

# Opening remarks

## ISTA Membership Virtual Meeting

28 May 2020

Presenter:  
Location:  
Date:

Steve Jones, ISTA President  
Virtual meeting  
28 May 2020

# Welcome to the ISTA Membership's First Virtual Meeting



# 2020 International Year of Plant Health



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**PLANT HEALTH**  
2020

**ISTA Plant Health Seminar**

**NEW DATE NOW**  
**May 31 2021**

# Meeting agenda



## **Welcome from ISTA President**

- **Comments from Rita Zecchinelli, ECOM Member, Italy**
- **Italian seed industry: Stefano Conti, Assosementi, Italy**
- **ISTA Activity Report, including financial report and budgets: Andreas Wais, ISTA Secretary General**
- **ISTA ECOM Activity Report: Steve Jones, ISTA President**
- **Membership fees: Keshavulu Kunusoth, ISTA Vice-President**

# Meeting agenda



- **Update on new technology document: Leena Pietilä, ECOM Science and Technology WG Chair**
- **ISTA Rules proposals: Ernest Allen, ISTA Rules Chair**
- **Voting process for OGM: Andreas Wais, ISTA Secretary General**

**Closing remarks from Steve Jones, ISTA President**



# ISTA

## ANNUAL MEETING



**25-28 MAY, 2020**  
**VERONA, IT**



ASSOSEMENTI

AN OVERVIEW OF THE  
**ITALIAN SEED SECTOR**

**ISTA ANNUAL MEETING**

webinar, May 28<sup>th</sup> 2020

# ASSOSEMENTI ORGANIZATION



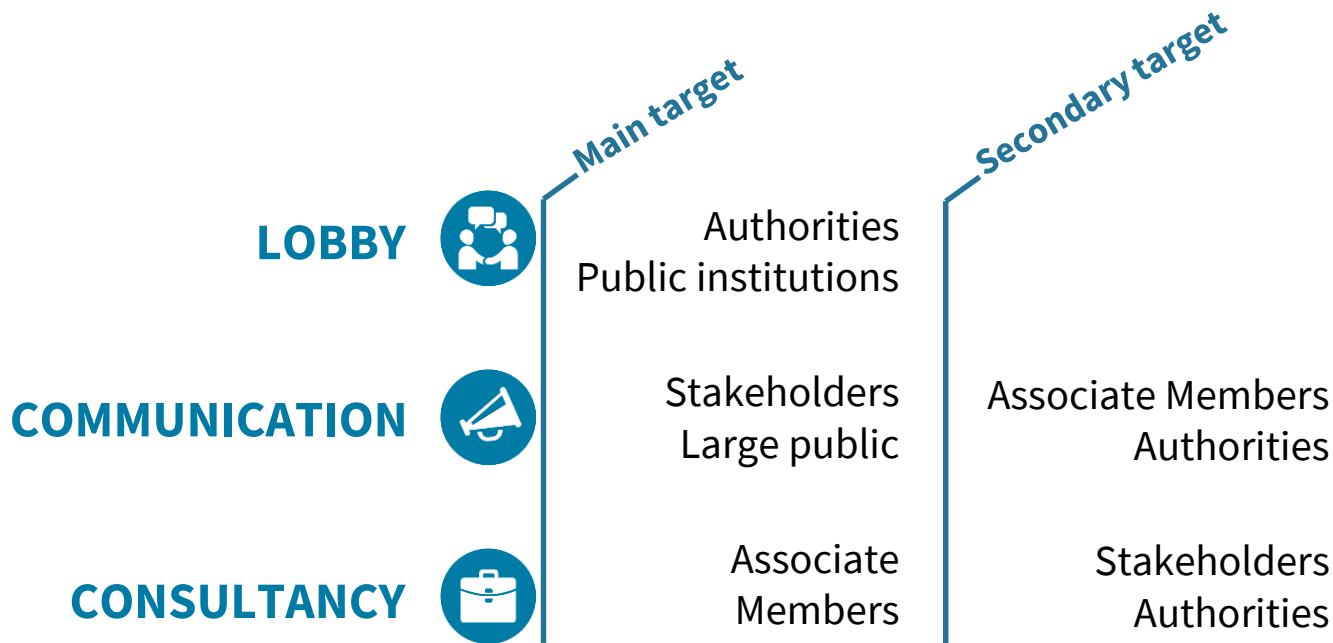
Overall,  
155  
members





ASOSEMENTI

# ASOSEMENTI IS THE LEADING VOICE OF THE ITALIAN SEED SECTOR



# Topics of interest

BIODIVERSITY

ORGANIC SEEDS

SEED TREATMENT

PHYTOSANITARY

TRACEABILITY

RESEARCH &  
INNOVATION

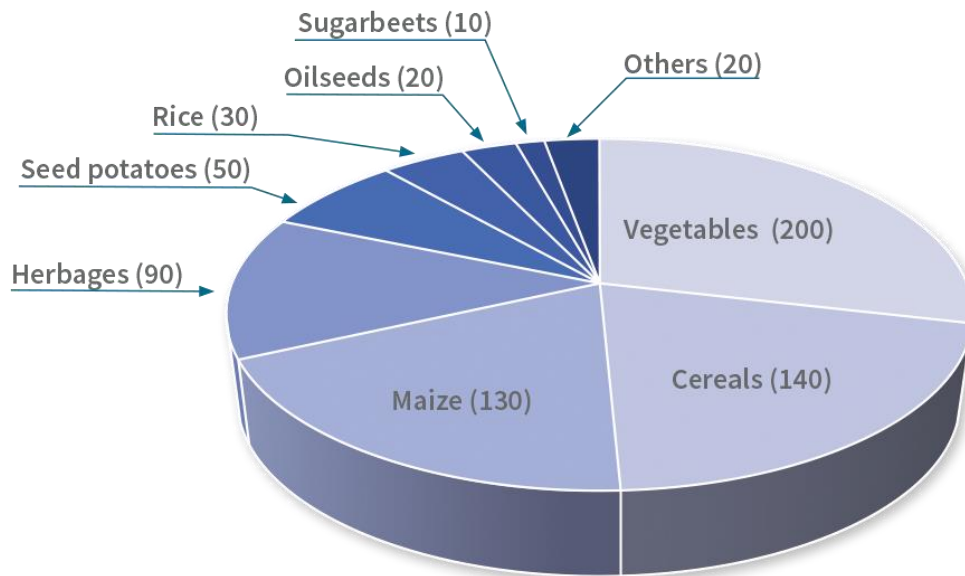


# Relations with Institutions

National listing Official registration	<b>AGRI</b>
Phytosanitary issues	<b>AGRI</b> (phyto) <b>REGIONS</b>
Illegality & Anti-counterfeiting	<b>AGRI</b> (anti-fraud)
Seed treatments	<b>HEALTH</b>
Biodiversity	<b>AGRI &amp; ENVI</b>
NBTs & GMOs	<b>AGRI &amp; ENVI</b>
Breeders' rights	<b>AGRI &amp; ECON DEV</b>

# KEY FIGURES

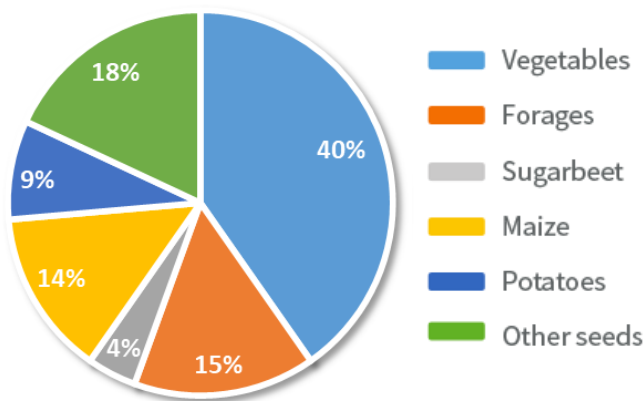
The **annual turnover** of the Italian seed sector is OVER 700 million euros at wholesale level, excluding the value of seed treatments.



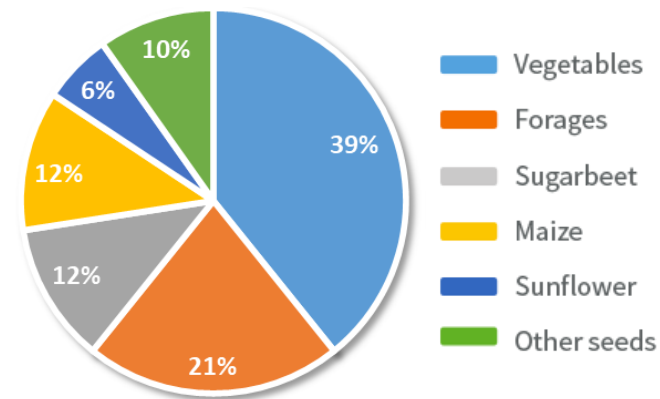
# KEY FIGURES

Annual **seed imports** amount to 360 million euros, while **exports** reach 255 million. Traditionally, Italy is an important exporter of vegetable, forages and sugarbeet seeds.

## SEED IMPORT (%)



## SEED EXPORT (%)

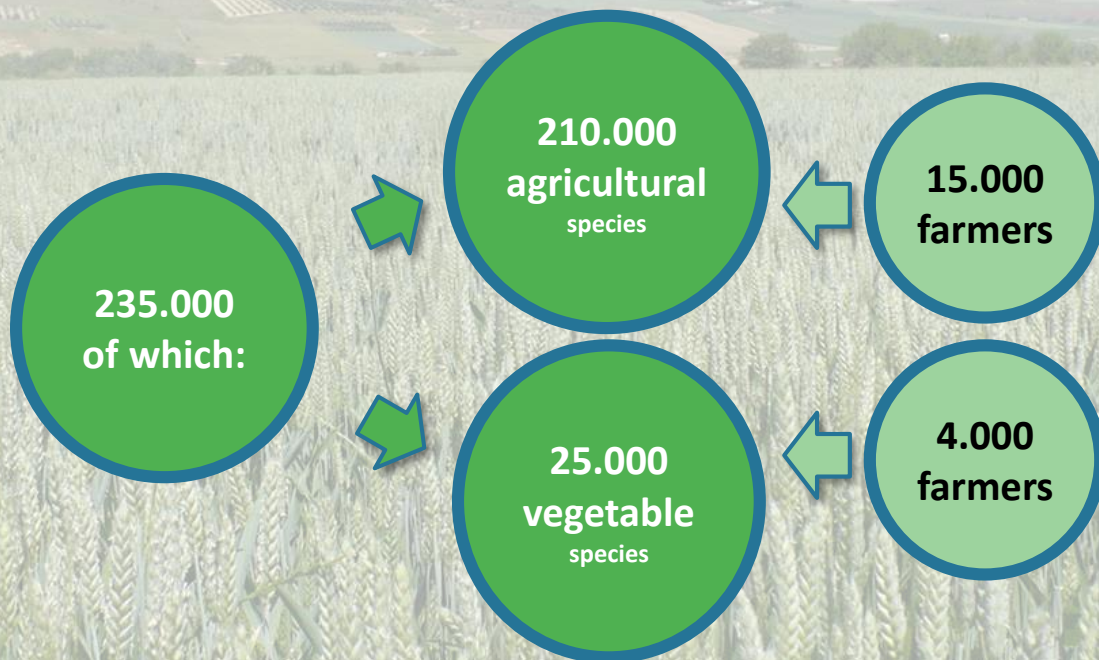




ASSOSEMENTI

# Seed production

Multiplication area (hectares)





ASSOSEMENTI

# Seed production

Overall  
**300**  
seed  
companies  
(mainly SME)

