



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

ISTA Secretariat

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Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting 2022

This document contains the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting 2022, published on the ISTA web site within two months following the Ordinary General Meeting as defined in the ISTA Articles.

If there are no comments requiring amendment to the minutes within the subsequent two-month period, the minutes will be considered approved. If there are comments and the comments are accepted by the Executive Committee, then the minutes including the comments will be considered approved and published on the ISTA web site.

Any comments about these minutes will be considered at the Ordinary General Meeting 2023.

Contents

1. Call to Order
2. President's Address
3. Roll Call of Designated Members entitled to vote
4. Reading and acceptance of the previous Ordinary Meeting Minutes
5. Report of the Executive Committee
6. Report of the Secretary General
7. ISTA Strategy 2022-2025
8. Election of ISTA Vice-President and Members at Large of the Executive Committee for 2022-2025
9. Fixation of the Annual Subscription Fees
10. Consideration and adoption of the proposed Rules Changes 2023
11. Consideration and adoption of the Reports
12. Announcement of the place and date for the next Ordinary General Meetings
13. Any other Business raised by a Member
14. Any other Business raised by consent of the Executive Committee
15. New President's incoming speech
16. Adjournment

The Ordinary General Meeting of the Association

1. Call to Order

ISTA Secretary General, Dr. Andreas Wais invited ISTA Vice President Keshavulu Kunusoth for the welcome speech.

2. President's Address

The Vice President of ISTA, Keshavulu Kunusoth welcomed all participants to the 2022 Ordinary General Meeting of ISTA.

“Good morning, everyone. Invited guests, representatives of the Egyptian authorities designated authorities, ISTA members, other representatives, and delegates. I extend a warm welcome to the 2022 OGM of ISTA. It is the today the last day of official program of the 33rd ISTA Congress. For the past two years, the world had changed in many ways as the pandemic has been eased beneath us freedom of choice and introduced stringent restrictions on work, travel, sharing ideas and also other social activities. It has introduced us to a virtual world where technology is playing an even bigger part. And what was already a major role in our day to day lives. Thank you very much for coming over here and getting together as a group from your home countries. I thank you all for your active participation and fruitful deliberations in this Congress. Unfortunately, our President, Steve Jones, was unable to join the Congress due to travel restrictions for federal employees at this time in Canada. He extended his apologies. This has been a historic Congress in Egypt.

As ISTA celebrates its centenary in 2024. Therefore, this is the last Congress in the ISTA century that is ISTA's 98 years of history. The Congress began with a one day seminar under the theme of advancements and innovations in seed testing from science to a robust test. The seminar brought together scientists and technologists from all over the world. For the past two days, we had technical committee reports and side meetings that have discussed the development of new methods and approaches for seed quality assessment, the development of capacities and capabilities in seed testing, and how it stuck and better communicate its work all with the aim of achieving the vision of uniform seed quality evaluation worldwide and with the mission of facilitating seed trade nationally and internationally, thereby contributing to global food security. Thank you all for your active involvement here and to everyone involved in ISTA during the past years.”

Now we can hear a recorded presidential speech and later in the meeting a voiceover PowerPoint presentation from Steve Jones ISTA President. Thank you.

“Hi, everyone. I recorded this message as I cannot be there with you today. I'm talking to you from my hometown of Saskatoon in Canada. I would like to acknowledge that I am in treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Metis, and to pay respect to the First Nations and Metis ancestors of this place and reaffirm the relationship we have with one another. Indigenous cultures are important in all areas of the world. And now more than ever, interrelationships between the earth, soil, land and plants for all peoples of the world need to be considered and reconciled for our joint futures and survival. I hope you have had a fantastic experience and meeting in Egypt over the past few days. I'm only sorry I could not be there with you to enjoy the culture and history. I hand over the ISTA presidency to Keshavulu Kunusoth, and at the end of the OGM meeting today, you will have a new ECOM to serve.

I will be retiring from CFIA work during 2022 and the Canadian designated authorities allow me to continue as a designated member for Canada and therefore as Immediate Past President for ISTA. I've always tried to help support and deliver what was needed. I hope to continue to do that. As your president in the past three years we've achieved a lot. And in many situations the meetings have been virtual, not physical. This has been the first physical meeting since 2019 and I hope you've enjoyed the experience. Virtual is another tool in the modern toolbox. For Keshavulu leading the Young ISTA project within the ECOM. Making use of all the tools we have available is something that we'll be looking at. My hope is that we can make use of regular and online tools to reach as many people as possible and to make it easy for them to become involved in ISTA. In 1924, when ISTA was first formed, communication was a telegram and travel from North America to the UK took five days by steamship, which some of the founding members coming to the UK from North America had to do on a regular basis.

I would like to acknowledge members of the ECOM team, Valerie Cockerell, Rita Zecchinelli and Leena Pietila, who have already or will soon step down from ECOM, Valerie and Rita to enjoy retirement and Leena to continue to work in the TCOM, but not on the ECOM. Thanks very much to all of you in ECOM, especially these three who have helped me over the years, working with ISTA. In my continued role as the Immediate Past President, I aim to provide knowledge, help and support to Keshavulu as the incoming President and to the new and old members of the ECOM, that hope to be reelected. I will continue to advocate for ISTA members worldwide and to continue to look for transparency in decision making, keeping membership fees at current levels for as long as possible. Encouraging the use of both physical and virtual meetings. Making use of membership fees to advance ISTA projects to the benefit of all.

The ISTA strategy for 2020-2025 is going to be discussed soon, and I hope together you and others will continue to be involved in ISTA succession planning in many organisations as well as ISTA, it is important organisations continue to support and offer volunteers to ISTA in many different roles.

