



ISTA

Seed Quality Assurance

Ensuring Seed Quality By Uniformity in Seed Testing

Role of Seed Testing in the Future World



ISTA

Seed Quality Assurance

In Focus

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

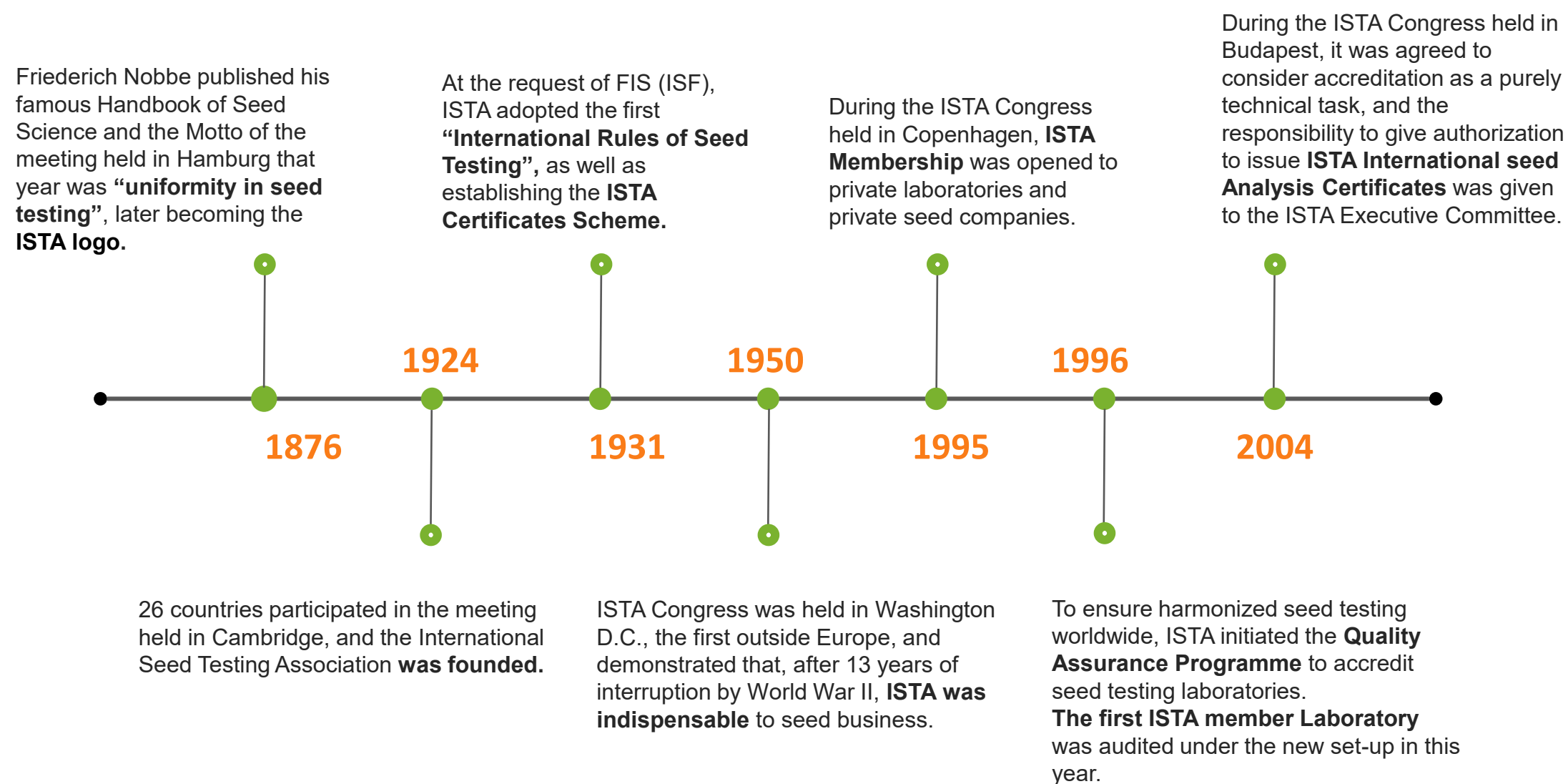
ISTA operates under the governance of the governments of member countries and distinct economies.

