



**ISTA**

Seed Quality Assurance

# Ensuring Seed Quality By Uniformity in Seed Testing

Role of Seed Testing in the Future World



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# In Focus

The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) is an international, non-profit association of seed testing laboratories and individual seed professionals.

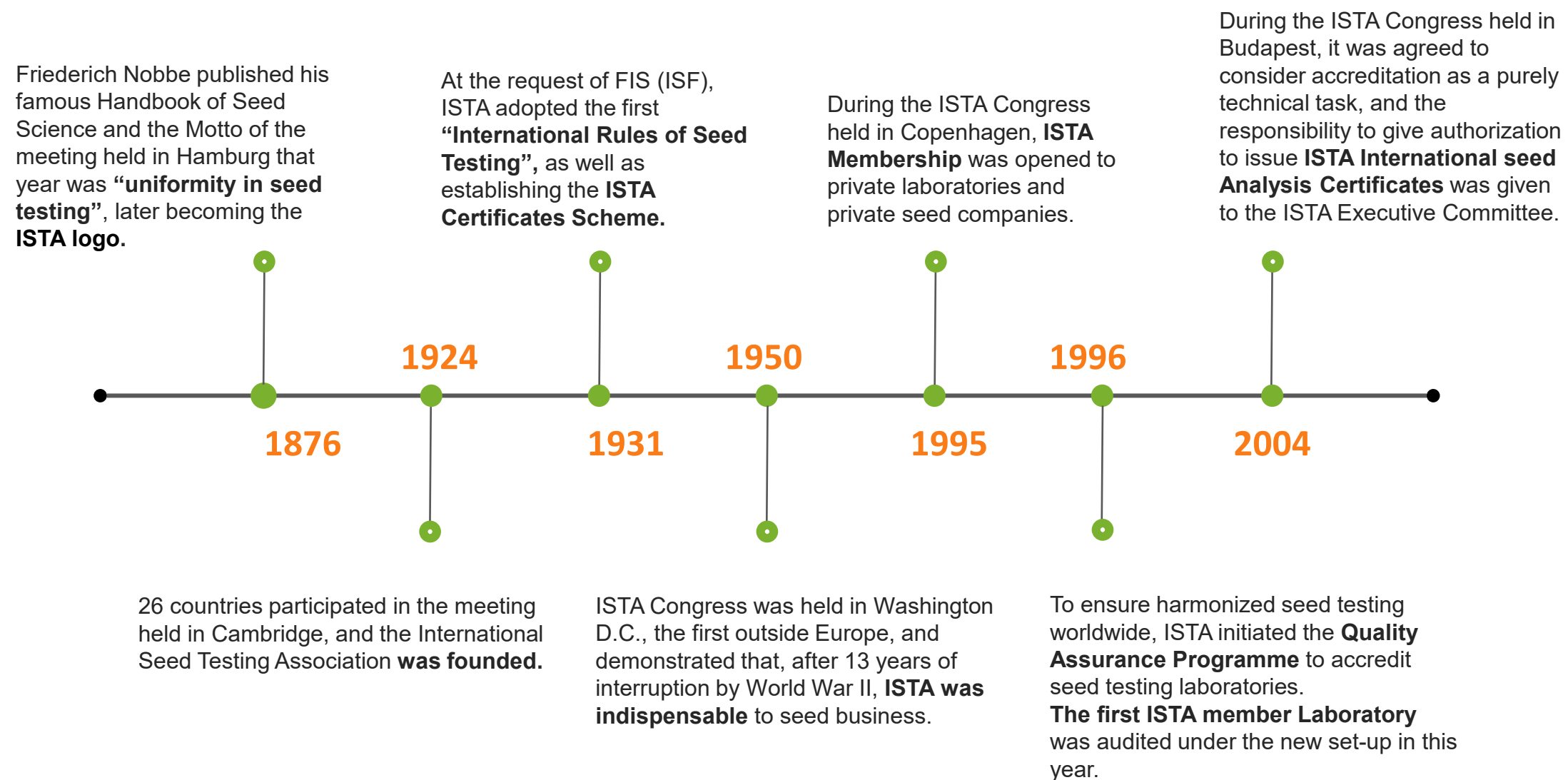
ISTA operates under the governance of the governments of member countries and distinct economies.





