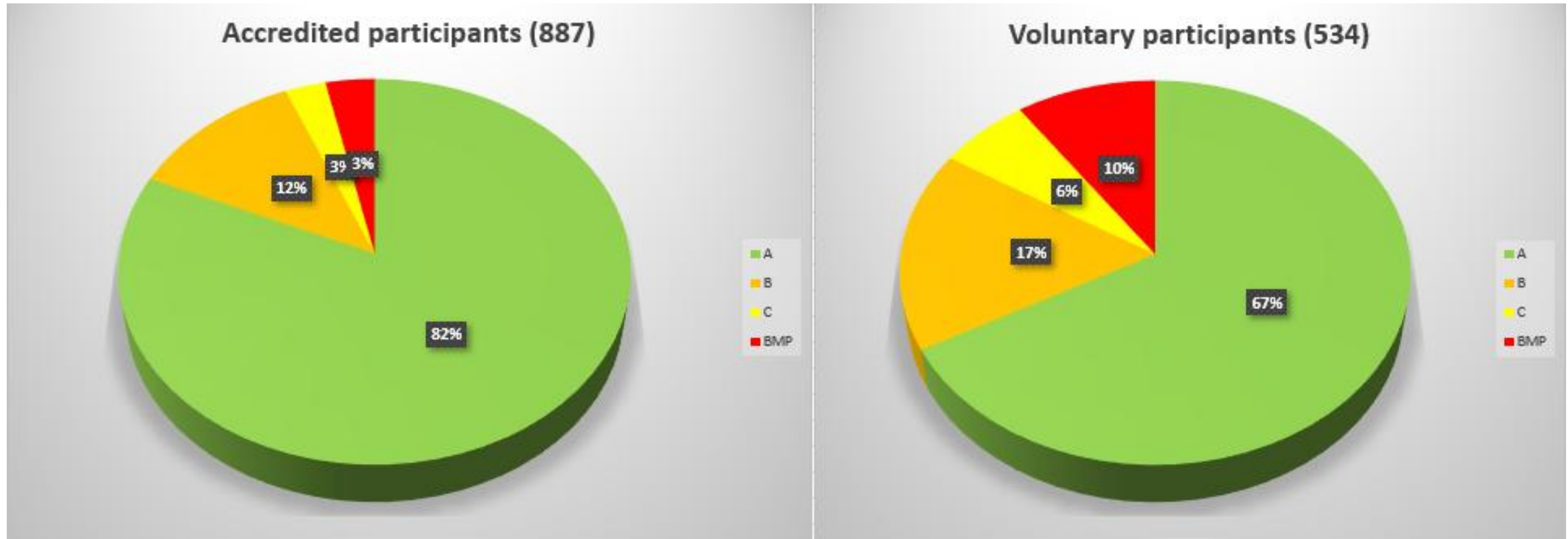
2025 Key data

Round	Species	Test round scope	Test leader	Sample number	Number of participants
25-1	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> (coated)	G, reporting on OIC	Adrienn Abos	3 x 240	180
25-1	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	G, P, OSD, TZ	Leanne Duncan	3 x 200	160
25-2	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	G, P, OSD, TZ, TSW, reporting on OIC	Elena Perri	3 x 250	210
	MIX for training	Purity Committee		200	
25-3	<i>Chenopodium quinoa</i>	G	Didier Demilly	3 x 240	200
25-3	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	G, TZ	Elena Takacova & Sergio Pasquini	3 x 145	90
Total	33 heterogeneity tests 15500 seeds added for the OSD ISTA secretariat : 39 statistical analysis, 2250 individual reports (excluding report on OIC completion)		5 PT Leaders	3225 samples	840 participations

2025 Key data



2025 Key data



2026 PT Programme Plan

Round	Species	Test round scope	Test leader	Crop group/s number	Crop group/s name
26-1	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	G, P, OSD, reporting on OIC	Sarah Dammen	5	Other agricultural crops
				8	Flowers
26-2	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	G, P, OSD, MOI, TSW	Monika Holubicova	2	Cereals
					MIX for training
26-3	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i> (<i>L. perenne</i> is replaced with <i>L. multiflorum</i>)	G, P, OSD, TZ	Mihaela Gheorghe	1	Grasses
					Purity Committee