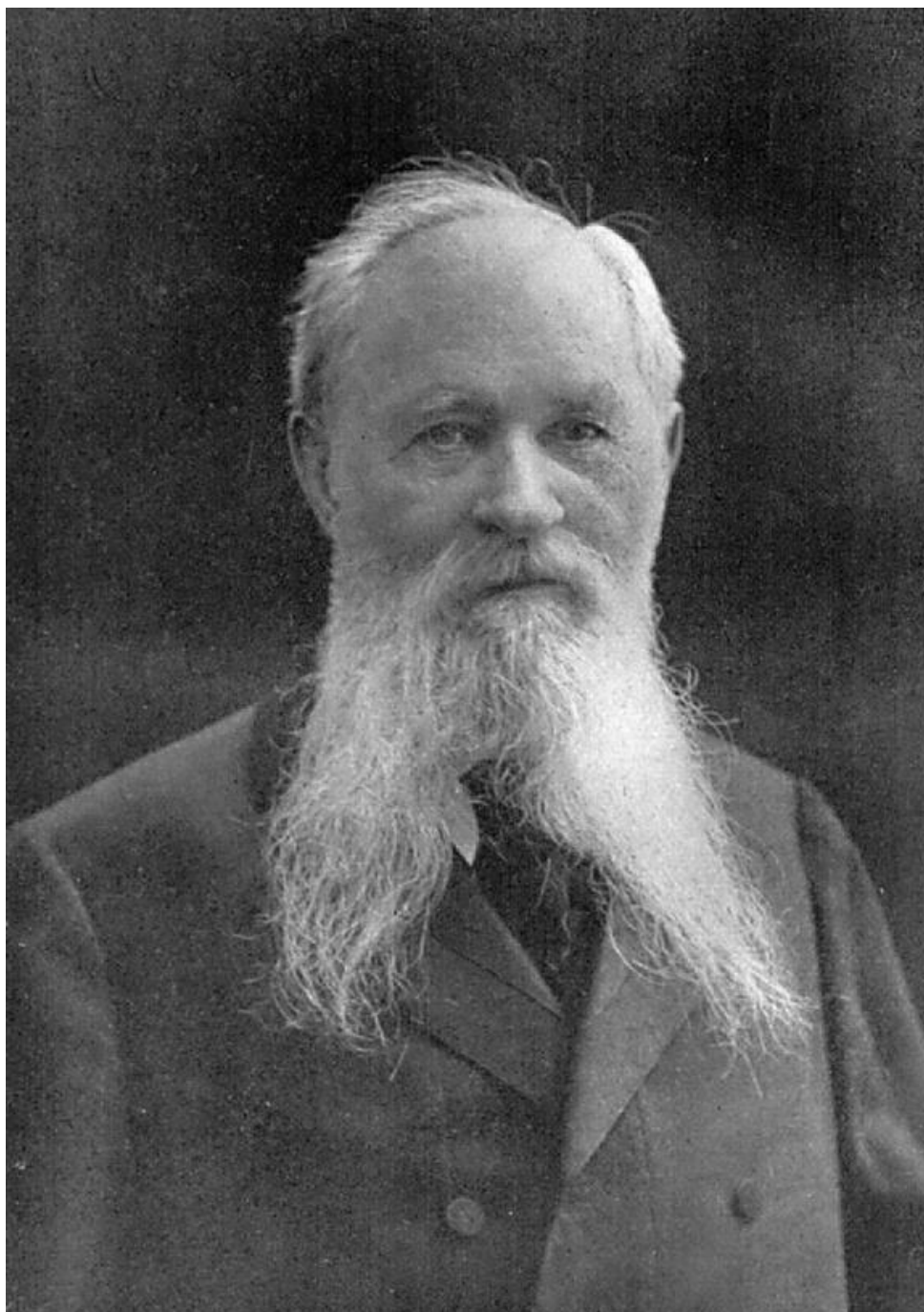




ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

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?