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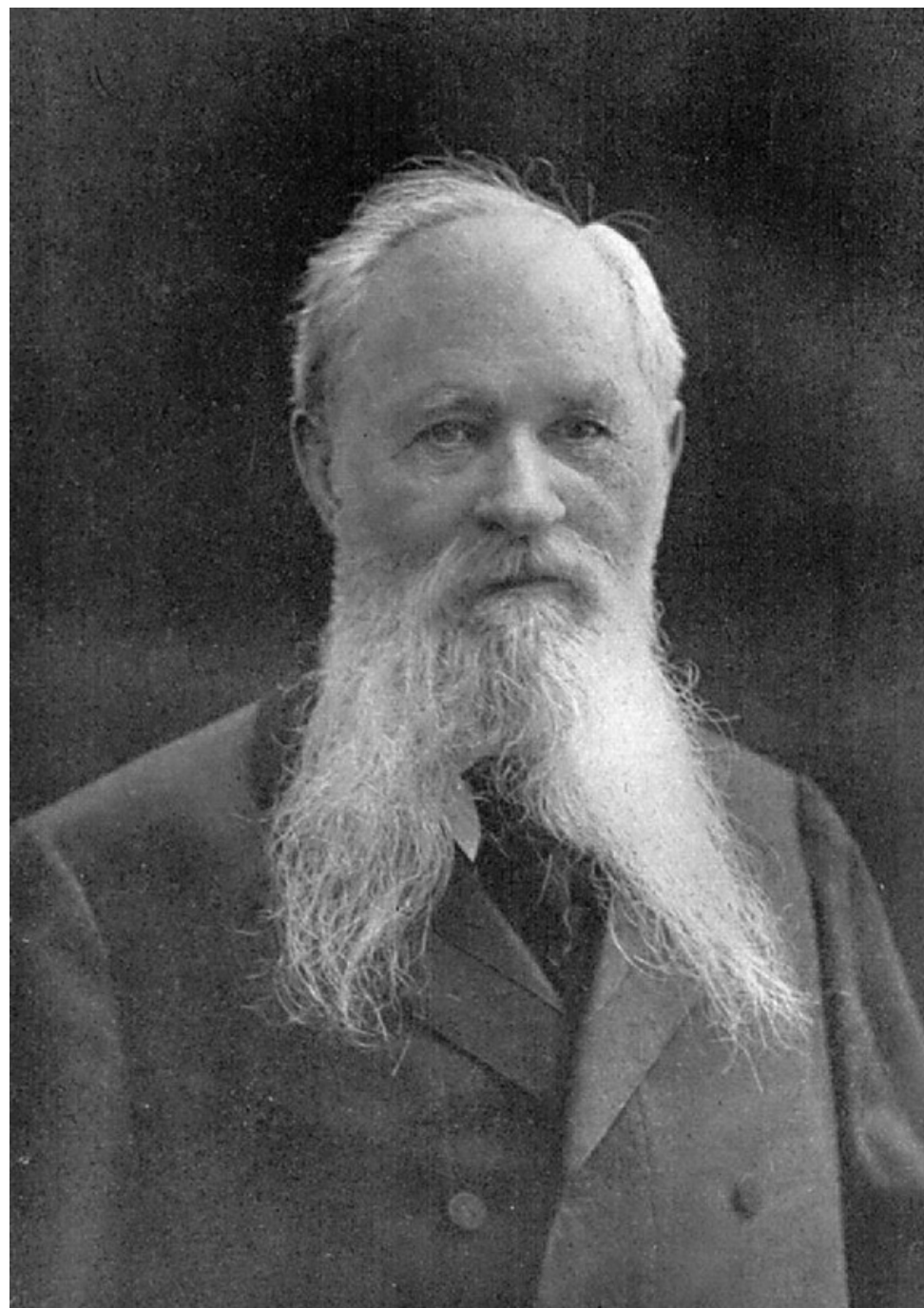
# ISTA Facilitates seed trade since 1924





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# Nobbe's Inquiries Over 150 Years Ago

- Is the seed sold to farmers of the desired botanical species?
- How many seeds are of the desired botanical species?
- What other botanical species can be found in the seed sold?
- Does the seed sold have the potential to produce a healthy plant?