**220**  
agricultural  
seeds companies

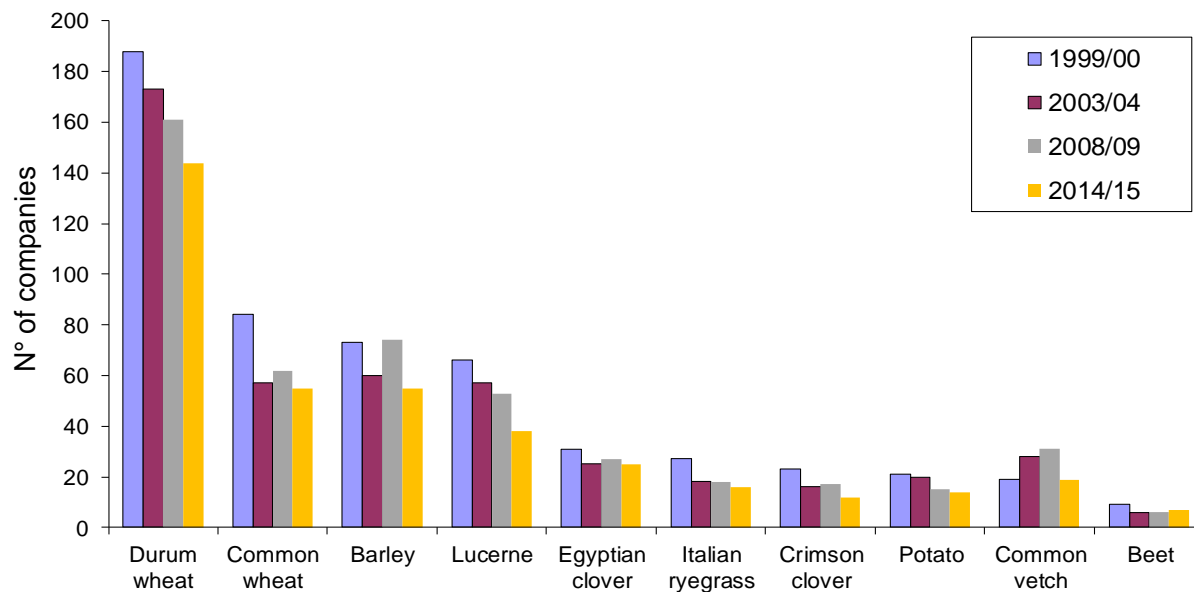
**80**  
vegetable  
seeds companies



# Seed companies



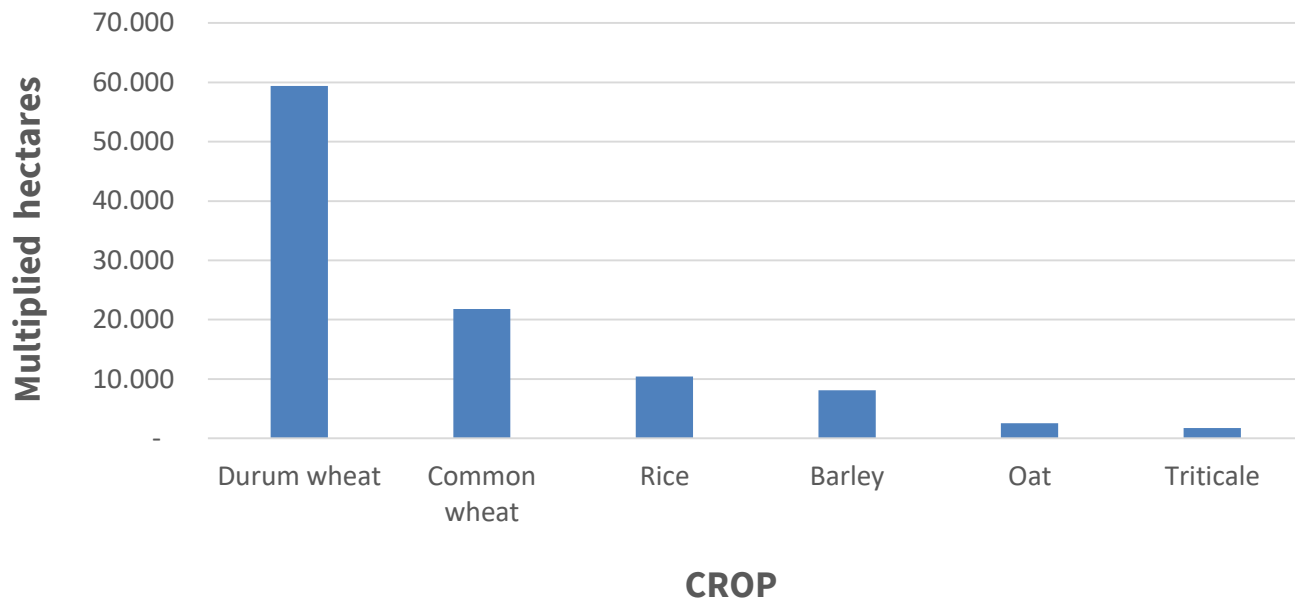
## Sector of activity and historical trend





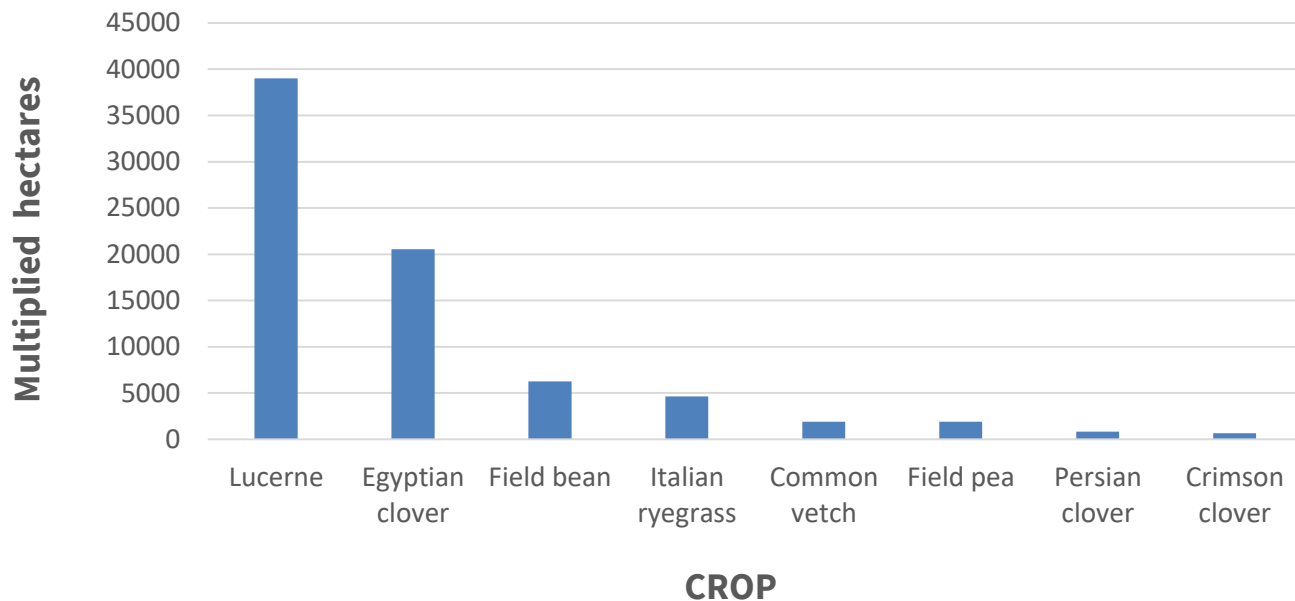
# Seed Production (2018)

## CEREALS



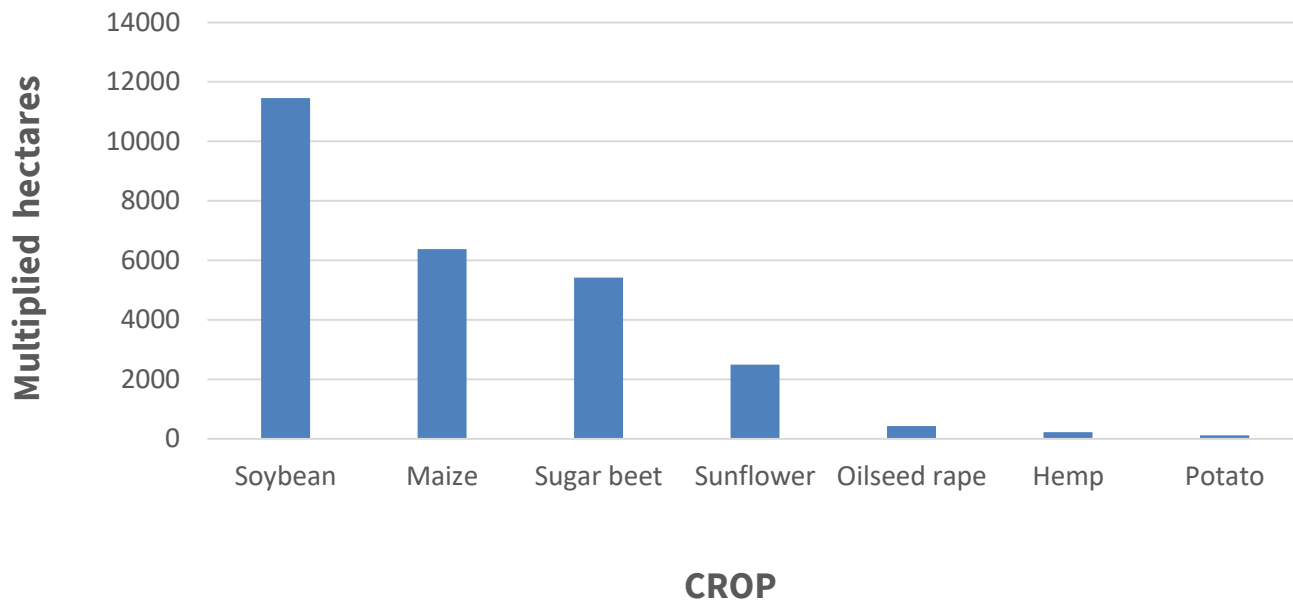
# Seed Production (2018)

## FORAGES



# Seed Production (2018)

## INDUSTRIAL CROPS

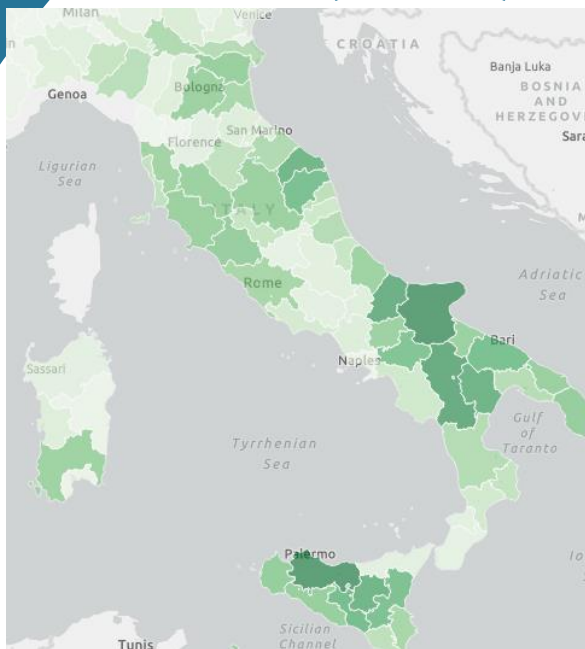


# Crop Cultivations (2018)

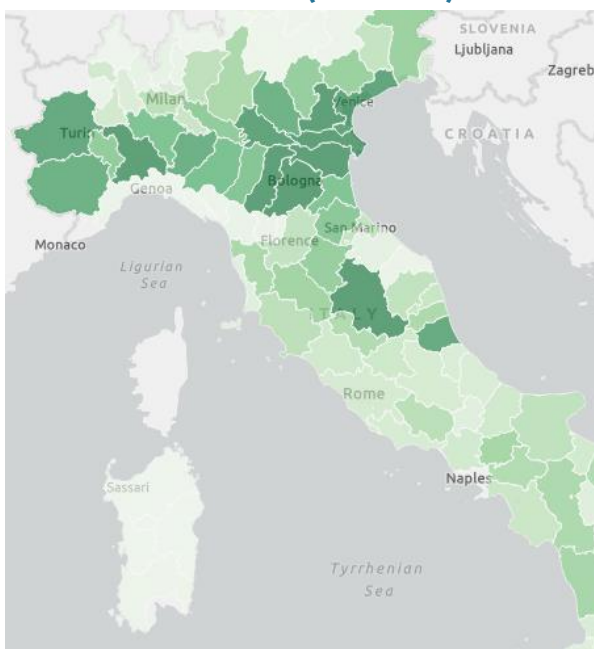


CEREALS, in hectares (he)

