



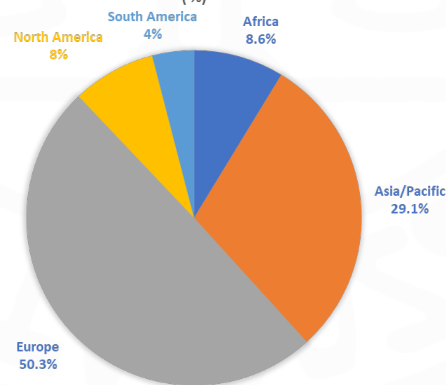
Press Release

A Year in review: The International Seed Testing Association concludes 2022 with 58 audits and 3 newly accredited laboratories

As the year 2022 draws to a close, the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) reflects upon a productive and eventful period marked by significant achievements and advancements in the field of seed testing and certification. ISTA, a globally recognised organisation dedicated to ensuring uniformity in seed quality evaluation worldwide, has successfully concluded 58 audits throughout the year, reaffirming its commitment to upholding the highest standards in the industry. Furthermore, the association proudly announces the accreditation of two new laboratories, bolstering its network of trusted seed testing facilities worldwide.

ISTA's primary objective is to develop, adopt and publish internationally agreed standard procedures (Rules) for seed sampling and testing, thus promoting the global trade of high-quality seeds while safeguarding the interests governments, producers, farmers and consumers. Through rigorous audits and accreditation processes, ISTA assesses laboratories against a comprehensive set of standards, encompassing aspects such as equipment, methodologies, personnel competence, and quality management systems. These evaluations play a vital role in maintaining the integrity and reliability of seed testing practices, ensuring that certified seeds meet the necessary criteria for viability, germination, purity, and other essential characteristics.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF ISTA ACCREDITED LABORATORIES, 2022 (%)



In 2022, ISTA conducted a total of 58 audits, demonstrating the organisation's commitment to regular assessment and continuous improvement. These audits serve as an effective means of identifying areas for enhancement, enabling laboratories to implement corrective measures and adhere to the latest best practices in seed testing.

The thorough evaluation process not only ensures the proficiency of laboratories but also strengthens the overall quality control mechanisms governing the seed industry.

Amidst ISTA's diligent auditing efforts, three additional laboratories achieved the prestigious status of accreditation in 2022. Accreditation is a testament to a laboratory's competence, reliability, and adherence to ISTA's stringent standards. These newly accredited labs will serve as valuable additions to the ISTA network, further expanding the association's reach and the availability of reliable seed testing services.



The process of accreditation involves a comprehensive evaluation of laboratory facilities, equipment, methodologies, and staff expertise. It also examines the laboratory's proficiency in generating accurate and consistent results, which are crucial for ensuring the quality and authenticity of certified seeds. By accrediting these new laboratories, ISTA reinforces its commitment to maintaining a global network of trusted seed testing facilities, bolstering confidence in the seed industry and facilitating international trade.

Looking ahead, the ISTA (re-)accreditation will be granted only if all substantial non-conformities identified during an ISTA audit are addressed not later than 6 months after the audit date and all non-substantial non-conformities are addressed not later than 9 months after the audit date. For the non-substantial non-conformities if more than 9 months is necessary to complete the necessary work then clear evidence that the planned corrective actions have started to be implemented must be provided. This decision of the ISTA Executive Committee is effective from 16 February 2023.

In conclusion, the year 2022 has been a successful one for ISTA, marked by 58 audits and the accreditation of two new laboratories. These achievements are a testament to the association's unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards in seed testing and certification. As ISTA continues to drive excellence and promote the global trade of high-quality seeds, it sets the stage for a promising future in the field of seed science, with the potential to positively impact global food security and sustainable agriculture for years to come.