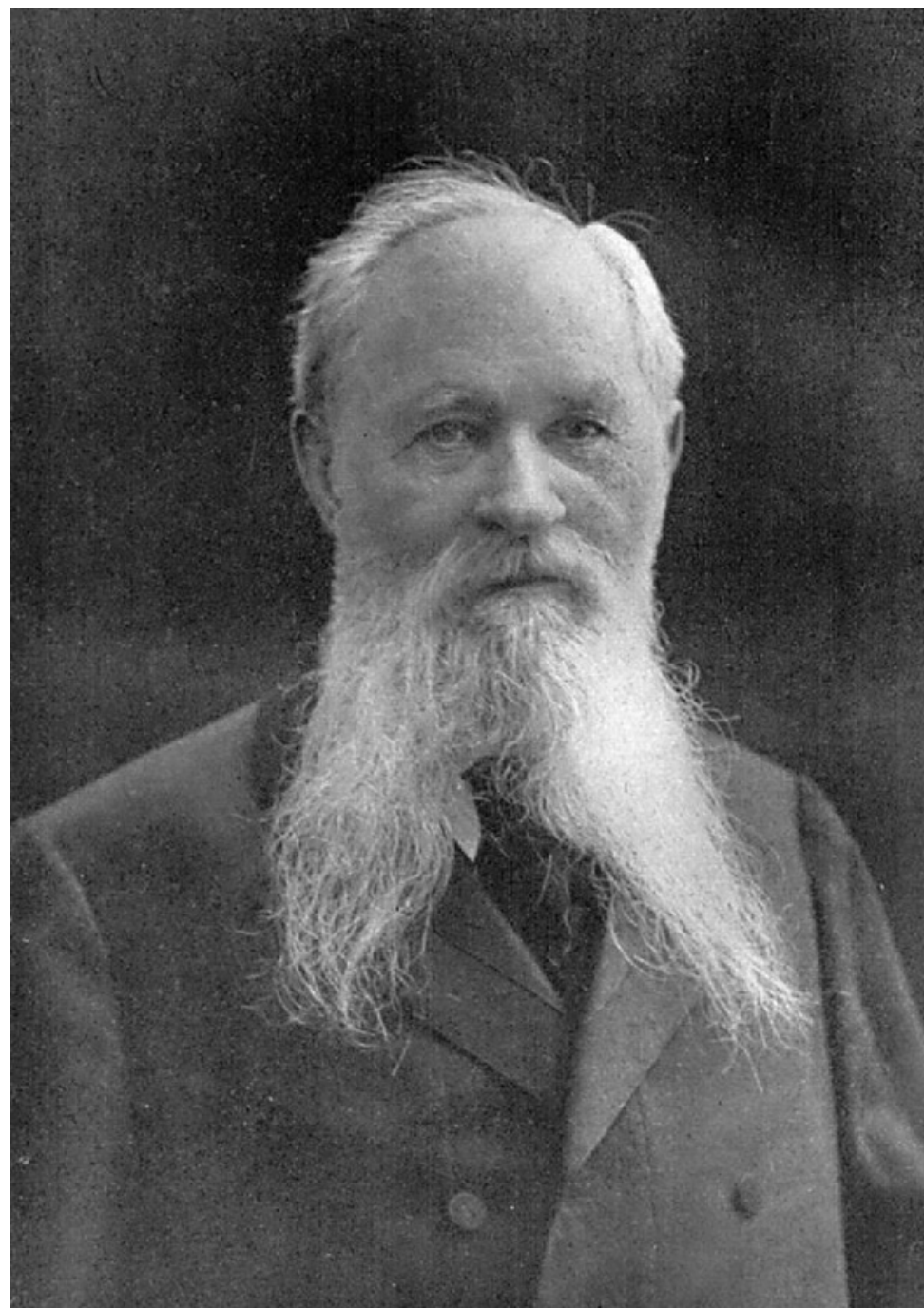
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hK\\_wNrJu09Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hK_wNrJu09Q)



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# Nobbe's Requirements Over 150 Years Ago



- Science-based laboratory Testing
- Sampling is critical
- Standardised Methods for all tests needed (Rules)
- All Tests completed before seed sold to end-user
- Statistics is fundamental to Seed Testing



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# ISTA Objectives

Develop, adopt, and publish **Standard Procedures** for Sampling and testing seeds and promote uniform application of these procedures, for evaluation of seeds moving in international trade.