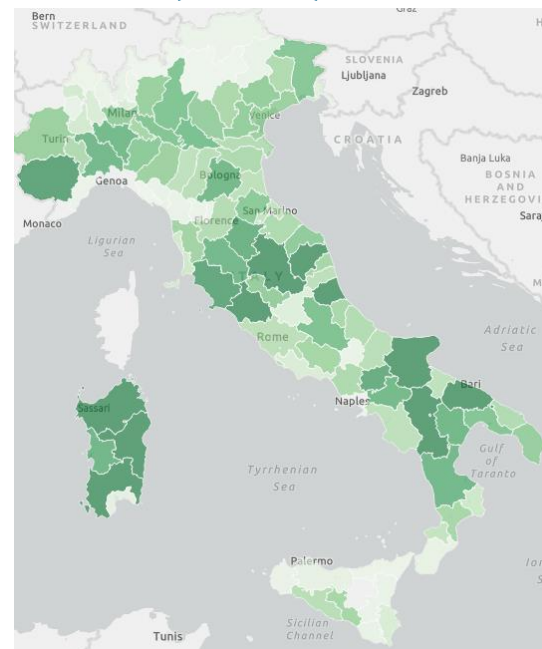
**DURUM WHEAT (1.280k he)**



**COMMON WHEAT (540k he)**



**BARLEY (330k he)**

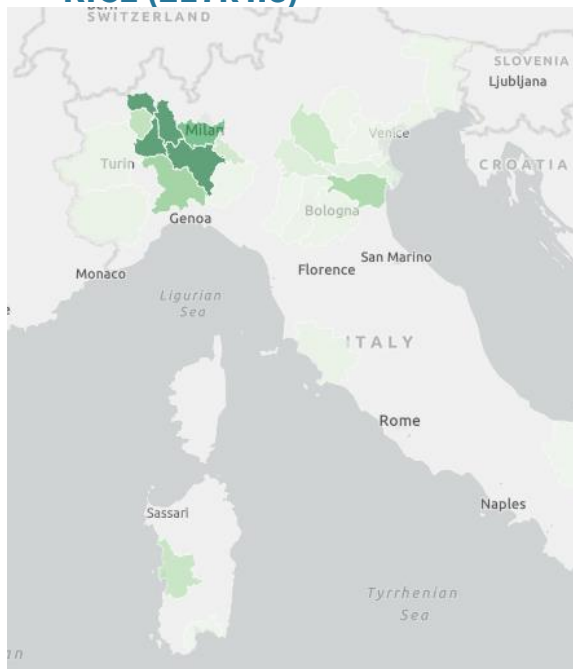


# Crop Cultivations (2018)

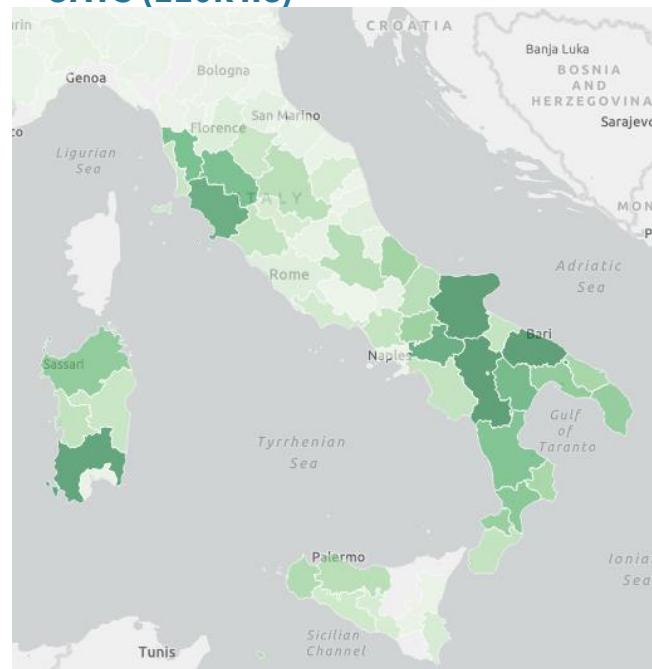


## CEREALS, in hectares (he)

### RICE (217k he)



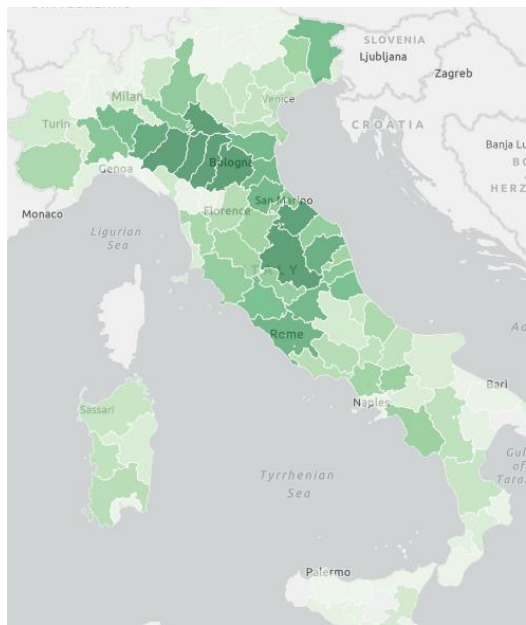
### OATS (110k he)



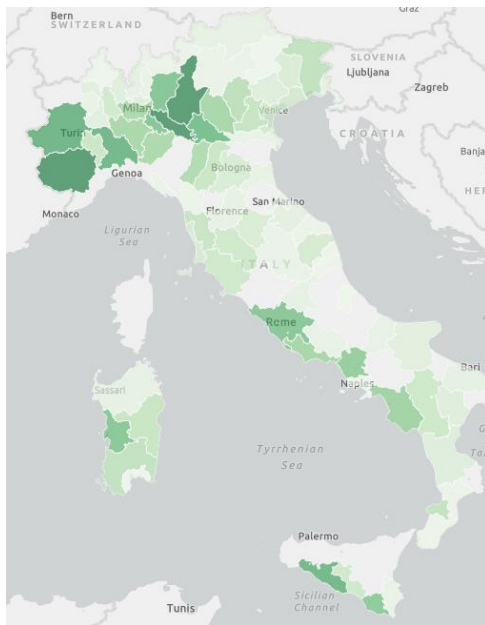
# Crop Cultivations (2018)

FORAGES, in hectares (he)

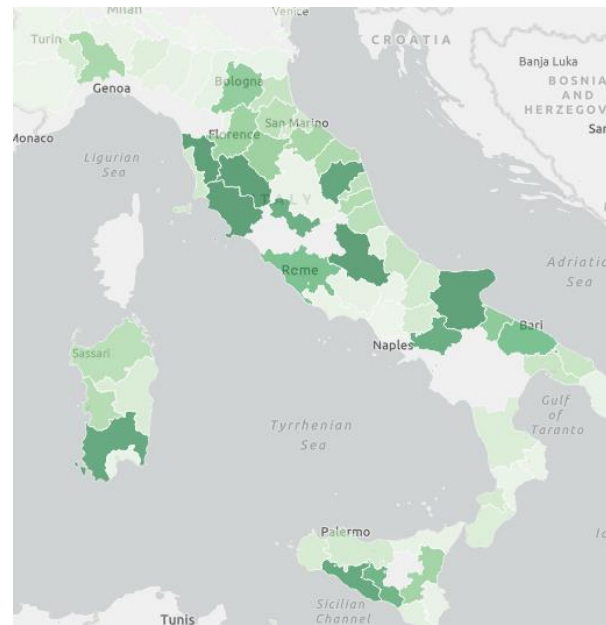
**LUCERNE (700k he)**



**ITALIAN RYEGRASS (90k he)**



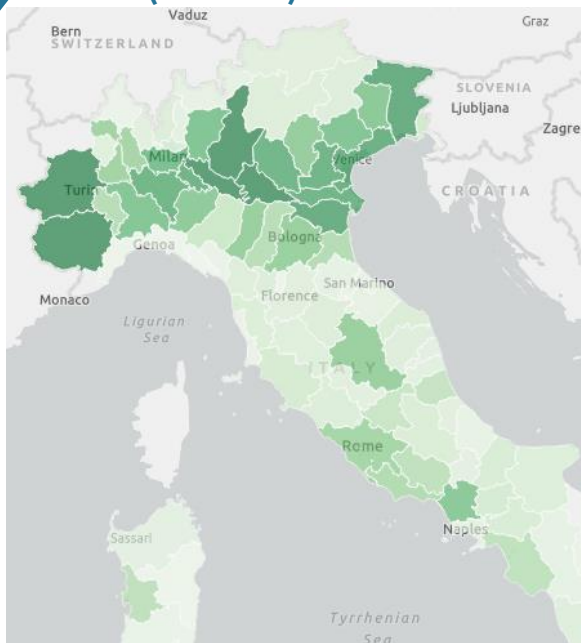
**FIELD BEAN (50k he)**



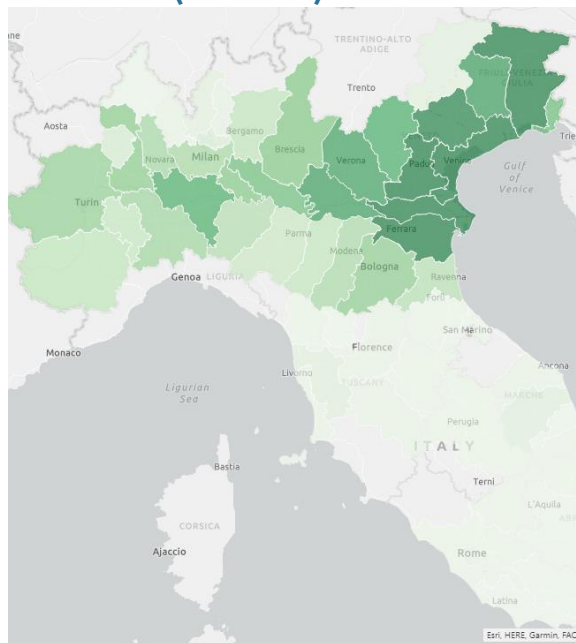
# Crop Cultivations (2018)

INDUSTRIAL CROP, in hectares (he)