I would also like to thank everybody in the ISTA membership, Secretariat, TCOMs, ECOM, past presidents and the two organisations supporting my work in ISTA since 2000. NIAB in the UK and CFIA in Canada. Thanks to everyone who has helped and supported me over the years. Before I close out and hand over to the next speaker, I would like to mention that today is Attilio Lovato ISTA's Honorary Life President 90th birthday. Dear Attilio, happy birthday, take care of yourselves. Be safe and enjoy the moment. "

I now ask the Secretary General to call the roll of designated members entitled to vote.

3. Roll Call of Designated Members entitled to vote

Argentina
Brazil
Canada
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Hungary
India
Italy
Jordan
Latvia
Malawi
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Philippines
Poland
S.C.T. of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu
Slovak Republic
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States of America
Uruguay
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Thank you very much. That makes it 27 voting delegates being present. We have 57 designated authorities.

The quorum of that would be 23. But our quorum is not coming only from the designated authorities worldwide, but it has to be from the authorities who nominated the voting delegates for this year. And these were

44. This year 18 would be the quorum and 27 is clearly above. This meeting is able to make all decisions on behalf of the association.

4. Comments received on the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Meeting

No comments were received on the Minutes of the 2021 Ordinary General Meeting. As defined in the ISTA Articles the Minutes of the 2021 Ordinary General Meeting are approved.

5. Report of the Executive Committee

ISTA President, Steve Jones (Canada):

Hi everybody. This is me, Steve Jones. Welcome to the Activity Report for the Executive Committee of ISTA for 2021 to 2022. In the following slides, I'm going to cover the ECOM Working Group activities and a summary of those activities. After the activities, I'm going to provide you with some President's remarks. Normally they would be at the end of the OGM, but because I'm not there physically with you, we thought it was better to deliver this in one presentation all together. Then I've asked Keshavulu to close the meeting for me and provide some remarks at the end.

One of the new activities for ISTA is going to be e-Certificates and you'll be hearing a lot about those in the coming months. The rules proposal changes include a way to make use of electronic certificates. The paper, orange and blue certificates will not disappear, at least not immediately. And we need to beta test the electronic system, so look forward to more information about that in the newsletter in the coming months. The strategic goals will be voted on during this whole OGM and Keshavulu will introduce you to those and the suggested changes later in this meeting. Designated voting members will be able to vote on the strategy and the other key voting points during the meeting. As I said, this is the first physical meeting here for the main membership, but it also means that during the years, the meetings and work of the executive committee and the technical committees were mainly virtual. Last physical meeting we had was in February in 2020, Bologna, before the COVID epidemic and pandemic really took hold. We then moved to regular two-hour virtual meetings once a month, and then in February we'd hoped to be in Saskatoon in 21 and in 2022 in Helsinki. None of those events took place and we had to continue with a virtual meeting.

The Accreditation Working Group is a key working group is chaired by Rita Zecchinelli and supported Florina in her work in Accreditation Department. Florina will give a full report from the accreditation department with the Secretary General's report. It's enough to say that it was a huge effort to fully implement a remote audit system that was there for use in emergencies. But emergencies became everyday occurrences. Interactive certificate tools were maintained. Cooperation with TCOMs and feedback to auditors is a regular occurrence and supported by the working group. In addition to this, the organization of virtual QA workshops. Maintaining accreditation during the COVID pandemic needed a huge effort from both the laboratories and the auditors. It was not easy, and it is not easy to do virtual audits, and Florina will give more details about that in her report.

Articles Working Group Chair by Keshavulu. There was a change in 2021, but there is no change needed this year. In the future, any articles changes would be developed and brought to the membership in due time to go to the meetings. The one in 2021 covered some needs around the immediate past president and making sure that we had the articles fit for use as we go forward.

Designated Authorities and International Relationships Working Group was merged the two into one and that's chaired by Craig. The highlights of this have been online meetings with ISF and OECD both in 2021 and 2022 continued collaboration with keys partners. And we're looking to make new links and also to have the online meetings with the designated authorities and then also physical meetings when we can. And there was a physical meeting here of the designated authorities present.

Events Working Group looks at organising the Congress for 2022, but also looking forward to the venues when people can travel and have physical meetings again in the future.

Marketing and Publications Working Group chaired by Ignacio. Now all these two handbooks are electronic. The newest handbook has just been issued in the last week or so for sampling, and I think that will be a bestseller.

ISTA Rules in Spanish are well established and part of the available Rules Editions every year. Videos from online training and webinars and an increased presence on social media.

Science and Technology Working Group has helped create general guidelines on how to proceed with new technologies. There were no special projects progressed in 2022.

Technical Committees Working Group is another very active working group because it involves and is responsible to the 20 technical committees of ISTA. This was chaired by Valerie Cockerell until recently when she retired and now Craig McGill has stepped into that role to help take care of the technical committees until the new working group leaders are established for the new ECOM. Highlights for the work here is a continued financial support to the TCOMs with a 3000 Swiss franc annual allowance that they can spend on projects within their technical committees and then also access to 100 000 Swiss franc, special project fund, training initiatives, new technologies and online ECOM/TCOM meetings.

100 000 special projects. There were seven different projects funded over a three-year period. Some are finished, some haven't. The COVID pandemic delayed completion of some of those. There's often more than one TCOM involved per project, and so far, seven different TCOMs have been involved together on seven different projects total funding, over 200 000.

Membership fee Working Group chaired by Keshavulu. There is no increase again this year in the membership fees and the 10% early payment discount is still available.