**Promote Research** in all areas of seed science and technology.





# ISTA Membership

## Member Laboratory

- Is a laboratory engaged in the testing of seed, which supports ISTA's objectives
- Participates in the **Proficiency Testing Programme** (mandatory for accredited Laboratories)
- Receives free online, multi-user access to the **International Rules of Seed Testing**
- Purchases ISTA publications at the member's reduced rate
- Member Laboratories have a free **Personal Member**
- Receives a free copy of newly published **ISTA Handbooks** upon release

All staff members receive priority booking at any **ISTA Event**. (Reduced registration fees for ISTA Congress, Annual Meeting, Symposia and Workshops)

\*The term Member Laboratory also counts for Sampling Entities

## Fees

ISTA Laboratory Membership annual fee\*:

**5,214** Swiss Francs (CHF)

Accreditation fee (applies for accredited laboratories only)\*:

**1,224** Swiss Francs (CHF)

Audit fee (paid annually, for accredited laboratories only)\*:

**4,330** Swiss Francs (CHF)

\*2026 minus 10% for early birds



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# ISTA Membership

## Personal Member

- Is a person engaged in the science and practice of seed testing or its technical control, who supports ISTA's objectives
- Receives free online, multi-user access to the [International Rules of Seed Testing](#)
- Purchases ISTA publications at the member's reduced rate
- Receives a free copy of newly published [ISTA Handbooks](#) upon release
- Has priority at any [ISTA Event](#). (Reduced registration fees for ISTA Congress, Annual Meeting, Symposia and Workshops)

## Fees

ISTA Personal Membership  
annual fee\*:

**1,049** Swiss Francs (CHF)

\*2026 minus 10% for early birds



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# ISTA Membership

## Associate Member

- Is a person engaged in the science and practice of seed testing or its technical control, who supports ISTA's objectives
- Purchases online, single-user access to the [International Rules of Seed Testing](#) and other ISTA Publications like ISTA Handbooks at the members reduced rate
- [ISTA Events](#) (Reduced registration fees for ISTA Congress, Annual Meeting, Symposia and Workshops)

## Fees

ISTA Associate Membership  
annual fee\*:  
**214 Swiss Francs (CHF)**

\*2026 minus 10% for early birds



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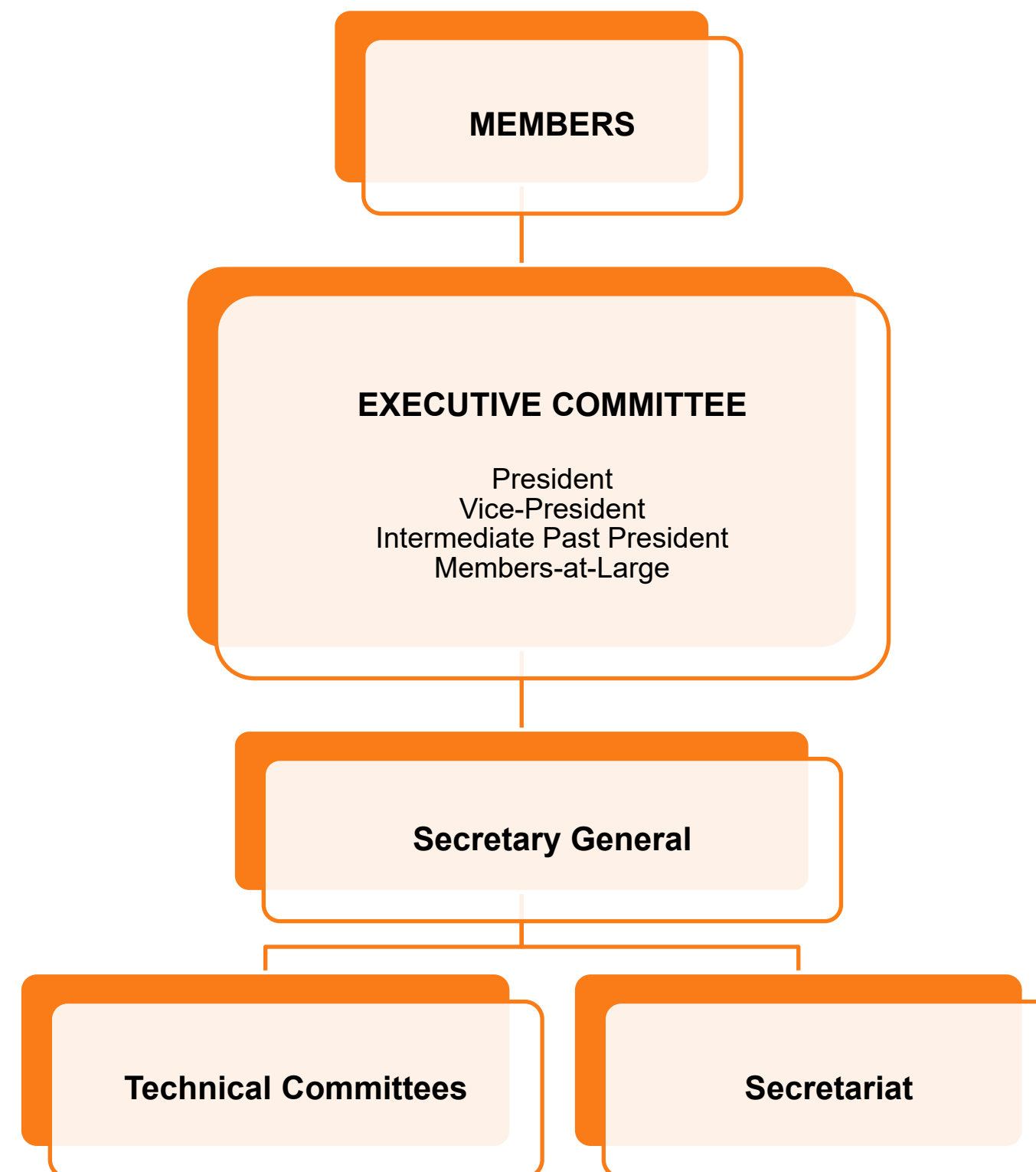
# ISTA Structure