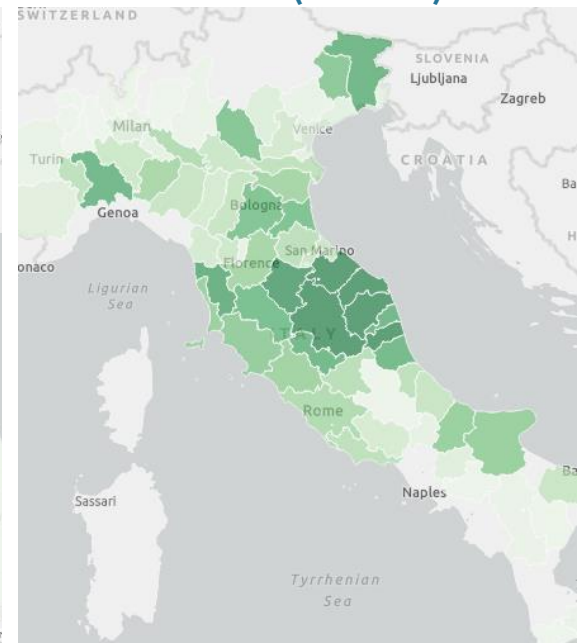
**MAIZE (970k he)**



**SOYBEAN (330k he)**

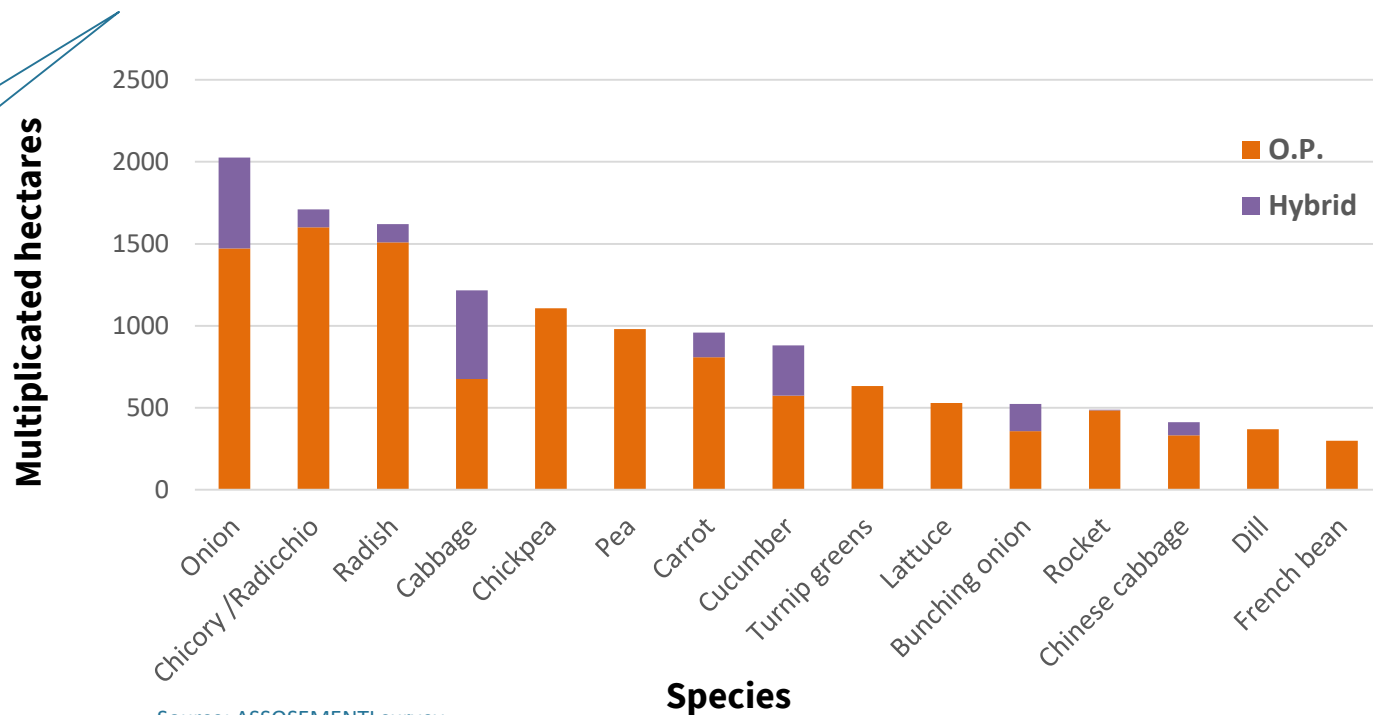


**SUNFLOWER (100k he)**



# Seed production (2018)

Most important vegetable species, by multiplied hectares

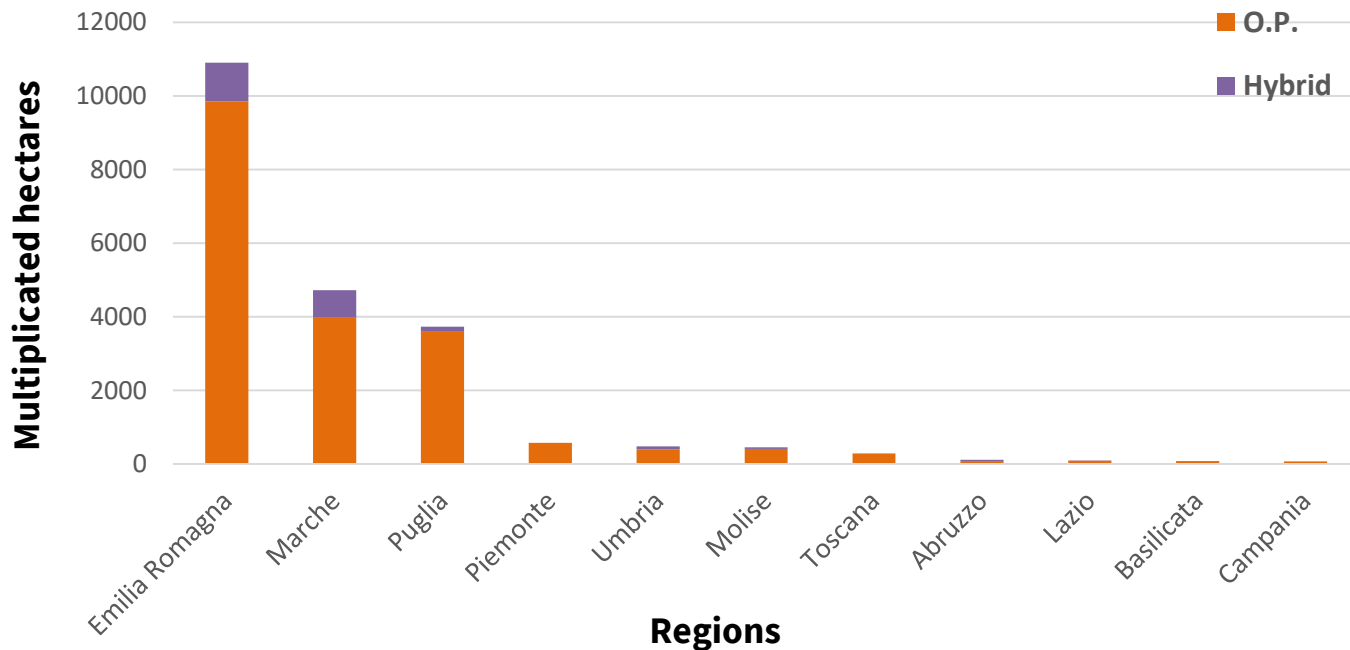


Omissis:  
coriander 5000  
hectares !)



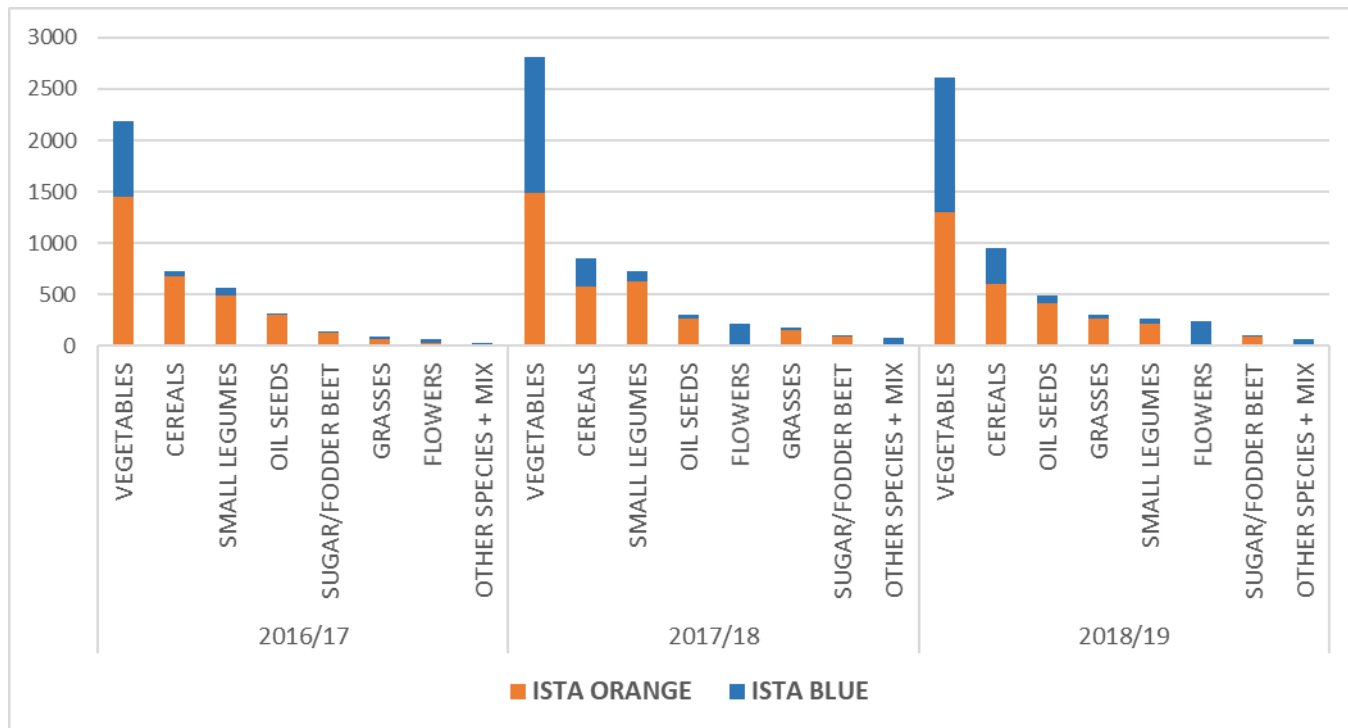
# Seed production (2018)

