



Procedures with the SSAG and interaction with TCOMS

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SSAG CHAIR	SSAG MEMBERS	SSAG MEMBERS

SCOPE

This procedure explains the cooperation of the Seed Science Advisory Group with the ISTA Technical Committees.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Mng-D-03 Terms of Reference SSAG

RESPONSIBILITIES

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ABBREVIATIONS

SSAG: Seed Science Advisory Group

TCOM: Technical Committees

PROCESS DESCRIPTION

There are two main areas of the SSAG work that may result in collaboration between the SSAG and TCOMs.

These are:

- 1) when the SSAG has identified research that may have useful practical application, and
- 2) when novel developments are available for seed testing and the SSAG is asked to evaluate if they are fit for purpose.

The SSAG have outlined the procedures (see below) that will be used when potentially useful research has been identified and when a request to evaluate equipment has been received.

1. Development of research identified as having potential within seed quality evaluation:

Procedure for dealing with potential ideas submitted to the SSAG by an SSAG member, TCOM or ISTA member.

- i. Potentially useful research ideas will be circulated to all SSAG members for discussion within the group.
- ii. If, after SSAG discussion, the work is considered potentially useful, the appropriate TCOM Chair will be contacted for discussion within the TCOM.
- iii. If all agree, the researcher will be contacted for discussion whether they would be interested in taking the work towards practical application.
- iv. No specific further action can be determined at this point as it will need to be considered on a case by case basis. Two alternative approaches might be either to assist the researcher to develop the work further towards application, or involvement of ISTA labs in evaluating the potential of the work.

General points:

- i. SSAG should try to achieve 'early capture' of potential research
- ii. SSAG is trying to create something new that is fit for purpose and would help companies access technological advances,
- iii. SSAG is not necessarily working towards achieving input to the ISTA Rules, or even validation.
- iv. We shall be aware of possible patent and legal issues (it is possible to search for patents on Google, and it would be useful to know if these exist at an early stage).

2. Evaluation of novel developments in seed testing: are they fit for purpose?

TCOMs and ISTA members can request the SSAG to evaluate whether a specific piece of equipment is fit for purpose within seed testing. Alternatively, the developer/inventor of equipment might approach the SSAG regarding evaluation

The procedure following receipt of a request:

- i. If a request for evaluation has come from a TCOM or an ISTA member, the developer/inventor of equipment will be informed of the request made to the SSAG. The SSAG will request information relating to equipment from the developer / inventor, namely:
 - a. What are the claims for its use?
 - b. Are there published papers using the equipment? Copies of papers or their details should be supplied and include all publications, i.e. both positive and negative reports.
 - c. Advertising materials
 - d. Other available data: this may require an element of confidentiality (to be discussed on a case by case basis).
- ii. The SSAG will also complete a search for literature and marketing information
- iii. Three members of the SSAG will independently review the information and produce a report
- iv. The three reports will be discussed by the whole SSAG before a final report is submitted to the ECOM
- v. The report may be published in STI, subject to ECOM agreement.

If under point (i) no information is supplied by the developer / inventor, a report will be produced on the basis of evidence that is available in the public domain and a decision regarding how this may be used will be made in collaboration with the ECOM.

ANNEX

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DISTRIBUTION LIST

ISTA Website

REVISION HISTORY

Version #	Changes
1.1	Recorded from TCOM-TG-05 to TCOM-P-07; transferred to the new format
1.2	Related Documents Reference code changed from TCOM-P-06 to Mng-D-03
2.0	Layout change