Vegetable Seeds Industry Working Group is chaired by Berta and has members from the seed industry and ISTA experts to increase the number of sublots of vegetable seed have progressed well. This may lead to a rules proposal possibly for 2023. We're also looking at the possibility to reduce the weight of the working sample for other seed determinations for fruit crops. There's still an ongoing study for this.

The other joint with ISF working group, is on seed health. Valerie Cockerell was the chair of that, and Craig McGill has replaced her for the last few months.

6. Report of the Secretary General

ISTA Secretary General, Andreas Wais (Switzerland):

I would like to start to talk a little bit about what was going on in the Secretariat. You see, we are 12 to 13 people in total now. Yoana returned from her maternity leave and came back as marketing and communication expert. She was temporary substitute at ISTA by Sven Molinar, who we would like to thank very much. You did a great job. This eight month he was in the Secretariat.

We had a little change after we moved. Since June we have a lady who was doing the cleaning for us. That may not sound very exciting to you, but she's also now a part of the Secretariat we had before a company who was doing that. Actually, for us, it is cheaper to have her than a company, and that is a part of a cost saving exercise as well. She is on the hourly basis, and I think everything is working and we are very pleased with what she is doing.

Now the development of the is the membership. If you look from 2013 to 2021 there is increase of laboratories from 212 to 242. That's an annual increase of a good 2% per year. That is a very, very healthy growth. And you see that it's steadily going up. You see that we have in associate members a drop of membership that came from the decision of the executive committee not to allow associate members anymore to publish free in SST.

The personal membership is stable.

ISTA Head of Accreditation & Technical Department, Florina Palada (Switzerland):

The Accreditation Department is composed of me, Branka, Neelam and Stella.

Accreditation and re-accreditation audits. I put here 2020 because it was a difficult year. We had in our plan 48 audits, but we were able to perform 26, out of them six were performed completely remote, one partially remote and 22 with onsite assessment.

In 2021 we had to perform in total 71 audits. It was a huge work, but I happy to say that in April we finished and we closed the process of accreditation/reaccreditation for all 71. We performed 46 accreditation audits planned for 2021, but also we were able to perform 21 accreditation audits postponed from 2020 and we were happy to have four new candidates. We have four new accredited laboratories. They were moved as well from 2020 and it was not fair to keep them more because they were ready. In 2021 59 audits were performed completely remote

12 with onsite assessment, when it was possible to travel, mostly in Europe. Number of the accredited laboratories increased, and we have now at the end of 2021, 149 and I have to mention that there were some laboratories terminating voluntarily terminating their accreditation, but new accredited laboratories keep a part of the accredited. So half are in Europe, but as well, we started to grow in Asia and in Africa.

ISTA Secretary General, Andreas Wais (Switzerland):

In 2021 we organised two online Quality Assurance Workshops.

Three ISTA Webinars one with Steve, who was giving a presentation on what was happening through the pandemic. Another one was about accreditation and about proficiency testing. We also initiated last year common webinars with ISSS. There were two last year, one in June and one in the end of the year.

That was something we introduced and that is something we will keep going on because that is a very good information system. We also had SST webinar and we started also with a presentation for TCOM Members.

Now talk about SST. You know that we started to go online free access of the journal, the chapters are freely available and what we see is that the income, especially from selling, is, of course zero because we are not selling it anymore. It's online access, open access. But you can still download all the chapters, and we set that we keep it same at a cost basis because the older ones were paid for, for the ones who order them at that time. You may see here we only had 101 copies which were printed. That's still the 2017 figure. And that was the number of people who read the journal. Now we know more and more people have access and are reading the journal and getting this information.

We also have other handbooks, and you see the Seed Sampling Handbook. Their sales were going down, there were a few of which we sold in 2021, but we expect that the same thing happens, like on the Seedling Evaluation Handbook after it is published annually. The sales will go up.

The sales of the orange and blue certificates are stable. Last year we sold around 200 000.

We have the new is the website that went live beginning of the year and I say I present something from last year, but the work was done all last year to make it happen to go live. And I will show you a little bit more features which are there on the on the website possible the electronic certificates. We talked a lot about that. You will vote today, hopefully on the change of chapter one, which would allow us to use it. And if everything goes well, we want to go live on the 1st of January.

Financial report.

We had an increase in membership for about 2%. Accreditation fees, you see also around 260 000 pretty stable income of the association. For the annual meeting we had the last year, and the technical committee is no income. No workshops, no income, no annual meetings, no income. There was you may see that later expenditure, but that's a that's a different point. So, we put in for this year for the annual meeting and the symposium, we have to say in essence, around 90,000 CHF for next year. We see that the meeting will be bigger again, hopefully, and we may be more people. We increase that to the normal year's budget technical committees. We think that we will have workshops and we I'm very happy that in the presentations of the technical committees, there were workshops announced now again and physical workshops. For accreditation audits we budgeted around 610 000, we know how many laboratories we must audit.

Sales of certificates are stable income around 660 000.

Our website has no income and gives us an expenditure value which we calculated for the budget 2.954 000 CHF and we budgeted a little bit above 3 000 000 for the next year.

We were lucky that we only must take 40 000 out of reserves last year, actually it was planned around 20 times higher amount. But for this year we planned. The few things were shifted into this year, for example 100K projects which were delayed. As well more work on E certificates needs to be done. Our reserves in the moment are 4 570 000 CHF. That might decrease a little bit.

We took a few measures to decrease our expenditure. We introduced Microsoft 365, which we established as a nonprofit license. That means we pay per license for our 13 members in the lab and the sector in the activity in the Secretariat about \$5 per month. Having always the newest version of Microsoft Office available. And the good thing is we get ten for free. And all the technical committees are profiting from that as well with their if they can use Microsoft teams and Microsoft 365 in their area properly, they're getting that attached to that. So that's a clear advantage for us. And we got rid of our server. We don't have to pay

maintenance of \$1,200 per month for the server and all these systems because it's all included in there. We changed our travel policies. Pension fund was changed over the years. The telephone system is now also only Microsoft 365.