Most important regions, by multiplied hectares



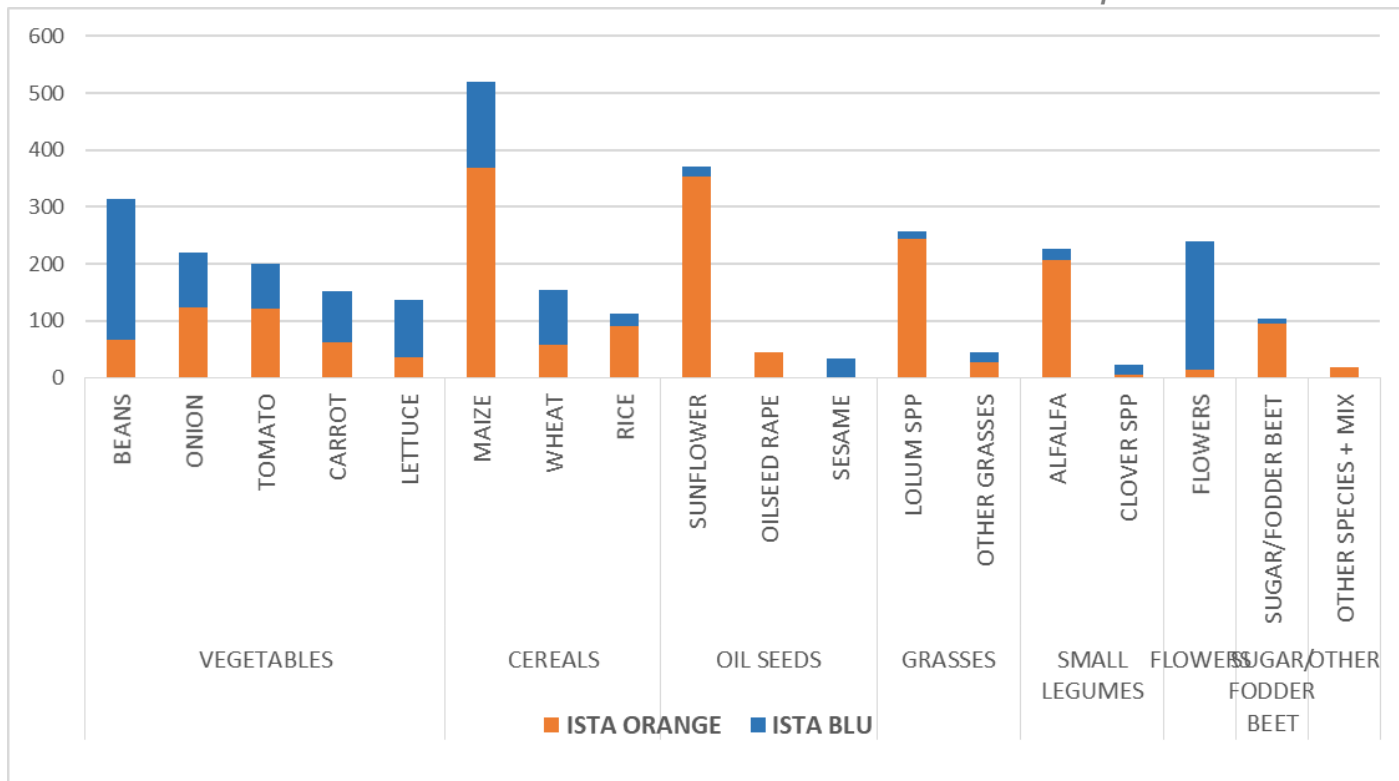
# ISTA CERTIFICATION

N° OF ISTA CERTIFICATES ISSUED in THE LATEST 3 CAMPAIGNS



# ISTA CERTIFICATION

N° OF ISSUED CERTIFICATES FOR MAIN CROPS – 2018/19



Source: 2020 ASSOSEMENTI survey among 5 national ISTA accredited LABS



**ASSOSEMENTI**

**Thank you !**

ASSOSEMENTI - Associazione Italiana Sementi  
Via dell'Industria 33 - 40138 Bologna  
Tel. +39 (0)51 503881 - [info@sementi.it](mailto:info@sementi.it)



# Secretary General: Annual Report 2019

Dr. Andreas Wais & Dr. Florina Palada



# Background Information

- Selected highlights from: “Reports of the Secretary General, Proficiency Test Committee, Rules Committee and Editorial Board” detailed in the Activity Report of the ISTA Committees 2019.
- The Activity Report in its entirety can be found at:  
<https://www.seedtest.org/upload/cms/user/OGM20-03ActivityReportoftheISTACcommittees20191.pdf>

# Summary



- ISTA Secretariat
- ISTA Membership
- Accreditation Programme (Dr. Florina Palada)
- ISTA Training and Education Programme
- ISTA Publications and Products
- Highlights and Achievements
- ISTA Finances

# ISTA Secretariat

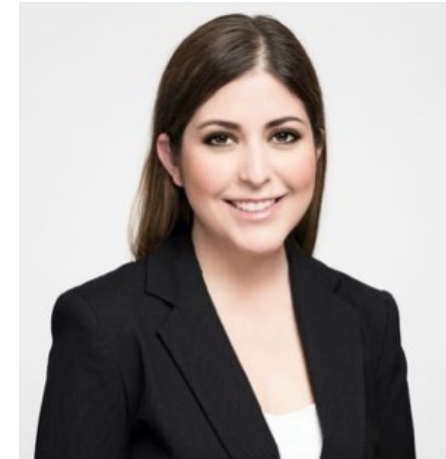


## Position

**Secretary General**  
**Head of Accreditation & Technical Dep.**  
**System Auditor, Quality Management & Standard PT Coordinator**  
**System Auditor**  
**Audit, Accreditation & PT Administrator**  
**TCOM Manager**  
**TCOM Administration**  
**MarCom & Publications Manager**  
**Marketing and Communication Expert**  
**Marketing and Communication Assistant**  
**Finance, Sales & HR**  
**IT/Publication Specialist**  
**Events & Membership Manager**  
**Temporary staff**

## Name

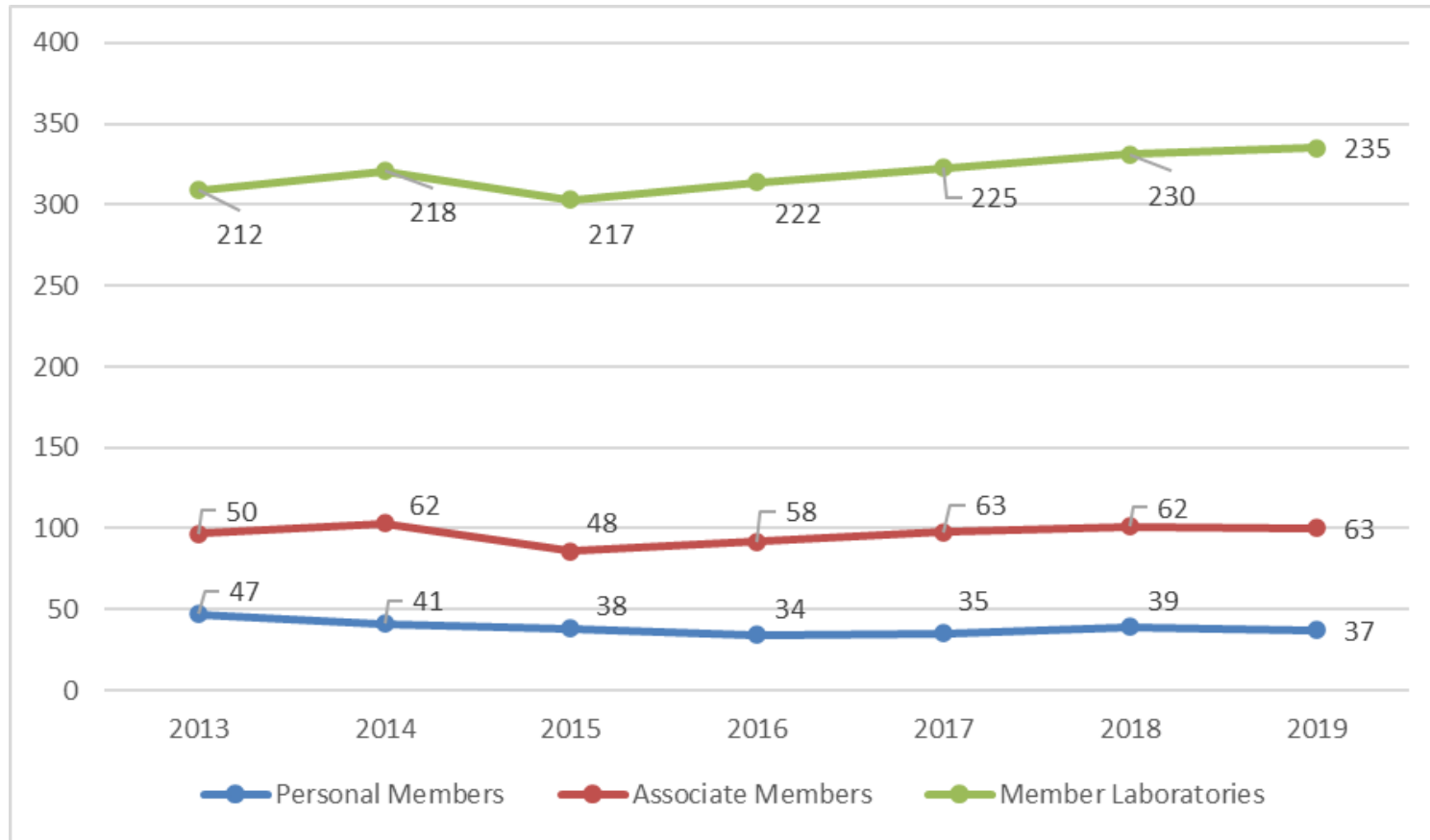
Andreas Wais  
Florina Palada  
  
Branislava Opra  
Christine Herzog (until Dec 2019)  
Neelam Lagah  
Nadine Ettel  
Andreea Militaru  
Fabiola Rivera Navas (until Apr 2020)  
Yoana Uzunova  
Karen De La Rosa (since Nov 2019)  
Agnes Hegedüs  
Sejal Patel  
Olga Stöckli  
Robert Hodobas & Amanda Hodobas







# ISTA Membership



## New ISTA Members 2019 originate from:

Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, India, **Republic of Kosovo** (new distinct economy), New Zealand, South Korea and the United Kingdom



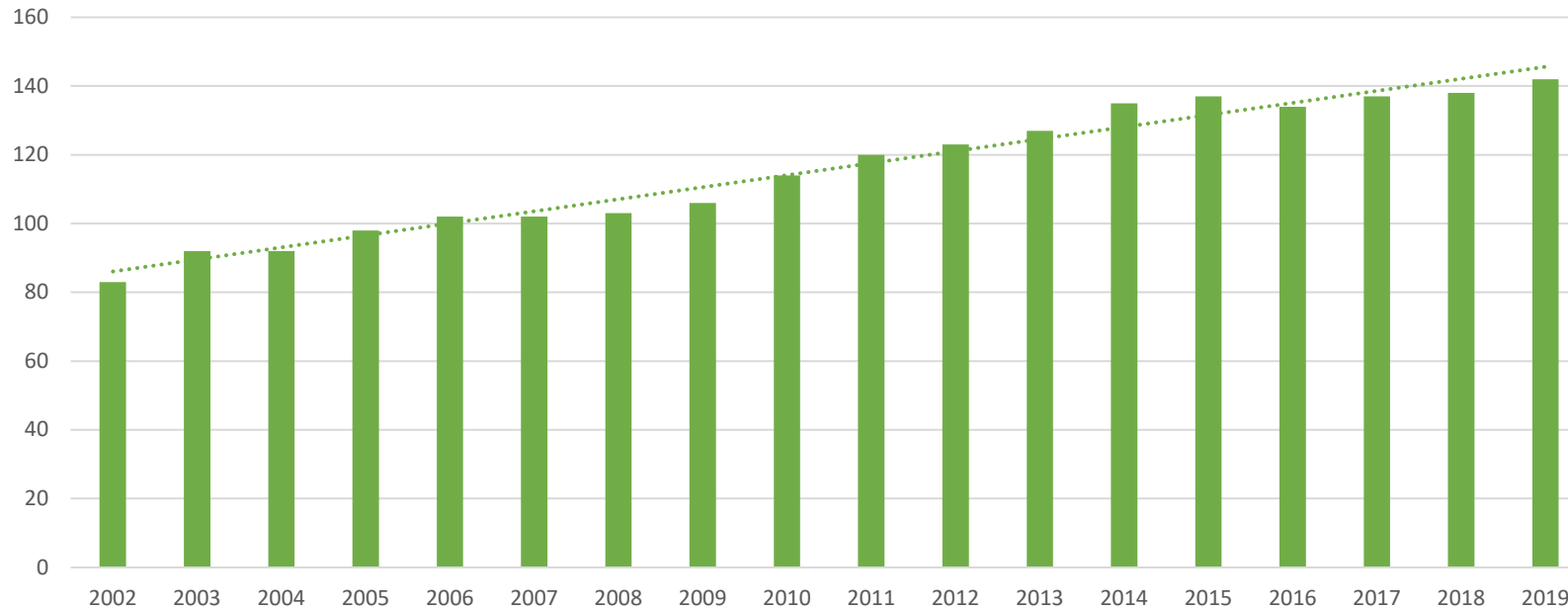
# Accredited Laboratories and Audits

Year	Accredited laboratories	Audits per year	Type
2019	142	<b>51 Total</b> 33 - ISTA Secretariat SA 18 - Contracted SA	Re-accréditation audits:46 Accreditation audits: 5
2020	145	<b>47 Total</b> planned*  6 audits performed in January and February  *The other 41 audits are postponed due to the Covid19 pandemic	Re-accréditation audits: 46 Accreditation audits: 1 Possible new candidates for accreditation: 3