Government Governance

Personal Members may become Designated Members (and Voting Members), if nominated by their Designated Authorities

Designated Members have passive (and if Voting Members also active) voting rights during ISTA ordinary Meetings

This means that finally the Designated Authorities (Government Representatives) vote on Article, Rules, Membership Fees, Accreditation, the Executive Committee Members etc. of the Association





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# ISTA Executive Committee



**ERNEST ALLEN**

President  
United States



**SERGIO PASQUINI**

Vice - President  
Italy



**KESHAVULU KUNUSOTH**

Immediate Past President  
India

## MEMBERS AT LARGE



**IGNACIO ARANCIAGA**

Argentina



**DIDIER DEMILLY**

France



**IRENA GERA**

Poland



**RUEL GASMUNDO**

Philippines



**RUOJING WANG**

Canada



**CLAID MUJAJU**

Zimbabwe



**CRAIG MCGILL**

New Zealand



**VANESSA SOSA**

Uruguay

# ISTA Secretariat



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**ANDREAS WAIS**  
Secretary General



**FLORINA PALADA**  
Head of Accreditation &  
Technical Department



**AGNES HEGEDUES**  
Finance, Sales &  
HR Management



**ANDREEA PINAR**  
TCOM Administrator



**BRANISLAVA OPRA**  
System Auditor, Quality Management  
& Standard PT Coordinator



**BEATA HÜBNEROVA**  
Administration  
Assistant



**KAREN DE LA ROSA**  
Marketing &  
Communications Assistant



**NADINE ETTTEL**  
TCOM Manager



**NEELAM OEK**  
Audit, Accreditation &  
PT Administrator



**OLGA STOECKLI**  
Events, Membership &  
Documentation Manager



**SEJAL PATEL**  
IT Business Solutions  
Manager



**STELLA MARCU**  
System Auditor & PT  
Administrator



**YOANA UZUNOVA**  
Marketing and  
Communications  
Manager

# ISTA TCOM Chairs



**BERT VAN DUIJN**  
Advanced Technologies Committee



**CORINNE GUIMIER**  
Bulking and Sampling Committee



**FIONA R. HAY**  
Editorial Board of Seed Science and Technology



**SARAH DAMMEN**  
Flower Seed Testing Committee



**ELISA VIEIRA**  
Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee



**ENRICO NOLI**  
GMO Committee



**DAVID JOHNSTON**  
Germination Committee



**AXEL GOERITZ**  
Moisture Committee



**MELANIE SCHORI**  
Nomenclature Committee



**DIDIER DEMILLY**  
Proficiency Test Committee



**ANDREA JONITZ**  
Purity Committee



**JODI KEELING**  
Rules Committee



**RUUD BARNHOORN**  
Seed Health Committee



**JAYANTHI NADARAJAN**  
Seed Storage Committee



**KIRK REMUND**  
Statistics Committee



**SERGIO PASQUINI**  
Tetrazolium Committee



**MARIE-CLAUDE GAGNON**  
Variety Committee



**HULYA ILBI**  
Vigour Committee



**GIL WAIBEL**  
Wild Species Committee

# 19 Technical Committees



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- Advanced Technologies Committee
- Bulking and Sampling Committee
- Flower Seed Testing 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)
- Wild Species Working Group