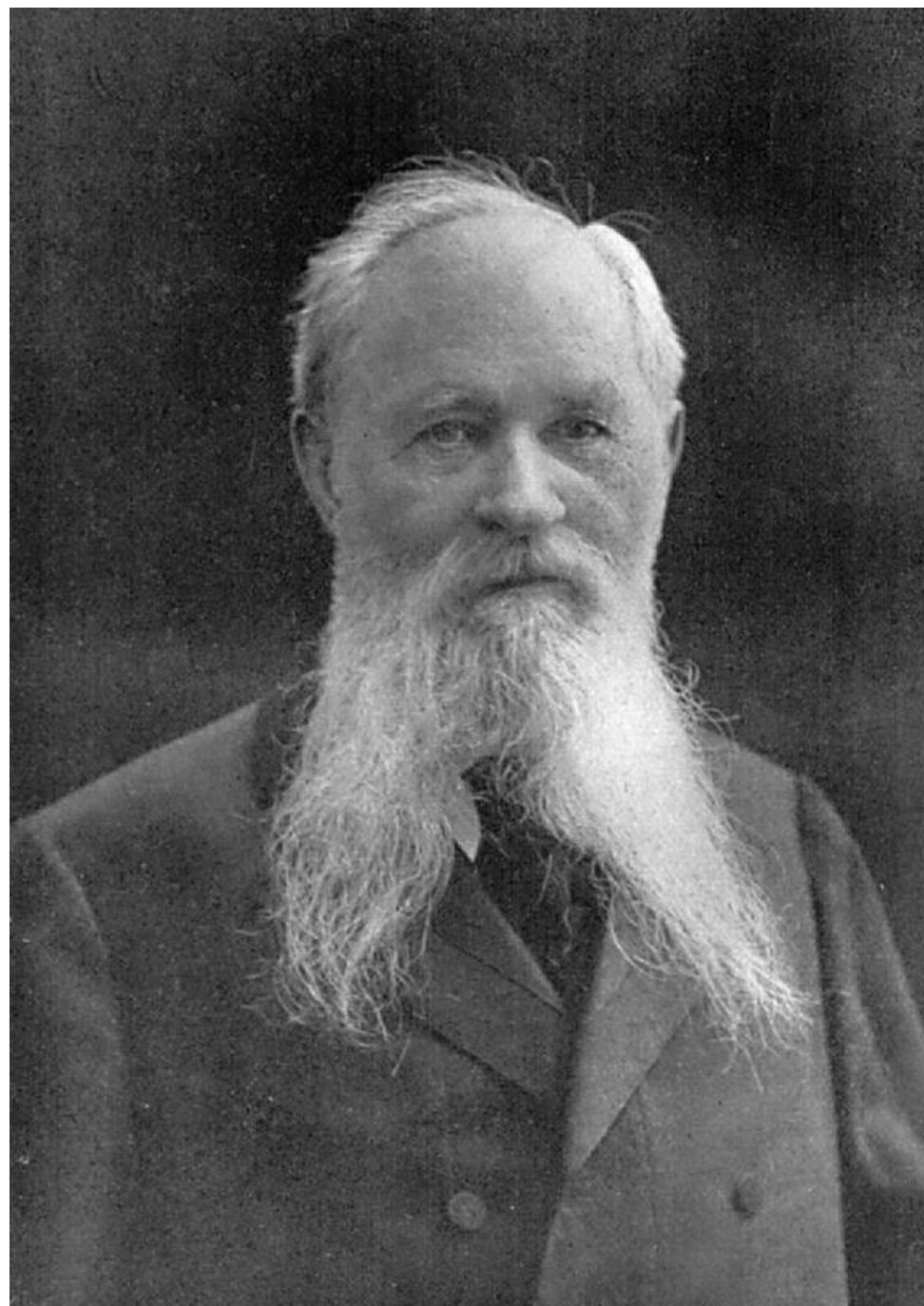
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hK_wNrJu09Q



ISTA

Seed Quality Assurance

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

Seed Quality Assurance

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
Seed Quality Assurance

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)

*2026 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)

*2026 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)