7. ISTA Strategy 2022-2025

ISTA Vice-President Keshavulu Kunusoth (India) presented to the participants strategic plan for ISTA 2022-2025.

The Designated Member from New Zealand suggested to add an additional action point to the Strategy.

Delegates are invited to vote on a Strategy presented by Keshavulu Kunusoth and after lunch break New Zealand delegation will prepare their proposal.

Voting Results Strategy 2022-2025 with possibility of extending it within New Zealand's motion: 24 YES, 0 No and 3 Abstain.

8. Election of ISTA Vice-President and Members at Large of the Executive Committee for 2022-2025

ISTA Secretary General, Dr. Andreas Wais invited Ernest Allen, the candidate for ISTA Vice-President on the stage:

Ernest Allen (USA):

I just want to introduce myself to everyone. My name is Ernest Allen, and I represent the United States of America, and I work for the United States Department of Agriculture. I graduated with my undergraduate and master's degrees in biology with a concentration in plant sciences. I have approximately 18 years of seed experience in quality testing and in regulation. Currently, I serve as the director of the USDA's Seed Regulatory and Testing Division. I've been the United States voting delegate for the past seven or eight years. Currently serve as the rules chair and vice chair of the ISTA Nomenclature Committee.

I also serve on several working groups. Outside of ISTA I serve on the executive boards of several organizations as either an advisor or an ex-officio member. Those organizations include the International Seed Morphology Association, the American Association of American Seed Control Officials, the Association of Official Seed Certification Agencies, AOSA. For some time now ISTA has worked to establish stronger connections with nations not involved with the organization. As a part of my goals for the organization, as vice president, I don't see any reason to deviate from this mission. In fact, I think pushing more aggressively toward this goal is going to be more helpful for ISTA and it will help to accomplish some of its current objectives that Keshavulu you just mentioned. For example, new involvement in regions of the world not strongly represented in ISTA. To bring more young members, this would help ISTA Young Professionals Initiative. New scientists from new member nations could potentially fill vacancies on TCOMs that traditionally have had hard to fill positions like the Nomenclature Committee.

Thank you very much, Ernest, for your short presentation. We have now the presentations of the eight members at large and they have 3 minutes for the presentation. We start in alphabetical order with them with a given name. Berta Killermann would be the first one, but she is not here. She is representing Germany. And we will see a short message which she sent to us.

Berta Killerman (Germany):

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, I do not stay here for the first time, but for those who do not know me, I will give some background information. I studied agricultural science at the Technical University in Munich, and I did my PhD on marker assisted selection in quality wheat breeding by using biochemical markers. I started my

career at the Bavarian Plant Breeding Association, and then I changed to the Bavarian State Research Center for Agriculture. Since 2000 I have been the head of the ISTA Seed testing station in Freising. In ISTA I started my activities in 2004 when I became a member of the Variety Committee. In 2007 I took over the chairmanship of the Variety Committee and since 2013 I am a member of the ECOM. You all know the saying never change a running system, but to improve things or systems it is important that things change. Only with changes progress is possible and aims and visions can be achieved. Sometimes unconventional and creative ideas, decisions and activities are necessary by acting consistent and trustful.

My visions and aims are to increase the cooperation with affiliated organizations, to support the introduction of new technologies into the Rules, to provide training and communication tools, and to promote ISTA in the whole world to finally meet the needs of the stakeholders. These are some reasons for my further engagement in the ECOM together with all of you for uniformity in seed testing.

Claid Mujaju (Zimbabwe):

“Good afternoon. My name is Claid Mujaju, I am from Zimbabwe, and I represent Zimbabwe as a Designated Member. Zimbabwe has been in contact with ISTA since 1957.

I have a PhD in agricultural sciences and a masters in systematics and biodiversity science. I have an important background of systematics, this is why I enjoy being in nomenclature committee as a liaison officer, because I understand species identification. I have also a plant genetic resources background. I've been head of the National Seed Authority in Zimbabwe for the past 17 years and I'm the current Director in charge of 7 institutions, covering soil health, seed health, plant health and import and exports of various agricultural products. In terms of working with the colleagues in SADC, COMESA and East Africa is concerned, I am there for them and I believe that I have good passion for Africa. And with my coming into the executive committee, I believe more African countries will come on board. As I speak to you, I have been involved in a number of programs and projects involving African countries to try and lure them to be accredited to ISTA.

Craig McGill (New Zealand):

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Craig McGill from New Zealand. I work at Massey University where I undertake teaching and research in seed science and technology. I am also a personal member for the ICO accredited quality laboratory in Palmerston North. This is the largest laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere and is the independent verification agency for the ISTA designated authority for New Zealand, The Ministry for Primary Industries. I attended my first ISTA Congress in 2001, where I joined the moisture committee. I was chair of the Moisture Committee from 2008 to 2013 and also vice chair of the Rules Committee from 2010 to 2016. I joined the executive committee in 2010 and was elected as the Vice President in 2013. I served as President from 2016 to 2019 and will complete my term as immediate past president at this Congress. While on the Committee, I contribute to the Handbook on moisture determination as well as moisture workshops during my term of Vice President and President. Several new initiatives were undertaken, particularly for supporting the technical committees, which, as we can say frequently are the heart of the work of ISTA.