# Accredited Laboratories: Evolution

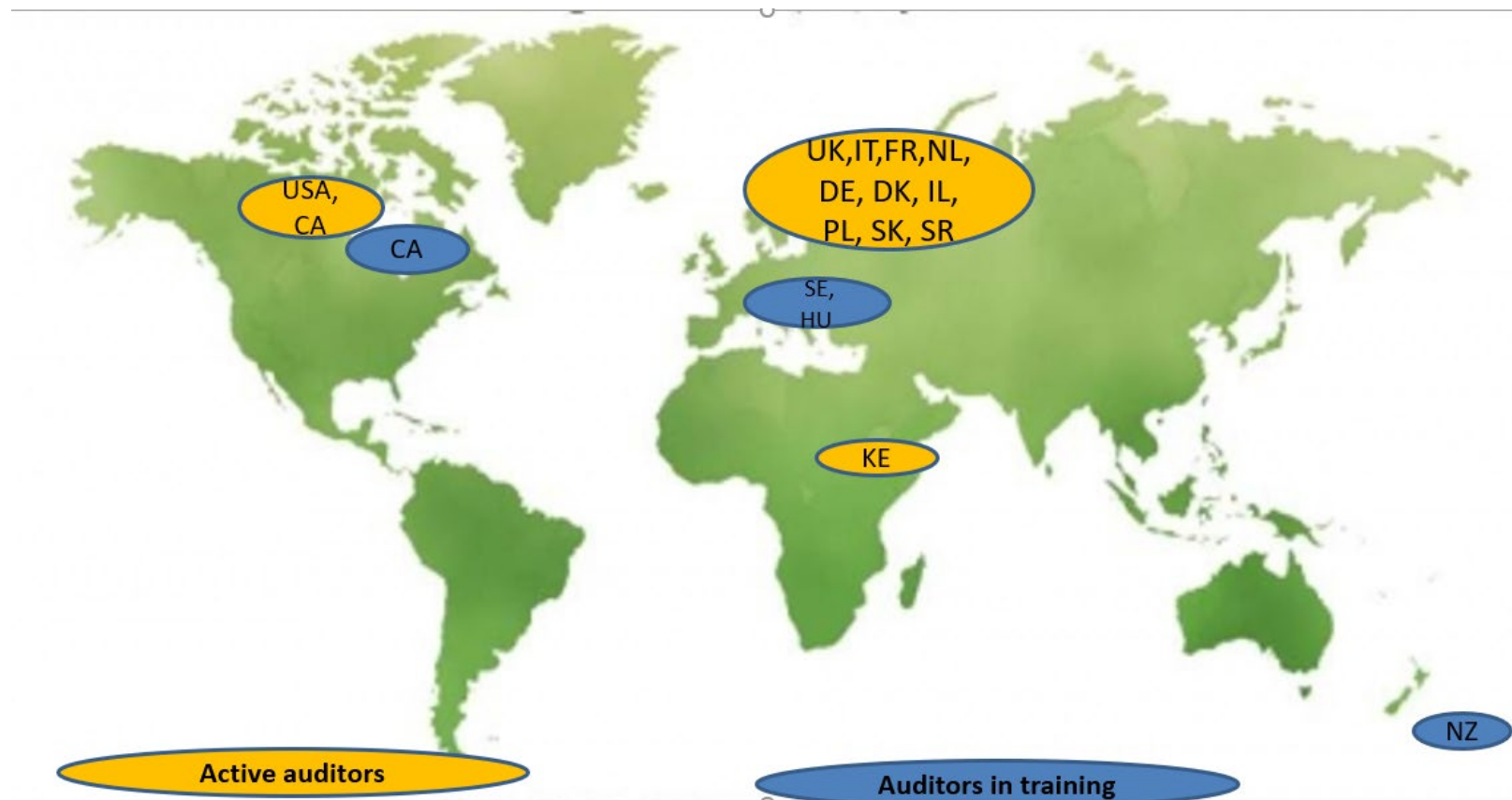
Accredited laboratories evolution  
2002-2019



2002	83
2003	92
2004	92
2005	98
2006	102
2007	102
2008	103
2009	106
2010	114
2011	120
2012	123
2013	127
2014	135
2015	137
2016	134
2017	137
2018	138
2019	142

# Auditors regional distribution 2019

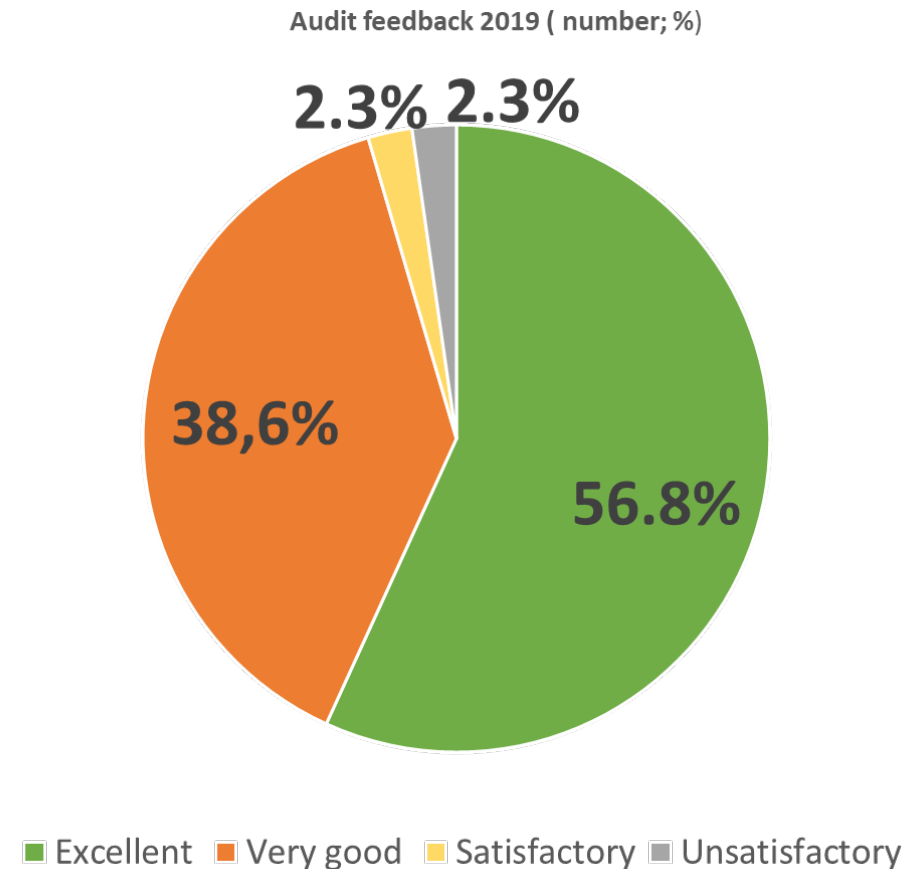
- The team of auditors 2019: the number of the contracted auditors increased



Contracted Auditors	Total number
Contracted SA&TA	3
Contracted SA	4
Contracted TA	15
TA in training	3
Rejected candidates	1

# Feedback after audits – 2019

- Total audits: 51
- Audit process finalised: 51
- Feedback received: 44
  
- Achievements:
  - ✓ Excellent and very good rating - 95.4%
  - ✓ For “Satisfactory” rating - 2.3%, the Corrective action already implemented



KPIs:  $\geq 90\%$  Excellent and very good; 0 unsatisfactory

# Interactive Certificates Tool



- Project Leader
  - ✓ Christine Herzog
- Supported by
  - ✓ Andreas Wais
  - ✓ Branislava Opra
  - ✓ Florina Palada

LEARNING TOOL  HOW IT WORKS

## INTERACTIVE ISTA CERTIFICATE

This is a self-learning tool on how to complete ISTA Certificates for seed analyses.

It shows examples of several well-known species and a wide spectrum of analysis.

The interactive Certificate learning tool is provided by ISTA to any Stakeholder. It is a complementary support to the written procedure on [How to complete ISTA Certificates](#) posted on the ISTA website.

To be launched by June 15, 2020



# ISTA Training and Education Programme

Country/Distinct Economy	Date	ISTA Event
<b>Kosovo</b>	April	ISTA Workshop on Quality Assurance and ISTA Accreditation for Beginners
<b>India</b>	June	Pre-Congress ISTA Workshop on Seed Morphology and Seed Identification for Purity and OSD Test
<b>India</b>	July	ISTA Workshop on Sampling, Purity, Germination and Moisture
<b>India</b>	December	ISTA Workshop on Quality Assurance and ISTA Accreditation for Beginners



# ISTA Publications and Products

## Sales of 'Seed Science and Technology' 2015 - 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SST Print	144	125	101	0	0
SST Online Single	7	7	9	0	1
SST Print+ Online single	3	4	4	0	0
SST Print+ Online Multiple	8	6	5	0	0
SST Online Multiple	26	32	35	3	0
SST Back Issues, print	3	3	5	5	1
SST Download of Individual Chapters	14	23	27	18	9
SST Open Access Fee Full Length Paper				<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>
SST Open Access Fee Research Note				<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total SST</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>33</b>





# ISTA Publications and Products

## Total sales of ISTA publications 2015 - 2019

Type/year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Handbook on Seed Sampling	11	19	8	7	6
Handbook on Seedling Evaluation	30	46	22	6	54
Handbook on Pure Seed Definitions	13	16	6	10	12
Handbook on Moisture Determination	10	15	9	8	11
Handbook on Flower Seed Testing	2	4	3	7	3
ISTA Working Sheets on Tetrazolium Testing Vol. I	6	8	3	6	4
ISTA Working Sheets on Tetrazolium Testing Vol. II	2	6	2	1	6
Various Handbooks/Publications	71	66	26	50	44
<b>Total Publications sold</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>140</b>



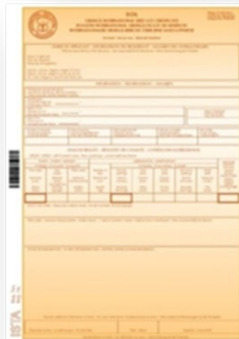
# ISTA Publications and Products

## Sales of ISTA Certificates 2015 - 2019

Type of ISTA Certificates	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Orange International Seed lot Certificates	160'300	158'000	204'000	190'800	163'700
Blue International Seed Sample Certificates	10'700	8'500	14'100	15'100	11'400
<b>Total</b>	<b>171'000</b>	<b>166'500</b>	<b>218'100</b>	<b>205'900</b>	<b>175'100</b>

# Highlights and Achievements

- Electronic Certificates:
- Feasibility Study available
- Cost of the IPPC (ePhyto) systems is higher than the ISTA eCertificates system
- eCertificate cost per Certificate?
- Membership answered number of duplicate OICs issued
- Data Transfer via Excel
- Office 365 now available also for all TCOMs and ECOM
- New Website CMS project



# ISTA Finances



ISTA Budget 2020 INCOME	2018	2019	Proposed 2020	Proposed 2021
Subscriptions				
Annual Membership Subscription	1'175'409.95	1'232'104.72	1'194'708.60	1'200'000.00
Accreditation Subscription	160'392.92	164'046.75	164'089.44	165'000.00
Annual Meetings	151'364.81	217'834.24	142'740.00	145'000.00
Technical Committees WS	70'901.84	27'816.41	60'000.00	60'000.00
STI Advertisement	0.00	1'538.06	1'500.00	1'500.00
	<b>1'558'069.52</b>	<b>1'643'340.18</b>	<b>1'563'038.04</b>	<b>1'571'500.00</b>
Service Centres				
ISTA Rules	48'993.47	49'414.76	50'000.00	60'000.00
Accreditation Audits	593'096.59	573'567.63	634'798.00	600'000.00
Proficiency Test incl. GMO	25'570.00	6'410.00	12'000.00	15'000.00
QA Workshops	18'744.27	13'724.38	12'000.00	10'000.00
Seed Science and Technology	33'823.21	21'356.79	30'000.00	30'000.00
Technical Publications and calibration samples	27'450.69	25'051.40	25'000.00	25'000.00
Certificates	678'768.92	582'061.00	617'500.00	615'000.00
Website	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>1'426'447.15</b>	<b>1'271'585.96</b>	<b>1'381'298.00</b>	<b>1'355'000.00</b>
Losses in receivables	-25'298.18	-34'248.00	-10'428.00	-20'000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2'959'218.49</b>	<b>2'880'678.14</b>	<b>2'933'908.04</b>	<b>2'906'500.00</b>

