

The incredible world of seed pathology and how it's used to prevent the next plant pandemic

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Abstract

Seed is the source of life, this not only accounts for reproduction of plants itself but also for the production of very important food supplies.

Where a lot of research is done on how to improve plant production numbers or resistance to pests plausibly met during the plants life span, seed health is the basis for any plant to grow from the start. As was demonstrated dramatically during Covid, a pandemic spreading around the world as wild fire, transport is a very risky process and proved to be the key way of spreading. As with Covid, there are also a lot of plant diseases that are identified as connected with transport via plant seeds. Plant pest can be present either in or on seeds and therefore there are international initiatives and associations, set up to prevent these infested seeds to travel freely around the globe.

The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) is one of these associations, where seed testing laboratories are collaborating to set up standard procedures for seed testing for different seed quality aspects. One of these quality aspects is governed by the ISTA Seed Health Committee (SHC). During this webinar, the ins and outs of the different tasks of the SHC are going to be addressed. Topics to be explored are, seed health rules, validation and proficiency, the seed pest list, etc.