These initiatives included the 3000 CHF and funding to the committees and the 100,000 CHF special projects we have heard about during this Congress. Looking to the coming Triennial as a member of the committee, I would like to use my experience and the knowledge that I have in seed testing to support the association under the presidency of Keshavulu. There are number of exciting initiatives planned for the coming Triennial. These include Young ISTA, which has great potential not only to bring new people into ISTA who will contribute to ISTA for many years, but also to bring people in from all regions of the world, including those that are currently under-represented within this step. Similarly, bringing more tropical species into the rules will grow ISTA's presence and relevance internationally. It would be an honor and a privilege for me to be able to continue to support these initiatives and the work in ISTA as a member of the executive committee.

Ignacio Aranciaga (Argentina):

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Ignacio Aranciaga, I am agricultural engineer with a master in seed technology. And I represent Argentina in ISTA. Argentina is an ISTA member since 1924. For 23 years I have belonging to the Quality Department of the National Seed Institute, which is responsible for the application of the seed law in Argentina. I started working as a seed sampler and a seed analyst, and since 2009 I have been the director of the Quality Department. In ISTA i am a member of the germination, tetrazolium and bulking and sampling Committees Sampling. Since 2016 I have the honor to be included in the ISTA Executive Committee.

I am the Chair of the marketing and publication Working Group and the liaison officer of the Tetrazolium Technical Committee and the Rules TCOM also. In 2018 I took the responsibility for the translation of ISTA Rules in Spanish.

The reason for running for the ECOM for the next triennium are these. I have a commitment with ISTA, i agree with the proposal of the association as well as the National Seed Institute that support my nomination. Moreover, as a head of an ISTA accredited lab, i am aware that ISTA take a effort and demand a great deal of teamwork. I strongly believe that it is very important that they can continue supporting this important work with the aim to facilitate it, providing tools like online training, virtual meeting, etc. and solution to the several situations that may occur in the daily work of a seed testing laboratory. My other goal is to collect operational need of South America or any member and share them with the ECOM to solve them. And finally, but not less importantly, encouraging many in seed testing especially young people, and to take an active participation in ISTA and looking for included more active members in the ISTA activities.

Ruel Gesmundo (Philippines):

I am deeply honored to be nominated for the position of member at large in ISTA Executive Committee. I studied Agriculture with major in crop production in Philippines and Israel, and my post diploma in seed pathology in Denmark.

Being a personal member and head of an ISTA member laboratory in the Philippines, National Seed Quality Control Services with 24 laboratories nationwide, I witnessed how the ISTA members are working together, to ensure the vision of ISTA, for uniformity in seed quality evaluation worldwide. This will be my second term as a member at large if successfully elected. I'm very passionate for being an ECOM member at large. During my term over in the ECOM, even then there has been a COVID 19 pandemic for the last two years, the ECOM was able to deliver a considerable output for ISTA. During my participation in the ECOM meetings, provided substantial views, opinions and suggestions during a discussion, i took this as my regular and literary activities. My mission inside is representing the Asian region and member laboratories in the discussion for the operation guidelines in the ECOM toward with our common vision of seed testing evaluation worldwide, I truly valued being an historical member at large and if considered for another term, I am committed that I will be continuously working hard as part of the vibrant ECOM team in order to facilitate the work of ECOM. As a member at large, I will do my best to engage more Asian countries to become member of ISTA. Above all, I will do my best to help ISTA maintain and sustain its goal. Thank you.

Sergio Pasquini (Italy):

I was an agronomist and I started my career as a researcher on agricultural seeds, soybean biochemical studies on a plasma membrane enzyme. Then I moved from the university to the quality manager in seed testing laboratory of agricultural species in a big national company until 2000. Then in November 2003, I came in the Carabinieri. Our center works to protect nature from humans. Italy is the mostly biodiverse south country in Europe, we have hundreds of kilometers of coasts nearby. Three differences, more or less, 430 species from tree and shrubs. Our task is taking the uniformity in the wildness. Our laboratory is the only one in Italy for the Forest Species accredited in ISTA. I am involved in several committees in ISTA. I am Tetrazolium chair and I am a member and Moisture committee and I also member of the Proficiency Test Committee and also of the Wild Species Working Group. Sometimes I work as a reviewer for seed science and technology.

I dedicated three years of my life to a doctorate studying the moisture content of recalcitrant seeds. My work was approved, and the data was presented at the ISTA Congress in 2010. This opened me several opportunities. I was a member delegate of Italy, for forest species in OECD forest seed schemes for two years. And then I was consultant as a specialist for the National Seed Testing Laboratories in Guadalajara for three years and last mission on the ground was FAO consultant for National Center of Pakistan in Islamabad. The biodiversity is base of life. Let me take the wild side of seeds in the ECOM and thank you for attention and for your vote.

Sylvie Ducournau (France):

Hello, everyone. I am Sylvie Ducournau, I come from France, and I am working for GEVES in the past 26 years, now as a head of the germination laboratory.

I studied agronomy and obtained a PhD in food science. My first job was as a research and development engineer for Cereal Co-operative Group. At GEVES, I manage to germination laboratory, which has 22 technicians and engineers. We test around 32,000 samples each year on about 300 different species. I am also

involved in the monitoring of the French Seed Laboratory Network organizing training courses, audits, workshops, comparative tests and developing methods. Soon after joining GEVES, I became involved in ISTA's work. I first joined the Vigour committee, where I stayed for nine years. Then the flower seed committee of which I am still a member. I chaired the germination committee for nine years and I'm still a member of it now. And finally, I was elected as an executive committee member for the first time three years ago.

