

Instructions to contributors

Scope

‘Seed Science and Technology’ publishes original papers in all areas of seed quality and physiology as related to seed production, harvest, processing, sampling, storage, genetic conservation, habitat regeneration, distribution and testing.

Procedure for the submission of papers

Manuscripts must be written in English, using United Kingdom grammar and spelling. The language should be clear and to the point. If you are not a native English speaker, you should consult an expert or use a professional scientific editing service to ensure that the language is correct. Manuscripts should be submitted online by the corresponding author: register at <http://www.edmgr.com/sst> and follow the instructions for submission. The status of submissions can be tracked by logging into the system.

For accepted papers, proofs will be e-mailed to the authors for corrections. These should be restricted to desktop publisher’s errors. Other substantial alterations can be undertaken only at the author’s expense. Corrections must be sent to the editor within ten days. When the proofs are ready, an **open access charge** of Swiss Francs CHF1250 for a full-length paper or CHF625 for a research note must be paid. ISTA members do not have to pay these charges. Papers will only be published online when payment has been received. The lead author will receive a PDF file of the final paper.

Suitable file formats

Manuscripts should be submitted in MS Office (Word). **Figures** (graphs and charts) should be created in MS Office (Word Chart, Power Point or Excel) and submitted as editable files. Other file formats acceptable for figures are PDF and EPS with a resolution of 300dpi. **Photos** should be submitted as TIFF, JPG, PDF or EPS with a resolution of 300dpi.

Instructions for full length papers

Manuscripts should be written using double-line spacing, size 12pt Times New Roman or similar font. All pages must be numbered consecutively and line numbers shown. A shortened version of the title, for use as a **running heading**, must be inserted in the top right-hand corner of the first page. The **title** should be concise but informative, containing key words which describe the subject matter for use in abstracting systems. The **name of the author(s)** and the **full postal address** of the institution where the work was carried out should follow the title. Authors are asked to give an e-mail address in parentheses after the postal address. An **Abstract** indicating the scope and conclusions of the paper in not more than 200 words, should be typed immediately below this, followed by up to 7 **Keywords** listed in alphabetical order. Papers describing experimental work should have the subject matter grouped under six main headings: **Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, References**. Main headings are printed in heavy type, secondary headings in italics. Abbreviations should be defined the first time they are used, although initial letters, without punctuation, may be used for easily recognised organisations or countries (for example ISTA, USA, FAO).

Capital letters and Roman numerals should be used in both headings and text only when essential (figure 2, not Fig. II or Figure II). Except when occurring in a series of numbers or in conjunction with a specific recognised unit of measurement, numbers from one to nine should be spelt out (8 mm, 5 g m⁻², but nine hours, three months). The percentage sign should be used in conjunction with a number (7%), but percentage should be written in full when used as a noun (percentage germination, not per cent germination or % germination). Measurements should be expressed metrically, whenever possible following the Système International d'Unités (SI) (published by OFFILIB, 48 rue Gay-Lussac, F-75005 Paris; see <http://www.bipm.org/en/si>).

Species should be described by their scientific ('Latin') names; at the first mention in the main text the full binomial and authority must be given, but subsequently the genus should be abbreviated to its initial letter and the authority omitted. Authorities are not quoted after Latin names in the title or abstract. When a name has been stabilised by ISTA in the ISTA List of Stabilized Plant Names (see <http://www.ars-grin.gov/~sbmljw/istaintrod.html>), synonyms must not be used. For species not included in this list authors are advised to consult <https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxon/taxonomysimple.aspx>

References in the text should be cited by author's surname and year of publication in brackets after the statement they support. If there are more than two authors, citations should quote the surname of the first author and the words "et al.". All names should be included in the list of references. At the end of the paper, references should be listed alphabetically in the form: Name, Initials (year). Article title. *Title of Journal*, **volume number**, first and last page numbers, and DOI, where available. The titles of periodicals should be written without abbreviation. Titles of books must also be given in full, together with the publisher's name and the place of publication. The following are correct:

Author, A.B., Author, C.D. and Author, E.F. (2014). Title of article. *Journal Title in Full*, **00**, 123-456. <https://doi.org/...>

ISTA (1999). International Rules for Seed Testing. *Seed Science and Technology*, **27**, Supplement.

Author, A.B. and Author, C.D. (2014). Chapter in book. In *Book Title*, (eds. E.F. Editor and G.H. Editor), vol. 3, pp. 123-456, Publisher, City.

When a paper is cited which has been published in another language, its title may be translated. The translation should appear between square brackets, as follows:

Author, G.H. and Author, I.J. (2014). Title in another language. [Title in English]. *Journal Title in Full*, **00**, 12-34. <https://doi.org/...>

Tables and **figure captions** should be typed on separate sheets from the main text and numbered in separate series. Consideration should be given as to whether data is presented in tabular or graphical form; analysis of variance tables should not be submitted. **Tables** and **figures** should be submitted as separate files, not embedded in the main text. The use of colour for figures is encouraged, especially where it contributes to the clarity of the data presented.

Special instructions for short reports (Research Notes)

'*Research Notes*' are appropriate for the reporting of research which might not justify a full-length paper but which nevertheless contains important information of potentially practical importance. For example, whilst a study of novel dormancy-breaking treatments in a series of closely related species might justify a single full length paper describing the principles and experimental basis of the work, a '*Research Note*' might report data for one particular species of economic importance.

'*Research Notes*' may also be appropriate in the case of early but scientifically rigorous experiments in a novel area, where a full length paper is not yet justified but the data warrant immediate publication because of their novelty and importance.

The format for '*Research Notes*' is as for full-length papers except for the following conditions: (1) They should be a maximum of 2000 words of text plus a maximum of two figures, tables or photographs. (2) The section headings will be: **Abstract, Keywords, Experimental and Discussion** (one section), **Acknowledgements** and **References**. The **Experimental and Discussion** section will be included as a single narrative text those elements that are normally separated in full-length papers as 'Introduction', 'Materials and Methods', 'Results' and 'Discussion'.

Review articles

Reviews of interest to those working in the seed sector are welcomed. The content of reviews should have a strong technical base but papers dealing with the economic, infrastructural or legal aspects of seeds in combination with technical aspects are also published.

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Submission of a manuscript implies that the work described is approved by all co-authors and has not been submitted or published elsewhere, except in the form of poster, an abstract or a thesis.

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Contact information

For matters that are not concerning submitted papers, please e-mail the Chief Editor at sst@ista.ch.