**About 270**

TECHNOLOGISTS AND SCIENTISTS  
AROUND THE GLOBE

**Over 50**

SEED PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE  
TRAINING YEARLY IN ISTA WORKSHOPS

Discover more: [Technical Committees](#)



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# ISTA Pillars

International  
Standardisation of  
Reporting Results

Dissemination of  
Knowledge

International  
Standardisation of  
Methodologies

International  
Standardisation of  
Laboratory results





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# ISTA Publications

**The International Rules for Seed Testing are published in 4 languages:**

- English - French
- English - Spanish
- English - German

## **ISTA Handbooks**

The subject-focused handbooks give valuable background information to seed testing procedures.

## **Seed Testing International (STI)**

ISTA bi-annual news bulletin published as hard copy and online.

## **Seed Science and Technology (SST)**

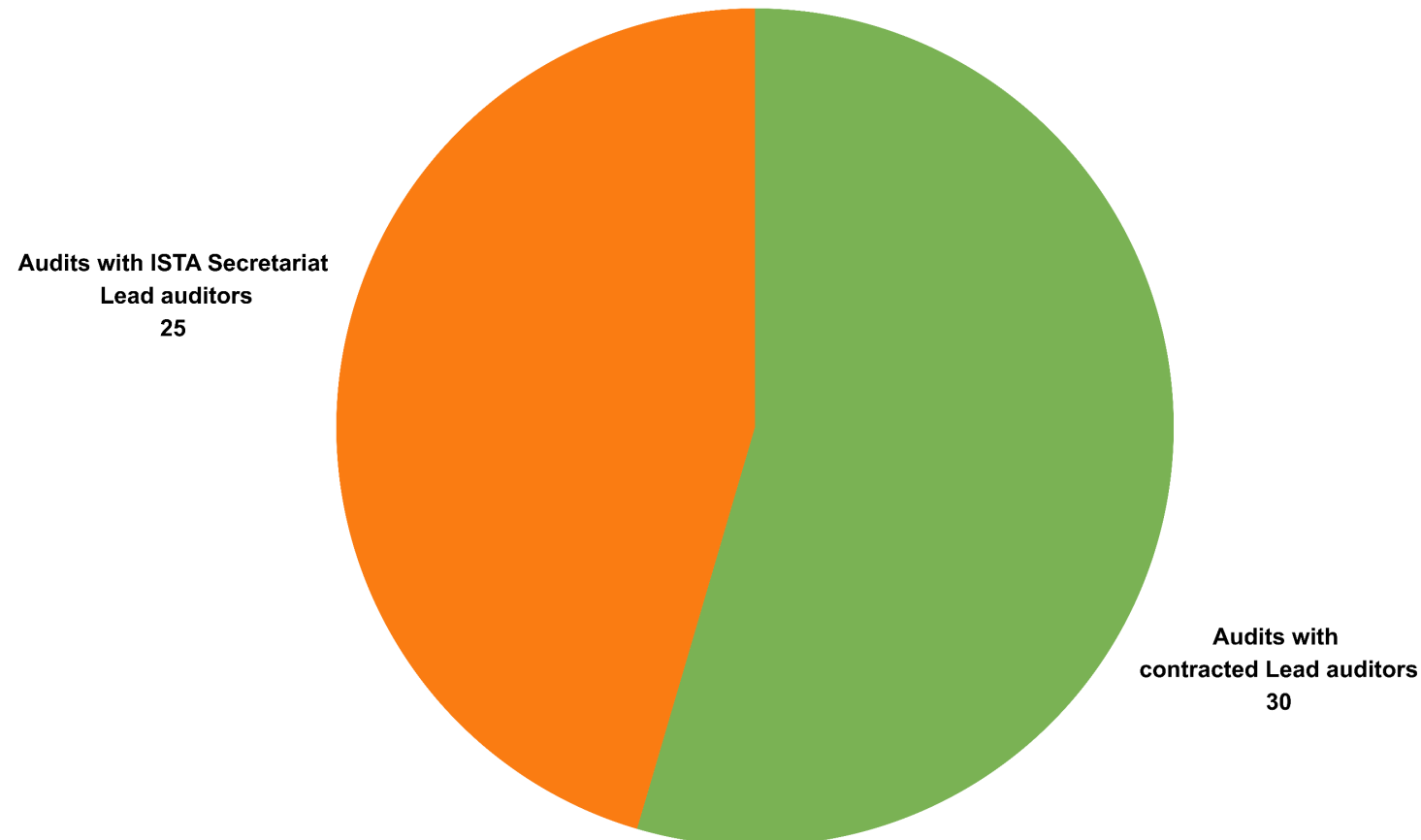
Seed Science and Technology (SST) is an international journal featuring original papers and articles on seed quality and physiology related to seed production, harvest, processing, sampling, storage, genetic conservation, habitat regeneration, distribution and testing.