My time with ISTA has been a very enriching, exchanging with many members developing and validating methods for the rules, contributing to workshops and seminars in many different countries. Working for ISTA has always been one of my priorities as we use ISTA Rules every day in my laboratory and I see the need to get uniform and reliable testing methods for the national and international seed trade. I have been able to spend time for ISTA thanks to the continuous support of GEVES. I know the importance of the contribution of the Technical Committee members to make the methods adapted to new evolutions of the technology and to the climatic context. I wish to support ISTA scientific and technical work during the next years. I have been aware of the importance of the work done by the Secretariat to attract new members to make the accreditation attractive and to upgrade its tool. I would be pleased to remain involved as an ECOM member so that ISTA's work continues to be recognized and valued at an international level.

Vanessa Sosa (Uruguay):

My name is Vanessa Sosa. I am from Uruguay. Our country is strongly influenced by the development of the agricultural sector located in South America. I am a biochemist with master's degree in biological science. I am specializing in seed science and technology. In 2014, it was my honor to join the Uruguay's National Institute as manager of its Seed Quality Control Laboratory, which is accredited since 21. We are the official analyst lab and we are responsible for accreditation all private labs in our country.

With the aim of professionalizing the seed sector we were organizing different type of activities. When I started in 2014, we organized an ISTA Annual Meeting with total participation 129 participants from 39 countries. Two workshops were held in association with the ISTA meeting. The one of them was about Sampling and the other about Tetrazolium. In 2018, ISTA Quality Assurance Workshop was held in our country with the participation of 22 technicians.

Then in 2020, we had planned to hold a workshop on Seed Morphology and seed identification. But unfortunately, due to the global health situation, it was cancelled. At the same time, we have organized several trainings for analysts from Uruguay, the last of which was the first meeting of the analyst which were held online. It was attended by 559 participants from 29 different countries. Nowadays we are working on organizing the meeting of seed analysts in November. Finally, it is an excellent opportunity to contribute with our experience to this prestigious committee. Thank you for the attention.

ISTA Secretary General Andreas Wais.

We have all the presentations finished and during the next short presentation about the fixation of the fees of Keshavulu I go around and collect all the envelopes for the election of vice president. In the meantime, I would then ask Eddie and Kirk to count the votes for the vice president when we have collected everything.

9. Fixation of the Annual Subscription Fees

The Executive Committee of ISTA is proposing that:

- Membership Fees remain unchanged; no increase is proposed
- if the membership fees are paid on or before 31 December 2022 a discount of 10%, rounded up to the nearest whole Swiss Franc amount, will be applied to the fees listed in the table below.

ISTA Vice President, Keshavulu Kunusoth invited the designated members to vote on the Fixation of Annual Subscription Fees.

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

Now would put up now again the names for the eight members at large on a screen and you can fill in your document and will announce the voting results later.

10. Consideration and adoption of the proposed Rules Changes 2023

Ernest Allen (USA) invited the designated members to vote on the proposed Rules Changes 2023.

PART A. INTRODUCTION OF EDITORIAL CHANGES

A 1. Editorial corrections

Voting Result: 26 YES votes

PART C. RULES CHANGES AND NEW METHODS REQUIRING A VOTE

Chapter 1: ISTA Certificates

C.1.1 Adding eCertificates to the ISTA Rules

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

C.1.2 Removing the restriction to only issue dust-like species test results on a BIC

Voting Result: Withdrawn

Chapter 3: The purity analysis

C.3.1 Additional guidance on reporting results

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

Chapter 5: The Germination Test

C.5.1 Revised germination method for Anethum graveolens

Voting Result: 25 YES Votes 2 NO Votes

C.5.2. Additional guidance on conducting a tetrazolium test at the end of a germination test

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

C.5.3. Addition of information on prechilling temperatures

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

C.5.4. Addition of Seedling Evaluation Group onto Table 5A

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

Chapter 7: Seed Health Testing Methods

C.7.1 Addition of an optional filtration method for detection of *Ditylenchus dipsaci* in *Medicago sativa*; *D. dipsaci* and *D. gigas* in *Vicia faba* seed

Voting Result: 26 YES Votes

Chapter 8: Species and variety testing

C.8.1 New method on *Pisum*

Voting Result: 26 YES Votes

C.8.2 New method on *Avena sativa*

Voting Result: 26 YES Votes

Chapter 9: Determination of Moisture content

C.9.1 Addition of bullets in 9.2.7 and 9.3.2.7 to improve clarity

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

C.19.1 New acronym in Object

Voting Result: 25 YES Votes

Ernest Allen (USA)

This ends the Rules Proposals discussion for 2023. Thank you very much everyone!

Proposal from New Zealand to the ISTA Strategy 2022-2025

Now we are coming back to the proposal to the ISTA Strategy we received from New Zealand.

Ensure that the Association can continue to respond to international crisis and continue to provide services to the membership and other stakeholders. This is the proposal. it's a kind of emergency management or crisis management.

The first vote should be if the ordinary general meeting wants to decide about it or refers it back to the ECOM for further discussion first. And if that is not the case, the delegates of the meeting can vote to include it in the strategy document for 2022-2025.

Voting Result: 8 YES 11 No Votes

The proposal comes for the further discussion. We come back to the ordinary general meeting after having it's discussed in the ECOM and maybe with the stakeholders so that they had the chance to talk about it.

11. Consideration and adoption of the Reports

ISTA Secretary General, Dr. Andreas Wais invited the designated members to vote on the Reports of the Executive Committees as given by Steve Jones including the Reports of the Technical Committees.

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

ISTA Secretary General, Dr. Andreas Wais invited the designated members to vote on the Report of the Secretary General.