# ISTA Finances



ISTA Budget 2020 EXPENDITURE	2018	2019	Proposed 2020	Proposed 2021
Direct Costs				
Annual Meetings & Congresses	-166'398.30	-447'766.08	-176'475.25	-180'000.00
Executive Committee+President	-13'254.33	-59'606.89	-25'000.00	-25'000.00
Technical Committees WS and 3K grants	-149'829.12	-182'265.84	-96'000.00	-96'000.00
Seed Testing International	-32'882.74	-41'200.93	-30'000.00	-30'000.00
	<b>-362'364.49</b>	<b>-730'839.74</b>	<b>-327'475.25</b>	<b>-331'000.00</b>
Service Centres				
ISTA Rules	-14'356.51	-13'821.19	-22'000.00	-22'000.00
Accreditation Audits	-258'371.55	-251'879.66	-365'550.00	-350'000.00
Proficiency Test incl. GMO	-45'154.97	-14'841.82	-11'000.00	-10'000.00
QA Workshops	-9'196.87	-14'128.00	-11'500.00	-10'000.00
Seed Science and Technology	-62'029.58	-59'261.61	-55'000.00	-55'000.00
Technical Publications and calibration samples	-33'008.58	-12'285.20	-22'500.00	-20'000.00
Certificates	-95'544.71	-83'606.33	-65'000.00	-65'000.00
Provisions for fluctuations	-321'000.00	150'000.00	850'000.00	320'000.00
	<b>-838'662.77</b>	<b>-299'823.81</b>	<b>297'450.00</b>	<b>-212'000.00</b>
Personnel expenses				
Salaries	-1'059'807.80	-1'120'039.95	-1'179'425.07	-1'280'000.00
Social Security and insurances	-264'072.90	-272'576.25	-353'827.52	-384'000.00
Other personel expenses incl. Recruitments	-11'168.74	-18'990.97	-15'000.00	-5'000.00
Staff Training	-31'907.29	-18'757.69	-30'000.00	-30'000.00
Secretary General Cost not covered otherwise	0.00	0.00	-5'000.00	-5'000.00
	<b>-1'366'956.73</b>	<b>-1'430'364.86</b>	<b>-1'583'252.59</b>	<b>-1'704'000.00</b>

# ISTA Finances



ISTA Budget 2020 EXPENDITURE	2018	2019	Proposed 2020	Proposed 2021
Operating Costs				
Office Costs	-226'095.74	-241'929.06	-299'000.00	-350'000.00
Travel Costs (International Representation)	-41'222.92	-32'362.13	-50'000.00	-50'000.00
Marketing Costs	-16'148.03	-26'060.89	-25'000.00	-25'000.00
Website	-53'870.40	-24'742.16	-40'000.00	-40'000.00
Projects	0.00	0.00	-889'360.83	-180'000.00
	<b>-337'337.09</b>	<b>-325'094.24</b>	<b>-1'303'360.83</b>	<b>-645'000.00</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	-4'031.04	-2'756.87	-2'000.00	-1'000.00
Financial costs	-20'328.28	-162'860.25	-15'000.00	-15'000.00
Financial income	3'637.66	54'809.17	1'500.00	2'000.00
Prior-period costs	-38'937.60	-13'793.06	0.00	0.00
Prior-period income	22'565.19	37'378.91	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-2'942'415.15</b>	<b>-2'873'344.75</b>	<b>-2'932'138.66</b>	<b>-2'906'000.00</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>16'803.34</b>	<b>7'333.39</b>	<b>1'769.38</b>	<b>500.00</b>

# ISTA Finances



- Financial Auditors approved the financial closing of 2019
- The ECOM suggests to stay with BDO as Financial Auditors for 2020 as well.



Phone: +44 444 71 55  
Fax: +44 444 71 55  
www.bdo.ch

BDO Ltd  
E. Hiltbrunnstrasse 2  
8021 Zurich

Report of the statutory auditor on the limited statutory examination  
to the Ordinary General meeting of

ISTA International Seed Testing Association, Bassersdorf

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of ISTA International Seed Testing Association for the financial year ended December 31, 2018.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the executive committee. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the articles of association.

Zurich, 4 February 2019

BDO Ltd

ppa. David Schraner  
Auditor in Charge  
Licensed Audit Expert

ppa. Marion Gruber  
Licensed Auditor

Enclosures  
Financial statements

Thank you  
and stay  
healthy!

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# ISTA

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**31 MAY  
- 03 JUNE,  
2021**



# CAIRO, EGYPT

# **International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)**

**ISTA = Uniformity in Seed Testing**

**Executive Committee (ECOM)  
Activity report 2019 for OGM 2020**

Presenter:  
Location:  
Date:

**Steve Jones, ISTA President**

**28 May 2020**

# CONTENT



- **ECOM Membership**
- **What ISTA does**
- **ECOM meetings**
- **ECOM working groups (WG) activities**
- **Overview**

# ISTA ECOM Membership



*ECOM:* Steve Jones (Canada), Keshavulu Kunusoth (India), Craig McGill( New Zealand), Ignacio Aranciaga (Argentina), Valerie Cockerell (United Kingdom), Sylvie Ducournau (France), Ruel Gesmundo (Philippines), Leena Pietilä (Finland), Berta Killermann (Germany), Cliad Mujaju (Zimbabwe), Rita Zecchinelli (Italy)  
*ISTA Honorary President:* Attilio Lovato (Italy)

# ISTA facilitated seed trade since 1924



Photo courtesy of NIAB, UK.

## Internationally recognised and cross-linked



# What ISTA does



*Develop, adopt and publish **STANDARD METHODS/PROCEDURES**  
for both the **sampling and testing of seeds***

*Promote the uniform application of these procedures,  
for evaluation of seeds moving in international trade*

**Methods developed for use in domestic seed certification quality control programs and the international trade of seed**

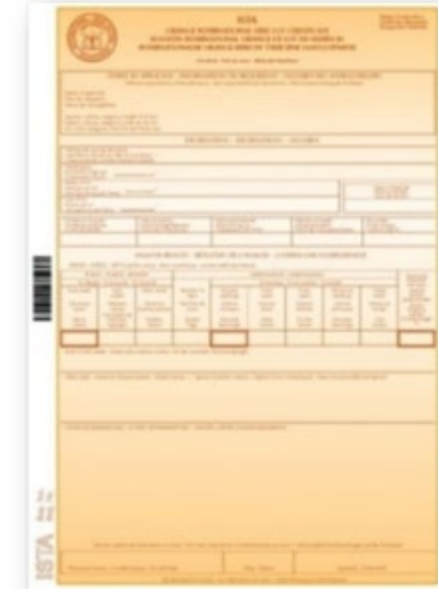
**...but can also be used in other areas like grain and phytosanitary testing**

# Issue ISTA CERTIFICATES



**Orange (OIC) for Seed Lots**  
**Maximum lot size with sampling and testing under ISTA laboratory's control**

**Blue (BIC) for Seed Samples and Mixtures**  
**Some countries issue on grain shipments, as sampling is not required by an ISTA sampler and there is no maximum lot size**



About **200 000** certificates issued globally every year



# ISTA Strategy 2019 to 2022



**Published on ISTA website:**

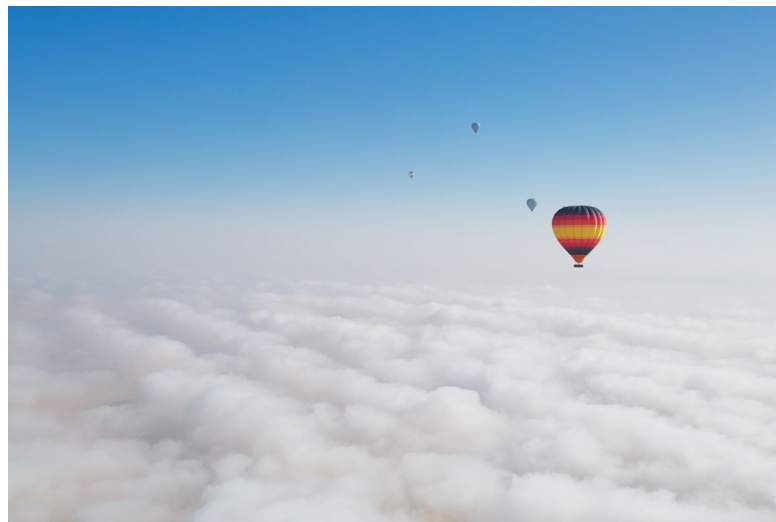
<https://www.seedtest.org/upload/cms/user/OGM19-12Strategy2019-20221.pdf>



# New ECOM Meetings



- **4 July 2019, Hyderabad. First meeting of new ECOM**
- **9-14 Feb 2020, Bologna. First full business meeting**
- **20, 30 April, 14 May 2020. Virtual meetings of ECOM**



# ECOM Meetings Hyderabad



## One day meeting

- ✓ Briefing for new ECOM members on how the ECOM works and communicates
- ✓ Membership of ECOM Working Groups and TCOM liaisons officers were reviewed and assigned
- ✓ Feedback on 2019 Congress
- ✓ Plans for the Verona Annual Meeting and other business decisions

## Five days of meetings

- ✓ **Budget discussions:**  
staffing, membership fees, audit fees, special projects,  
website, ISTA E-Certificates
- ✓ **How to involve new ISTA members and Designated Authorities**
- ✓ **Promoting science in ISTA: 100 000 CHF special project fund**

## Five days of meetings

- ✓ Supporting new technologies in the ISTA Rules
- ✓ Created a special project to support the idea of Young@ISTA
- ✓ Create “Expansion of seed testing in developing countries” WG

# Web-based ECOM Meetings



Two hours on  
20, 30 April  
and 14 May 2020



- ✓ First of web-based meetings of ECOM
- ✓ Making use of IT tools like Office 365
- ✓ Planning for first ISTA web-based/virtual meeting

# ECOM Activity Report 2019



**ECOM Activity Report in document:**

**OGM20-03 Activity Reports of the ISTA Committees 2019**

**<https://www.seedtest.org/en/preparatory-documents-content---1--3518.html>**

**My role is to report the activity. Only possible thanks to the excellent work of the members of the different ECOM working groups summarized in the following slides.**

**Also thanks to ISTA Secretariat.**

# Accreditation WG



**Chair:** Rita Zecchinelli

**Members:** Valerie Cockerell, Sylvie Ducournau,  
Berta Killermann, Florina Palada

## **Highlights:**

- ✓ Support to Accreditation Department at Secretariat
- ✓ Review of accreditation standard and other documents

**Ongoing projects:** discussion on restructuring audit structure, interactive certificates, cooperation with TCOMs, organisation of workshops.