Relationship with the ISTA Secretariat

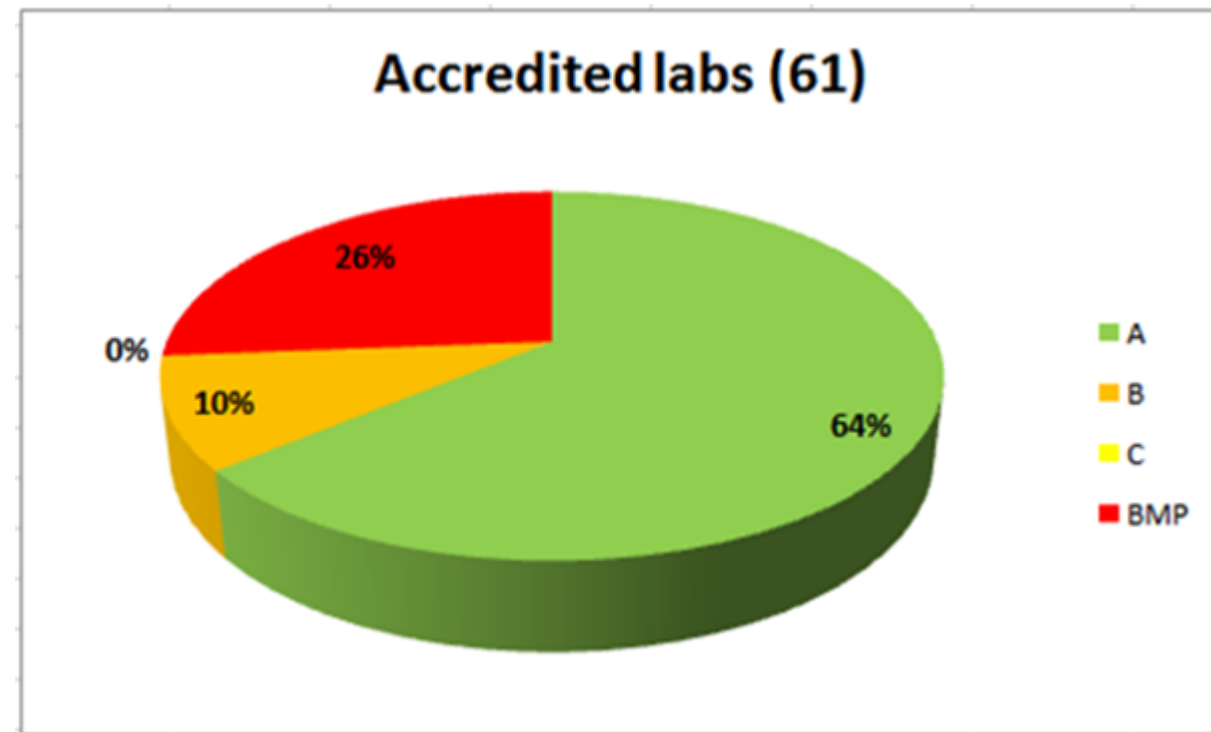
- Standard PTs Coordinator: Branislava Opra and PT Administrator: Stella Marcu
- Head of the Accreditation and Technical Department: Dr. Florina Palada
- Marketing and Communications: Karen de la Rosa for updating ISTA Website with new PTs Results
- ISTA Secretary General: Andreas Wais for approval of PT procedure and approval of costs for samples shipping

Relationship with other Committees

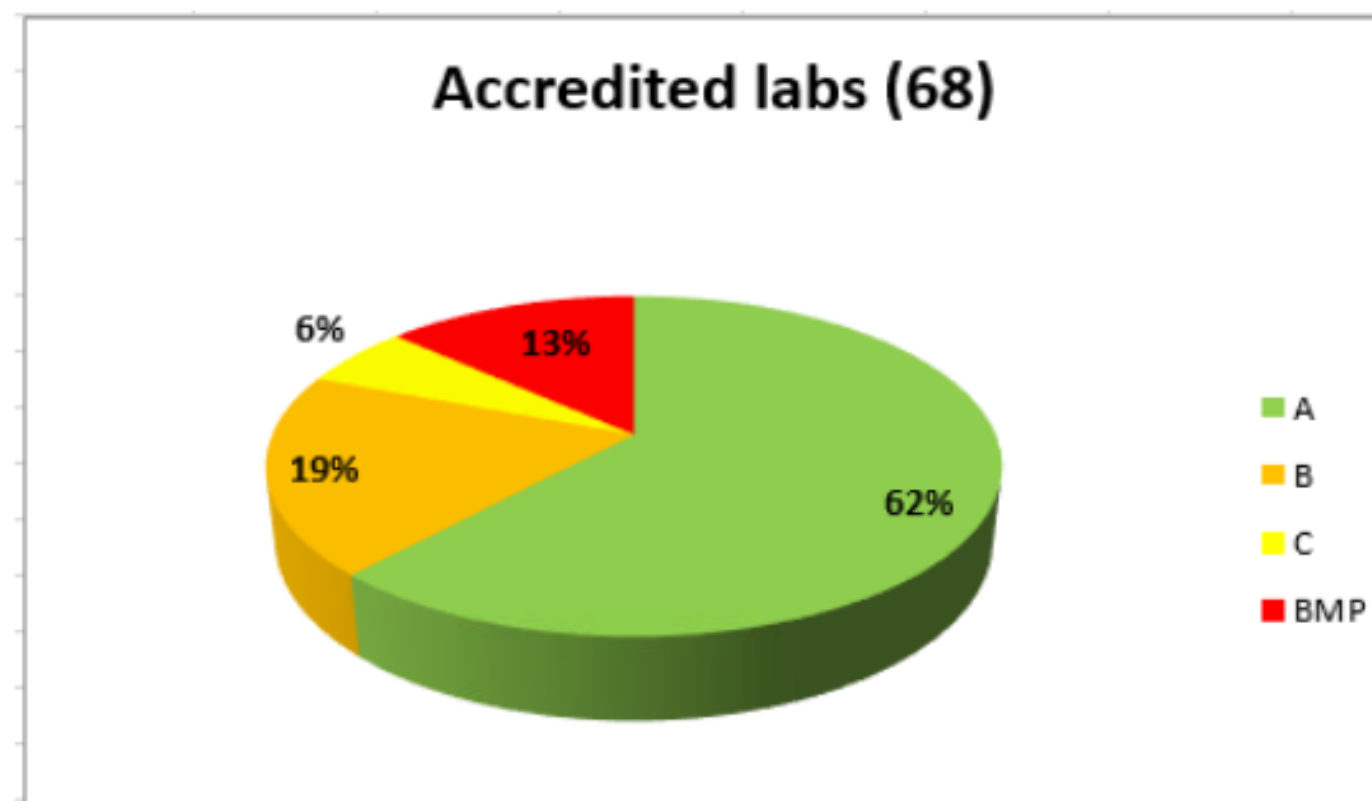
- STA Committee: Kirk and Jean Louis for developing the heterogeneity test for moisture
- GER Committee: David and Gillian for approving the seedling images before publishing
- PUR Committee: Andrea and Ruoqing for any doubts with the OSD test identification
- FTS Committee: Elisa and Sergio by strenghtening the collaboration for the upcoming PT rounds

Noticeable results: Sugar beet pelleted seed PT

PT 18-1



PT 25-1



- PT 18-1 was cancelled after statistical analysis from STA committee
- Conclusion: This proficiency test was mixing different methods (temperatures) which are not equivalent in terms of performance
- The result of this PT round indicated that the germination tests used for this species would require additional validation

Noticeable results: Sugar beet pelleted seed PT (PT25-1)

- Germination committee made a study on 6 lots (3 pelleted and 3 non-pelleted) published in 2021

Conclusion 1: Comparison of temperature regimes used for germination of pelleted and non-pelleted seed of *Beta vulgaris*

Conclusion 2: ISTA could have confidence in the temperature prescribed in the Rules for *Beta vulgaris* germination testing, on non-pelleted or pelleted seeds

Noticeable results: Sugar beet pelleted seed PT

- Differences between temperatures
- Differences between substrates

PT 18-1

Substrate	# Users		# Users TOTAL
	Accredited labs	Voluntary participants	
PP	46	57	103
BP	13	28	41
S	1	11	12
TP	1	6	7

Note: one laboratory did not report the substrate

PT 25-1

Substrate	# Users		# Users TOTAL
	Accredited labs	Voluntary participants	
PP	50	53	103
BP	12	26	38
TP	5	11	16
S	1	10	11
TPS*		1	1

Noticeable results: Sugar beet pelleted seed PT

- Mean of Normal Seedling % for lots 1, 2, 3 - Number of participants: 165
- Accredited Laboratories

	BP	PP	S	TP	Total	
PT 25-1	15<=>25°C		92 (2)		93 (1)	92 (3)
	20°C	94 (3)	94 (30)			94 (33)
	20<=>30°C	91 (9)	92 (19)	81 (1)	83(4)	90 (33)
	Total	92 (12)	93 (51)	81 (1)	85 (5)	92 (69)

	BP	PP	S	TP	Total	
PT 18-1	15<=>25°C		89 (1)			89 (1)
	20°C	80 (6)	88 (27)		90 (1)	86 (34)
	20<=>30°C	69 (7)	85 (19)	76 (1)		80 (27)
	Total	74 (13)	87 (47)	76 (1)	90 (1)	84 (62)

- In 2025 lower variability between PP : 20°C and BP : 20↔30°C = 3% (19% in 2018)
- Lower germination for Sand and TP?

Noticeable results: *Dactylis glomerata* retrieval and identification in PT25-1 *Festuca rubra*

- Still low retrieval or identification for *Dactylis glomerata*
 - PT25-1 *Festuca rubra*: 67.9% (2 seeds)
 - PT20-3 *Festuca pratensis*: 54.7% (4 seeds)
 - PT 17-1 *Festuca arundinaceae*: 71.2% (4 seeds)
- (% for all laboratories)



Thank you for your attention

and thank you to all committee members, the staff of the ISTA secretariat, the technical committees with which we are in contact and all participants in the PTs