*2026 minus 10% for early birds

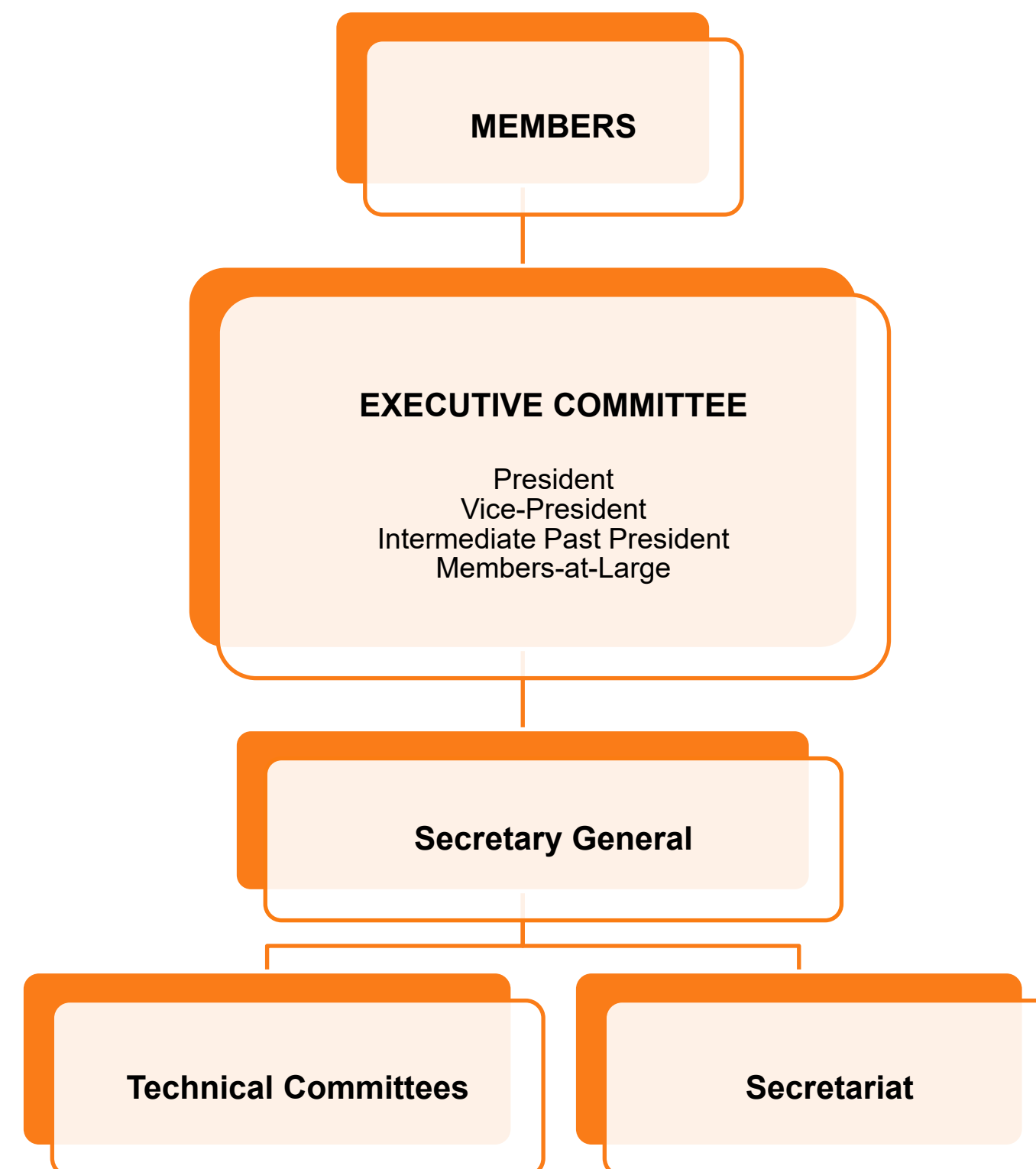
ISTA Structure

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
Seed Quality Assurance

ISTA Executive Committee



ERNEST ALLEN

President
United States



SERGIO PASQUINI

Vice - President
Italy



KESHAVULU KUNUSOTH

Immediate Past President
India

MEMBERS AT LARGE



IGNACIO ARANCIAGA

Argentina



DIDIER DEMILLY

France



IRENA GERA

Poland



RUEL GASMUNDO

Philippines



RUOJING WANG

Canada



CLAID MUJAJU

Zimbabwe



CRAIG MCGILL

New Zealand



VANESSA SOSA

Uruguay

ISTA Secretariat



ANDREAS WAIS
Secretary General



FLORINA PALADA
Head of Accreditation &
Technical Department



AGNES HEGEDUES
Finance, Sales &
HR Management



ANDREEA PINAR
TCOM Administrator



BRANISLAVA OPRA
System Auditor, Quality Management
& Standard PT Coordinator



BEATA HÜBNEROVA
Administration
Assistant



KAREN DE LA ROSA
Marketing &
Communications Assistant



NADINE ETTTEL
TCOM Manager



NEELAM OEK
Audit, Accreditation &
PT Administrator



OLGA STOECKLI
Events, Membership &
Documentation Manager



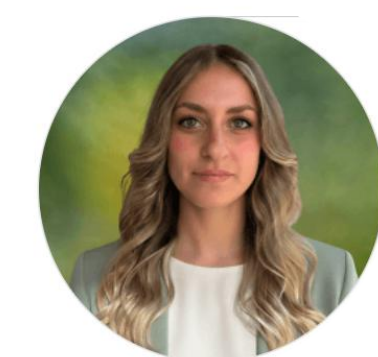
SEJAL PATEL
IT Business Solutions
Manager