# Articles and By-Laws WG



**Chair:** Keshavulu Kunusoth

**Members:** Craig McGill, Andreas Wais, Steve Jones

**Changes made to the ISTA Articles in 2019:**

- ✓ Industry member category removed
- ✓ Deadlines for reporting annual meeting minutes revised



# Designated Authorities and International Relationships WG



**Chair:** Craig McGill

**Members:** Keshavulu Kunesoth, Rita Zecchinelli, Leena Pietilä, Ruel Gesmundo, Berta Killermann, Sylvie Ducournau, Valerie Cockerell, Ignacio Aranciaga, Claid Mujaju, Andreas Wais, Steve Jones

**Highlights:**

- ✓ Key meetings with FAO, ISF, IPPC in February 2020
- ✓ Continued collaboration with key ISTA partners
- ✓ Looking to make new links

**Chair:** Berta Killermann

**Members:** Rita Zecchinelli, Keshavulu Kunusoth, Craig McGill, Olga Stöckli, Andreas Wais

**Highlights:**

- ✓ Planning for annual meetings 2020 and 2021
- ✓ Congress in 2022
- ✓ Venues for 2023, 2024 and 2025 meetings

# Marketing and Publications WG



**Chair:** Ignacio Aranciaga

**Members:** Berta Killermann Olga Stöckli, Andreas Wais, Fabiola Rivera, Yoana Uzunova

**Highlights:**

- ✓ Electronic Handbooks
- ✓ ISTA Rules in Spanish now well established
- ✓ Videos
- ✓ Increased presence on social media: ISTA Newsletter, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube

# Science and Technology WG



**Chair:** Leena Pietilä

**Members:** Valerie Cockerell, Sylvie Ducournau, Craig McGill, Bert Van Duijn, David Johnston, Ruoqing Wang, Ernest Allen

## **Highlights:**

- ✓ **General guideline on how to proceed with new technology in ISTA laboratories, new document in preparation**



# Technical Committees WG

**Chair:** Valerie Cockerell

**Members:** Craig McGill, Leena Pietilä, Ruel Gesmundo, Claid Mujaju, Andreas Wais, Nadine Ettel, Andreea Militaru

**Highlights:**

- ✓ Continued financial support to TCOMs 3000 CHF annual
- ✓ 100 000 CHF special project fund
- ✓ Training initiatives
- ✓ New technologies

# Membership Fees WG



**Chair:** Keshavulu Kunusoth

**Members:** Craig McGill, Rita Zecchinelli, Valerie Cockerell, Andreas Wais, Steve Jones

**Highlights:**

- ✓ No increase in membership fees for another year
- ✓ 10% early payment discount still available

# Vegetable Seed Industry (VSI) WG



**Chair:** Berta Killermann (ISTA)

**Vice-Chair:** Merel Langens (VSI)

**Members:** ISTA members, VSI-members, TCOM-specialists

**On-going projects:**

- ✓ Experiment to increase the number of sub-lots of vegetable seeds.
- ✓ Possibility to reduce the weight of the working sample for the other seed determination for fruity crops

# Technical Committees



**ECOM activity report discussion but I also want to acknowledge the huge amount of work that the Technical Committees of ISTA continue to achieve:**

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE  
BULKING AND SAMPLING COMMITTEE  
FLOWER SEED 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)  
SEED SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP  
WILD SPECIES WORKING GROUP



Involving about **270 technologists and scientists** around the globe



Over **250 seed professionals** receive training yearly in ISTA workshops





# Overview

**Progress being made on key new initiatives:**

- ✓ **New technology**
- ✓ **E-certificates**

**Still maintaining and improving:**

- ✓ **International Rules for Seed Sampling and Testing**
- ✓ **Laboratory accreditation**

**Adapting to Covid-19 situation to continue to support global seed trade and help feed the world**

# Thank you all, stay safe



**Progress is only possible by the hard work, cooperation and dedication of ECOM Working Group Members, Technical Committee Chairs and Members, ISTA Secretariat, Designated Authorities and support from host organisations and companies**

**Thank you**



The background features a large, light gray watermark of the ISTA logo. The logo is circular and contains the text "INTERNATIONAL-SEED TESTING ASSOCIATION" around the perimeter, "UNIFORMITY" at the top, "IN SEED TESTING" in the center, and a pair of scales of justice at the bottom.

# ISTA Membership Fees

**28 May 2020**

Presenter:  
Location:  
Date:

**Keshavulu Kunusoth, ISTA Vice-President**  
**Virtual meeting**  
**28 May 2020**

# Current ISTA Membership Fees for 2020



- **Member Laboratory/Sampling entity** CHF 5214
- **Accredited member additional fee** CHF 1224
- **Personal member** CHF 1049
- **Associate member** CHF 214

# Proposed ISTA Membership Fees for 2021



- ✓ **Proposal: no change to the current fees**
- ✓ **Continue with the 10% early payment discount**



Thank you!

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# Up-dates from the Science & Technology Working Group

Activity report 2019 for virtual meeting 2020

Presenter: **Leena Pietilä, WG Chair**

Location:

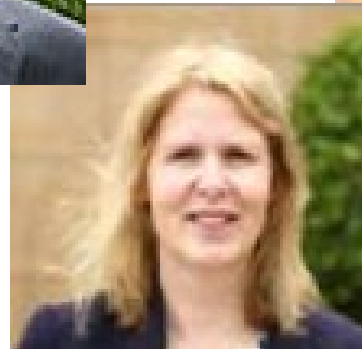
Date: **May 28, 2020**



# Science & Technology Working Group

**ECOM:** Leena Pietilä (Chair), Valerie Cockerell, Sylvie Ducournau, Craig McGill,  
**Secretariat:** Andreas Wais

**TCOMs:** Bert Van Duijn (ATC), David Johnston (GER), Ruoqing Wang (PUR),  
Ernest Allen (RUL)

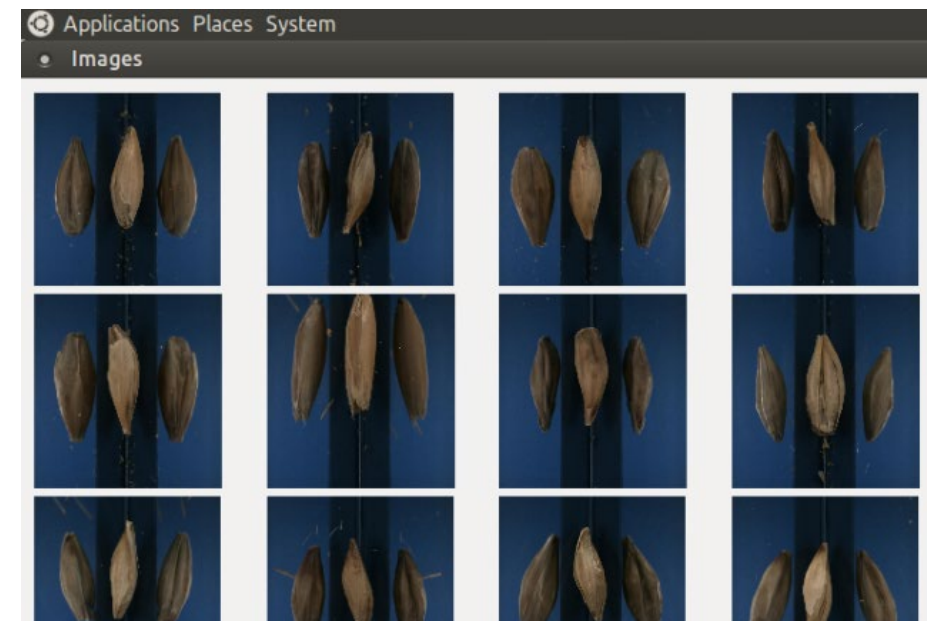




# Role of technologies in seed sampling and testing



- ISTA Rules allow the use of technologies for seed sampling and analysis
- Use of technologies is encouraged in the ISTA strategy
- Possibilities to develop and apply technologies can be considered at every step when ISTA methods are developed



# WG guidance on how to proceed with a new technology



**New technology** = technology new to the laboratory

- Guidance planned to be added to ISTA website
- General questions are outlined that are common to all seed laboratories considering technologies new to them
- These questions should be considered at the very first steps of the decision-making process



# Points to consider when planning to use new technology in a lab, examples ...



## Why use the new technology?

- Save time?
- Save labour?
- Save money?
- Improve reproducibility and repeatability?
- Health and safety reasons?
- ?

## Applies to which species and/or analysis?

- Is there technology available for the species you need?
- Is the piece of equipment you are considering suitable for the species you need?
- Is there technology available for the analysis you need?

# Points to consider when planning to use new technology in a lab, examples ...



## Who trains the machine and the operator?

- Manufacturer?
- Laboratory?
- Database from a user group with agreed methodology and rules for artificial intelligence type of technology?
- Someone else?

## Maintenance and upgrade in software and hardware

- How is it arranged?
- How much does it cost?
- How often is it needed?
- Are maintenance contracts offered by the supplier?
- Replacement period?

# Role of the TCOMs is crucial for the labs



## TCOMs can for example:

- Provide guidance and information on technologies, but not advise on a specific piece of equipment
- Give advice on how technologies new to the lab can be applied and how to verify that technologies works accurately
- Carry out projects concerning technologies
- Consider if an ISTA Rule change/adaptation is needed to enable new technologies (e.g. number vs. weight)
- Provide contact with other users of the technology or interested parties

**In close co-operation with Seed Science Advisory Group and Advanced Technologies Committee**



Thank you!

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# ISTA Rules Proposals

A large, faint watermark of the ISTA logo is centered in the background. The logo is circular and contains the text 'INTERNATIONAL-SEED TESTING-ASSOCIATION' around the perimeter and 'UNIFORMITY' in the center. Below the text is a scale of justice.

Presenter:  
Location:  
Date:

**Ernest Allen, ISTA Rules Committee Chair**  
**Virtual meeting**  
**28 May 2020**

# OGM Voting process



Name of the Voting Delegate:

Name of the country:

## Voting Questions

Please tick the appropriate box

1. Do you approve the **Report of the ISTA Secretary General?**

OGM Document OGM20-03 Activity Report of the ISTA Committees 2019 (Page 32)

YES <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>	Abstain <input type="radio"/>
---------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------

2. Do you approve the **ISTA Financial Report?**

OGM Document OGM20-03 Activity Report of the ISTA Committees 2019 (Page 37)

YES <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>	Abstain <input type="radio"/>
---------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------

3. Do you approve the **ISTA Budget 2020 and provisional Budget 2021?**

OGM Document OGM20-03 Activity Report of the ISTA Committees 2019 (Page 38)

YES <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>	Abstain <input type="radio"/>
---------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------

C.9.3 Use of mesh instead of meshes	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>	Abstain <input type="radio"/>
C.9.4 Clarification of working sample	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>	Abstain <input type="radio"/>
C.9.5 Moisture method for <i>Carica papaya</i>	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>	Abstain <input type="radio"/>
C.15.1 Clarification of the assessment of radicle emergence for <i>Zea mays</i> and <i>Triticum aestivum</i> subsp. <i>aestivum</i> in the radicle emergence test	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>	Abstain <input type="radio"/>

### Important note:

Vote is valid only if received by the ISTA Secretariat by email on [ista.office@ista.ch](mailto:ista.office@ista.ch) before **June 05, 2020 (19:00 CEST)**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:



# Closing remarks

## ISTA Membership Virtual Meeting

**28 May 2020**

Presenter: Steve Jones

Location: ISTA Virtual Meeting 2020

Date: 28 May 2020

# Cooperation and teamwork



**Progress is only possible by the hard work, cooperation and dedication of Technical Committee Chairs and Members, Executive Committee, ISTA Secretariat, Designated Authorities and support from host organisations and companies**

**Thank you on behalf of myself and the ECOM**



# Voting documents



**Remember to submit your voting documents**

**Return forms by email to ISTA Secretariat  
by 5 June 2020**

# New dates for ISTA Congress 2022, 4-10 May



**Seed Symposium, Annual meeting and OGM**

**Christchurch, New Zealand      Now 4 to 10 May, 2022**

<https://www.newzealand.com/au/christchurch/>

Venue is Te Pae (The Christchurch Convention Centre)

Te Pae is a welcoming place  
(manaakitanga – Hospitality)  
for people to meet (Te Pae Tangata)  
for the Congress 2022

<https://www.tepae.co.nz/about-us>



# Next ISTA meeting 2021



 **ISTA**

**ANNUAL MEETING** **31 MAY**  
**- 03 JUNE,**  
**2021**

**CAIRO, EGYPT**

**Stay safe, hope to see you soon**

**Thank you!**

Follow us on social media:

