GER – Germination Committee

	COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST		
			change comments
1	CHAIR: David Johnston	United States of America	
2	Vice-CHAIR: Gillian Musgrove	United Kingdom	
3	VICE-CHAIR: Erik van Egmond	Netherlands	
4	Ignacio Aranciaga	Argentina	
5	Janek Bartel	Canada	
6	Sarah Dammen	United States of America	
7	Gillian Durrant	United Kingdom	
8	Meriam Dekalo-Keren	Israel	
9	Sylvie Ducournau	France	
10	Lesly Gonzalez	Chile	
11	Aidin Hamidi	Iran	
12	Andrea Jonitz	Germany	
13	Augusto Martinelli	Argentina	
14	Takayuki Okuda	Japan	
15	Elena Perri	Italy	
16	Dot Vittrup Pedersen	Denmark	
17	Melissa Phillips	United States of America	
	Ruel Gesmundo	Philippines	ECOM Liaison Officer
	Irena Gera	Poland	ECOM Liaison Officer

A. RULES DEVELOPMENT

A1. Introduction of New Methods

	Method name subject	proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
1	Consider more efficient methods to break sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) seed dormancy	2025		Preliminary work reported by Sylvie Ducournau at ISTA Annual Meeting, Cambridge 2024. A Method Validation Study carried out in September/October 2024 using Ethrel as a dormancy breaking treatment led by Audrey Dupont. Method validation study report completed.
2	Addition of 20°C for *Solanum tuberosum*	2026	Netherlands Industry/ Secretariat	Erik van Egmond is currently working on a Test Plan. Method Validation Study to be carried out in 2025.

3	Reduction in the number of days for germination testing of *Agrostis capillaris, A. stolonifera,* and *Dactylis glomerata*	2026	STAT	Dot Vittrup Pedersen has preliminary data suggesting the germination test period could be reduced. Method Validation Study may follow after discussion with the Statistics Committee.
4	Add BP as an additional test method for Lolium spp.	2027	STAT	Ruojing Wang of CFIA will lead the Method Validation Study.
	A2. Introduction of New Species			
				remarks
	Species and test	proposed Finalisation	collaboration	update progress
1	Introduction of a germination method for Dwarf Saltwort (*Salicornia bigelovii* Torr. and *Salicornia persicum)*	2027	STA, BSC, PUR	Leader: Aidin Hamidi. Preliminary study examining suitable germination methods completed. Further information to be provided. May have difficulty in getting seed lots.
2	Introduction of a germination method for Saatar (*Zataria multiflora* Boiss.) and Camelthorn (*Alhagi camelorum* F.).	2027	STA, BSC, PUR	Leader: Aidin Hamidi. This study is ongoing. Further information to be provided. A Method Validation Study may start in 2026. Aidin has prepared 6 Iranian native Camelthorn ecotypes seed samples for sending to ISTA for method validation testing.
3	Introduction of *Moringa oleifera*	2026	BSC, PUR, TZ, MOI, NZ Lab	Leader: Gillian Musgrove Method Validation Study seed for germination to be sent to Sue Cousins for heterogeneity testing and preparation of sample for dispatching to laboratories. Delayed due to issues with sending seed from origin.
4	Introduction of *Solanum torvum*	2026	STAT, BSC PUR	Leader: Erik van Egmond and Takayuki Okuda. A Method Validation Study Test Plan has been prepared and once participants confirmed, will be sent to Technical Reviewers.
5	Introduction of *Guizotia abyssinica*	2026	STAT, BSC PUR	Leader: Andrea Jonitz. Preliminary work looking at introducing this as a new species.
	A3. Introduction of Rules Changes			
	Subject	proposed Finalisation	collaboration	update progress
1	5.6.2.3 second paragraph change “should” to “shall”	2026		5.6.2.3 Temperature … Where alternating temperatures are indicated, the lower temperature ~~should~~ shall be maintained for 16 h and the higher for 8 h….
2	5.7.e. Clarify wording on how to report test results when a retest has been conducted.	2026		TCOM discussions are ongoing on developing wording to clarify 5.7.e.

3	5.11 Table 5B Add five new tolerance tables for determining if replicates are within tolerance for replicates of 50 seeds and 25 seeds.	2026		Add the following tolerance tables: Table 5B Part 4. Four reps of 50 seeds; Table 5B Part 5. eight reps of 50 seeds; Table 5B Part 6. four reps of 25 seeds; Table 5B Part 7. Eight reps of 25 seeds; Table 5B Part 8 sixteen reps of 25 seeds.
	B2. Training publications on specific seed testing topics			
				remarks
	Publication title	Finalisation		progress
1	SEH Revision	2026		Ongoing revisions.
	C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS			
	C1. Training and education workshops			
	workshop subject location	finalisation		progress
1	ISTA Workshop Purity, Germination and Moisture Committee - Iran	TBD	PUR MOI	Currently on hold. May need to consider an online workshop.
2	ISTA Workshop Purity & Germination – Kyiv, Ukraine	TBD	PUR	Currently on hold.
3	ISTA Workshop on Germination and Vigour; Angers, France	December 1-5, 2025	VIG	ISTA Workshop on Germination and Vigour - Workshops and Webinars - International Seed Testing Association
	D. PROFICIENCY TESTS			
	Proficiency test subject	finalisation	collaboration	update
1	PT26-1 *Linum usitatissimum*	2026	PTC	
2	PT26-2 *Hordeum vulgare*	2026	PTC	
3	PT26-3 *Lolium perenne*	2026	PTC	
4	PT27-1 *Pisum sativum*	2027	PTC	
5	PT27-1 *Salvia sp.*	2027	PTC	
6	PT27-2 *Trifolium incarnatum*	2027	PTC	
7	PT27-3 *Helianthus annuus*	2027	PTC	
8	PT27-3 *Glycine max*	2027	PTC	
9	PT28-1 Ipo*moea aquatica*	2028	PTC	
10	PT28-1 *Moringa sp.*	2028	PTC	
11	PT28-2 *Trifolium repens*	2028	PTC	

12	PT28-3 *Festuca arundinacea*	2028	PTC	
13	PT28-3 *Sorghum bicolor*	2028	PTC	
	E. SPECIAL PROJECTS			
	project title / subject remarks			
		finalisation		progress
1	Frequently Asked Questions; Add a FAQ section to the GER TCOM webpage	2026		Leader: Lesly Gonzalez; FAQ Project initiated 26 AUG 2025, Lesly will assemble WG members and collect FAQs for review by the GER TCOM members; purpose is to assit with answering germination related questions
2	Acid Scarification Survey: Conduct a laboratory survey regarding the use of acid scarification	2026		Leader: David Johnston; survey will be conducted to gather information regarding how this dormancy breaking method is being applied and for which species; if 400 seeds or >400 seeds are being scarified at a time; how users determine if seeds are being damaged; are additional instructions needed in the ISTA Rules