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# Accreditation

About 50 ISTA Audits each year



# More than 150 ISTA Accredited Laboratories Worldwide

## 1996

The Quality Assurance Programme was first introduced to accredit seed testing laboratories\*

## Every 3 years

ISTA Accredited Laboratories are audited in order to obtain re-accreditation

\*The term seed testing laboratory also counts for sampling entities.



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# ISTA Proficiency Tests

ISTA offers the following PTs:

**Standard PT:** 3 per year  
**GMO PT:** 1 per year  
**Seed Health PT:** 1 per year  
**DNA PT:** 1 per year

## Standard Proficiency Test Programme Plan 2026-2028

Round	Species	Test round scope	Crop group	Crop group
PT26-1	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	PUR, OSD, GER, OIC****	5 and 8 *	Other Agricultural Crops & Flowers
PT26-2	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>vulgare</i>	PUR, OSD, GER, MOI, TSW, MIX	2	Cereals
PT26-3	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i> **	PUR, OSD, GER, TZ	1	Grasses
PT27-1	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	GER, VIG (conductivity), MOI	4	Pulses
PT27-1	<i>Salvia</i> sp.	GER	5, 6, and 8 *	Other Agricultural Crops, Vegetables & Flowers
PT27-2	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	PUR, OSD, GER, TZ	3	Small legume
PT27-3	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	GER, TZ, MIX	5 and 8 *	Other Agricultural Crops & Flowers
PT27-3	<i>Glycine max</i>	GER, VIG (radicle emergence), MOI, OIC***	4	Pulses
PT28-1	<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>	PUR, OSD, GER	6 and 8 *	Vegetable & Flowers
PT28-1	<i>Morina</i> sp. **	GER, TZ	7	Forest
PT28-2	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	PUR, OSD, GER, MOI, TSW, OIC***	3	Small Legume
PT28-3	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	PUR, OSD, GER, TZ	1	Grasses
PT28-3	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> subsp. <i>bicolor</i>	GER, MOI, MIX	2	Cereals

\* For species that belong to two crop groups Laboratories accredited for either of the crop groups will be obligatory participants

\*\* Rounds PT26-1, PT27-2 and PT28-2 will also include an exercise on completing the ISTA Orange Certificate; completion of the certificate is voluntary for all participants and as such not rated

\*\*\* *Moringa* sp. is currently not in the ISTA Rules; it will be part of the PT Programme Plan if accepted