STELLA MARCU
System Auditor & PT
Administrator



YOANA UZUNOVA
Marketing and
Communications
Manager



MARGHERITA RUSSO
Marketing and
Communications
Intern

ISTA TCOM Chairs



BERT VAN DUIJN
Advanced
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
Shrub Seed
Committee



ENRICO NOLI
GMO Committee



DAVID JOHNSTON
Germination
Committee



AXEL GOERITZ
Moisture
Committee



MELANIE SCHORI
Nomenclature
Committee



DIDIER DEMILLY
Proficiency Test
Committee



SHANKARA NAIKA
Purity Committee



JANEK BARTEL
Rules Committee



RUUD BARNHOORN
Seed Health
Committee



JAYANTHI NADARAJAN
Seed Storage
Committee



KIRK REMUND
Statistics
Committee



SERGIO PASQUINI
Tetrazolium
Committee



MARIE-CLAUDE GAGNON
Variety Committee



HULYA ILBI
Vigour Committee



GIL WAIBEL
Wild Species
Committee

19 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)
- Wild Species Committee

About 270

TECHNOLOGISTS AND SCIENTISTS
AROUND THE GLOBE

Over 50

SEED PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE
TRAINING YEARLY IN ISTA WORKSHOPS

Discover more: [Technical Committees](#)



ISTA

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)

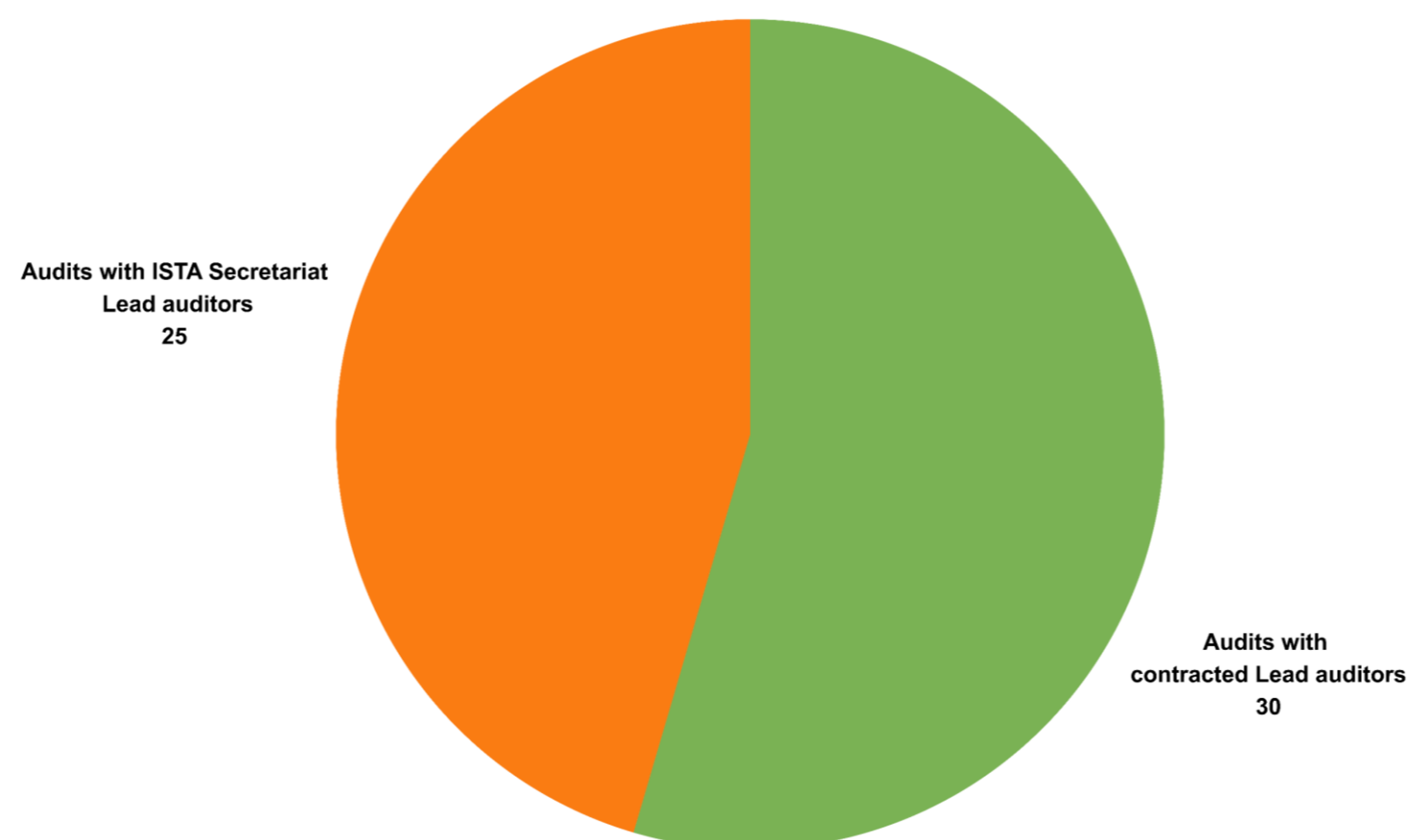
Seed Science and Technology (SST) is an international journal featuring original papers and articles on seed quality and physiology related to seed production, harvest, processing, sampling, storage, genetic conservation, habitat regeneration, distribution and testing.