Voting Result: 26 YES 1 Abs Votes

ISTA Financial Report, Budget for 2022 and provisional budget for 2023 approval

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

BDO as ISTA External Financial Auditors for 2022

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

12. Announcement of the place and date for the next Ordinary General Meetings

❖ ISTA Annual Meeting 2023

Dear colleagues, it is an honor and pleasure for me that ISTA Annual Meeting 2023 will be organized in Verona, Italy. We were very happy to have received the invitation from CREA again and also the support of the other Italian laboratories. They will also be involved in the preparation. I think a lot of people also from Paris, Milan; Bologna probably really looking forward to be in Verona from 29 May to 1st of June next year in the beautiful city of Romeo and Juliet.

❖ ISTA Annual Meeting 2024

So that will be 1st two 4th of July 2023 in Cambridge. This city where ISTA established, founded 100 years ago. It will be a different style of meeting room as well. We will be sitting like in the houses of Parliament in a debating room, a typical English debating room. And that would be probably very interesting. And we can say that after the 4th of July, we are also planning something together with ISF. They have meeting that year, not in the UK, but for planning something together as ISTA and ISF were founded both in 1924 at Cambridge, UK.

❖ ISTA Congress 2025

Craig McGill (New Zealand):

On behalf of the New Zealand designated authority, the Ministry for Primary Industries and all the ISTA members in New Zealand and the New Zealand seed sector, we have great pleasure in inviting you again to Christchurch, this time for the 2025 Congress of ISTA. Andreas is correct and we will be playing the video that you saw in Hyderabad. What has changed is that the venue is complete. It's been officially opened on the 14th of May. And why are we here? Well, while I'm still traveling home and I can say I have been through the venue, it's a state of the art, fantastic venue and I think will be a great venue for the Congress. The Christchurch itself and close to the venue are hotels of various price ranges, all within walking distance of the venue. And we will try and do something a little different for the program for this Congress, and that is have a social day in between. We were trying to organize something special, something that is considered to be one of the great journeys of the world. And we look forward to welcoming you to Christchurch in 2025 and not only having discussions on seating seats, science, etc., but also being able to see a little bit of the New Zealand seats sector and some New Zealand scenery.

Announcement of the election results:

ISTA Executive Committee 2022-2025 will therefore consists of the following members:

President	Keshavulu Kunusoth (India)
Vice-President	Ernest Allen (USA)
Immediate Past-President	Steve Jones (Canada)

Members at Large 2022-2025

Ignacio Aranciaga (Argentina)
Sylvie Ducournau (France)
Ruel Gesmundo (Philippines)
Berta Killermann (Germany)
Claid Mujaju (Zimbabwe)
Sergio Pasquini (Italy)
Vanessa Sosa (Uruguay)
Craig McGill (New Zealand)

13. Any other Business raised by a Member

No business had been raised by a Member under this Agenda point

14. Any other Business raised by consent of the Executive Committee

The commercial register was approved by the ECOM to be added on and following the elections of the officers at the ordinary general meeting approved the registration of the following members. There was a decision which was based on the ECOM decision 1809. Now that was a decision which was taken three years ago, and now it is required to update due to the election of the new Vice President and the change of the President.

The ordinary general meeting decided with the election of a new Vice President and the change of the President to change the entry of the commercial register of the International Seed Testing Association. Steve Jones to be deleted from the commercial register as he is not the president anymore and not any of the officers anymore. Keshavulu Kunusoth from India as President was registered as Vice President before. And Ernest Allen from the United States as Vice President who was not listed before. All above would be listed requiring a single signature for approvals. The German word is Angel and Ashcroft. All other members listed in the commercial register would stay the same, keeping the same rights of signatures. That is a formal act, which we have to do as we elected new Vice President and the former Vice President would become the President.

ISTA Secretary General Andreas Wais ask delegate for approval.

Voting Result: 26 YES 1 Abs Votes

ISTA Secretary General asked the ordinary general meeting to discharge ECOM members from their duty

Voting Result: 23 YES Votes

The ECOM 2019-2023 is discharged.

Craig McGill (New Zealand) announced that the ECOM anonymously decided to give an Honorary Life Membership to Rita Zecchinelli.

The Honorable Minister for Agriculture from Telangana State, India.

I hope you all enjoyed this wonderful Congress of ISTA conducted for three days here in the historical city of Egypt, Cairo. Thanks to his staff and the Egyptian government for organizing this great event here, as we all know, ensuring food and nutritional security for the increasing population with the limited resources in the realm of climate change is biggest global challenge. The global population that had already reached 7.9 billion and is expected to be 9.9 billion by 2050. As a result, the global demand for food grains is likely to increase due rapid population growth, urbanization and changing dates. Quality seed holds a pivotal role in improving the production and productivity of the crops. As it was well witnessed during the Green Revolution in our country, India, which has transformed our country into a global food supplier. The agricultural production has been increasing consistently every year in our country. One of the reasons being our seed industry, which is very vibrant and dynamic with efficient seed supply chain, with the stringent quality assurance systems.

I am so privileged to be here on this occasion. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the members of newly elected ISTA Executive Committee for the period 2022 to 2025. Especially my congratulations Dr. Keshavulu, who is not only from our country but also from my state and also from my own Department of Agriculture. I wish them a great success ahead. I'm also very proud that Dr. Keshavulu from our country, from our own state, as I said, has been elected to become the President of ISTA. He's having an outstanding credit and experience in education, research and outreach in the field of agriculture and seed industry. He has been actively involved in all our seed related activities and contributed significantly to the development of seed sector in our state as well as country.

I hope the outcome of this Congress will pave the way for enhancing the farmers access to quality of seed around the world to improve agriculture, production, and food security across the globe. Once again, I thank you very much, you staff, for this opportunity. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2023 annual meeting in Verona, Italy, and some of you in a symposium in Athens and hope to involve you in technical committee meetings and lots of other things between now and then.