\*\* *Lolium perenne* is replaced with *Lolium multiflorum*



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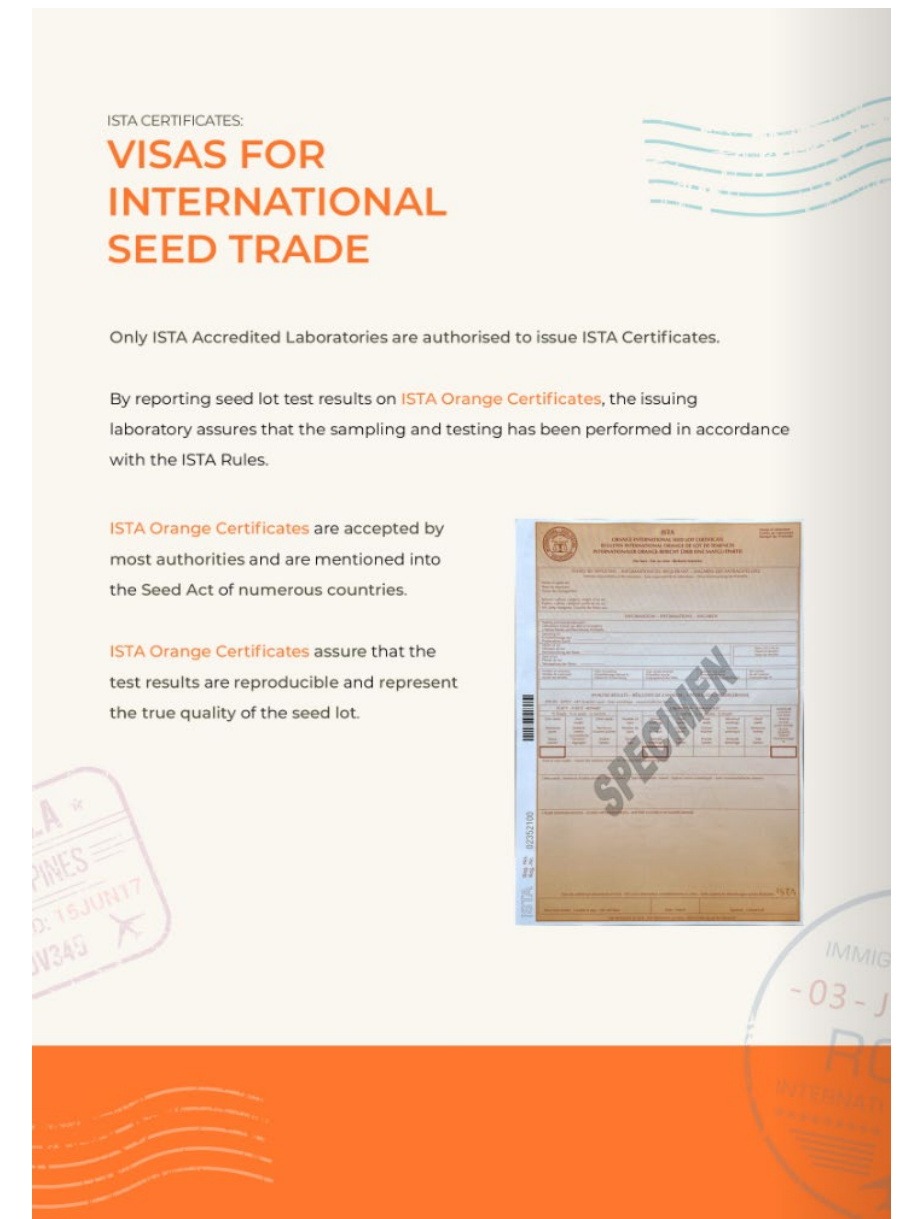
# ISTA Certificates

**Orange** For Seed Lots (Including ISTA Sampling)

**Blue** For Seed Samples and Mixtures

About **200,000** Certificates issued globally every year.

**A glance since 15 July 2024**  
**ISTA Certificates went electronic!**





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# Highlights of eCertificates

## eCertificates

- Launched 15 July 2024
- No delays from lab to client, certificates sent instantly after lab signature
- Access for end users (readers) via ISTA Website
- eCertificates displayed as PDFs
- Only the online eCertificate is a valid document
- Print-out for filling purposes or electronic filing is possible
- Provisional Certificates will change to Originals automatically
- No Duplicates required
- No fraudulent use of eCertificates is possible



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# Highlights and Special Projects

## **ISTA Social Media:**

LinkedIn: (> 15,000 followers)

X: (> 2,877 followers)

YouTube: (> 2,820 subscribers)

## **Tools:**

Seed Health Test Image Database

ISTA Pest List V15

**Handbooks:** ISTA Handbook on Seed Health Testing

**World Seed Partnership:** [www.worldseedpartnership.org](http://www.worldseedpartnership.org)

## **Young@ISTA:**

LinkedIn Group: Support to Young Seed Professionals (>642 members)



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# International Partners



APSA

asta



UPOV





# ISTA

## ANNUAL MEETING

22-25  
June 2026



Calgary, Canada



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**THANK YOU!**

[www.seedtest.org](http://www.seedtest.org)



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