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

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: Every 2nd year
- Seed Health PT: 1 – 3 per year
- DNA PT: 1 per year

Standard Proficiency Test Programme Plan 2026-2028

Round	Species	Test round scope	Crop group	Crop group
PT26-1	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	PUR, OSD, GER, OIC****	5 and 8 *	Other Agricultural Crops & Flowers
PT26-2	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>vulgare</i>	PUR, OSD, GER, MOI, TSW, MIX	2	Cereals
PT26-3	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i> **	PUR, OSD, GER, TZ	1	Grasses
PT27-1	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	GER, VIG (conductivity), MOI	4	Pulses
PT27-1	<i>Salvia</i> sp.	GER	5, 6, and 8 *	Other Agricultural Crops, Vegetables & Flowers
PT27-2	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	PUR, OSD, GER, TZ	3	Small legume
PT27-3	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	GER, TZ, MIX	5 and 8 *	Other Agricultural Crops & Flowers
PT27-3	<i>Glycine max</i>	GER, VIG (radicle emergence), MOI, OIC***	4	Pulses
PT28-1	<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>	PUR, OSD, GER	6 and 8 *	Vegetable & Flowers
PT28-1	<i>Morina</i> sp. **	GER, TZ	7	Forest
PT28-2	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	PUR, OSD, GER, MOI, TSW, OIC***	3	Small Legume
PT28-3	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	PUR, OSD, GER, TZ	1	Grasses
PT28-3	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> subsp. <i>bicolor</i>	GER, MOI, MIX	2	Cereals

* For species that belong to two crop groups Laboratories accredited for either of the crop groups will be obligatory participants

** Rounds PT26-1, PT27-2 and PT28-2 will also include an exercise on completing the ISTA Orange Certificate; completion of the certificate is voluntary for all participants and as such not rated

** *Moringa* sp. is currently not in the ISTA Rules; it will be part of the PT Programme Plan if accepted

** *Lolium perenne* is replaced with *Lolium multiflorum*



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 since 15 July 2024
ISTA Certificates went electronic!





ISTA

Seed Quality Assurance

Highlights of eCertificates

eCertificates

- Launched 15 July 2024
- No delays from lab to client, certificates sent instantly after lab signature
- Access for end users (readers) via ISTA Website
- eCertificates displayed as PDFs
- Only the online eCertificate is a valid document
- Print-out for filling purposes or electronic filing is possible
- Provisional Certificates will change to Originals automatically
- No Duplicates required
- No fraudulent use of eCertificates is possible



Highlights and Special Projects

ISTA Social Media:

LinkedIn: (> 15,000 followers)

X: (> 2,877 followers)

YouTube: (> 2,820 subscribers)

Tools:

Seed Health Test Image Database

ISTA Pest List V15

Wild Seeds Testing Protocols Database

Universal List of Species Fact Sheets

Handbooks: ISTA Handbook on Seed Health Testing and ISTA Handbook on Tetrazolium Testing

World Seed Partnership: www.worldseedpartnership.org

Young@ISTA:

LinkedIn Group: Support to Young Seed Professionals (>642 members)



International Partners



APSA

asta



UPOV





ISTA

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

05-08
July,

2027



— ANGERS, FRANCE —



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

THANK YOU!

www.seedtest.org



Scan and follow us
on our social media