15. New President's incoming speech

ISTA President 2022-2025, Keshavulu Kunusoth (India):

Thank you, Craig. Thank you, Andreas. Dear distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I have been ISTA Vice President for the last three years. It is my great pleasure to be able to address you as your incoming president. Let me start with my background. I work for Telangana State, which is the 29th state of India, formed in 2014 as a director of states that are going to certification authority and also leading the Telangana State Development Corporation, Department of Agricultural Cooperation and the Ministry of Agriculture Government of Telangana, Hyderabad, which is the seed hub of India. Stepping towards the global seed hub. I undertook my master's degree in agriculture and be here today in Seeds, Science and technology from India and postdoctoral research from the University of California Davis, United States of America. I have more than 26 years of experience and expertise in research management, seed sector development, seed multiplication and quality assurance and planting plant genetic resources as well. Besides, I have been associating with the ISTA for the past 15 years.

To obtain reliable information on seed quality, correct methods for sampling the seed and for analysis. How to be followed is to deliver these methods within a system of accredited laboratories and sampling entities where competency is verified. Over the past three days, within the seminar and become presentations, discussion on innovations in seed testing and existing is to test the methods help enforce that seed quality testing is the key to ensuring the seed provided to farmers is a known quality is to continue to provide support. Successful agriculture production all over the world. Thanks to the authority of the ISTA governments, distinct economies, members for nominating voting delegates and participating to this Congress. I will touch some of these again in my remaining speech. This morning, the strategy for 2022 to 2025 was adopted. This sets a clear set of goals of the Association for the Coming Triennial, these goals are to develop scientifically sound rules and methods for seed sampling and testing that meets the needs of the seed sector. This is a heart of association of ISTA and is it predominantly achieving through the work of the ISTA technical committees.

Coming to the Goal three Strengthen and adapt accreditation system to ensure that meets the needs of the stakeholders and accredited laboratories. The whole world has struggled and, in many areas, continued to struggle to fight, contain and now live with COVID 19 virus. As a result, audits were delayed in 2020 to great credit of the Secretariat in particularly the accreditation department and Technical Department. All were completed in 2021, along with those planned for 2021.

The Executive Committee met virtually in 2020 and 2021 with the designated members designated authorities across the world to discuss its tasks, presents and activities, especially to look at the support seed testing in developing and underdeveloped countries and distinct economies under and after post COVID 19 pandemic. At this Congress, the Executive Committee met with representatives of the designated authorities present in Cairo and discussed the response to the pandemic. It is pleasing to hear that for all designated authorities, present seed was considered as essential service and is still laboratories continue to operate under difficult circumstances. This demonstrates that ISTA must remain ready and able to continue to provide the services to its laboratories in in the face of an international crisis such as global pandemic. Just seen the designated authority meeting also discussed electronic certificates. It is clear from this discussion that ISTA will need to be in close contact with its designated authorities during the implementation phase of these certificates to ensure that their use by.

There are several projects in the association that enhances the management of his efforts. The new website is facilitating the work of the technical committees and advisory groups and will enhance the services provided through the Security Secretariat to the membership. The aim is also to realize the profile of the work and the role of the ISTA, supported by marketing actions to attract new members and contributors to the ISTA. This will be coupled with the introduction of e-Certificates during the 2022 to 2025 Triennial. In June 2020, ISTA also launched an interactive ISTA Certificate Learning tool. This is an online learning tool designed to help the laboratories to complete is studied and certificates. The tools shorts examples for several well-known specie scientists. The Interactive Certificates Learning Tool is available to all stakeholders via the ISTA website. The ISTA sampling app is another newly developed ISTA tool and adds to the list of online tools available on its website to help people in their daily work. I would like to conclude by firstly acknowledging the 2019 to 2022 Executive Committee. You have been a fantastic group of people to work with and can be justifiably proud of all you achieved for the association under difficult circumstances.

So we must continue to build and encourage new people to contribute to the association for ensuring the seed quality for future generations. Therefore, I ask you to think about who in your organisation you can encourage to contribute and join the ISTA community. Finally, I thank the Government of Telangana and Government of India for permitting me to stand for Vice President of ISTA in 2019 and now become your President in 2022.

16. Adjournment

ISTA President 2022-2025, Keshavulu Kunusoth (India):

Hello, everyone. We are now coming to the end of 33rd ISTA Congress 2022 in Cairo, Egypt. It is pleasant duty to give the closing remarks on behalf of the Steve Jones, the outgoing president who could not be here because of travel restrictions. When we just look at that for the past three years we would have been involved and then we have been organising the virtual meetings, webinars, the YouTube discussions and quality assurance workshops. Now we are together to meet back and then we will be meeting again with restarted the physical meetings in ISTA. So thank you to the those attending, those preparing and those presenting topics at this meeting today and other meetings in the past week. And it also, thanks to countries, distinct economies,

laboratories, and organisations supporting ISTA in achieving its goals. In particular, the TCOMs as represented by TCOM Chairs who presented the TCOMs work on 09th May and meetings on the 10th May.

Thanks for the ISTA Secretariat under the leadership of the Secretary General. We are succeeding our ISTA mission together with ISTA Members and ECOM with the great support of ISTA Secretariat under the leadership of the Secretary General Andreas Wais. Progress is only possible by the hard work, cooperation and dedication of the Technical Committee members, ECOM, Working Group Members, Secretariat, Designated authorities and support from the host organisations, laboratories and seed industries. Thank you. And that is the Ordinary General Meeting for 2022 is now adjourned.