

**23rd ISTA GMO Proficiency Test**

**Announcement**



**23<sup>rd</sup> ISTA GMO Proficiency Test  
Soybean  
(*Glycine max*)  
Announcement**



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## 23<sup>rd</sup> ISTA GMO Proficiency Test on Soybean

(*Glycine max*)

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#### 1. AIM

The aim of this proficiency test is to assess the ability of individual laboratories in detecting GM seeds and in quantifying their presence in samples of conventional soybean seed.

Since GMO testing has been included in the ISTA Accreditation Programme, the participation in the ISTA Proficiency Tests on GMO Testing is compulsory for those laboratories in the process of accreditation or already accredited for GM seed testing in soybean.

#### 2. SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

Each participating laboratory will receive 8 numbered soybean seed samples. Each sample contains 1000 seeds based on the 1000 seed weight. Samples may be positive (i.e. contain GM seeds) or negative (i.e. contain no GM seeds). The positive samples are spiked with defined quantities of seeds of one or both of the following events: A5547-127 (Liberty Link soybean; ACS-GMØØ6-4) and MON89788 (Roundup Ready2Yield soybean; MON-89788-1).

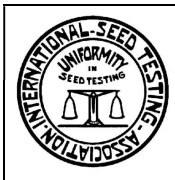
#### 3. QUALITATIVE TEST

At least a qualitative result, i.e. the detection of GM seeds, is required. This can be either derived from the quantitative test result or from a separate test on the sample.

#### 4. QUANTIFICATION OF GM SEEDS IN POSITIVE SAMPLES

Participants are required to quantify the content of GM seeds in the positive samples **either by** a sub-sampling quantification (seed group testing) **or** by a quantitative test (seed bulk testing).

The choice of either approach is left at the laboratory's discretion.



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<b>Sub-sampling quantification (group testing)</b>	<b>Quantitative test (bulk testing)</b>
<p>The laboratory shall report the number of sub-samples tested, the size of the sub-samples (in number of seeds) and the number of positive sub-samples.</p> <p>These elements can be used to compute and estimate the percentage of GM seeds in the sample.</p> <p>The laboratory shall provide the result in percent seed by number.</p> <p>Seedcalc8 available on the ISTA Website can perform this computation: <a href="#">Statistical Tools for Seed Testing - ISTA Online - International Seed Testing Association</a></p>	<p>The laboratory shall report the number of flour samples and the number of measurements per flour sample.</p> <p>The laboratory shall report the GM content in the test sample.</p> <p>Results must be reported in percent either related to the mass of seeds or to DNA copy number. For more information see the clarification document "Unit" available at the ISTA GM information platform: <a href="http://www.seedtest.org/upload/cms/user/GMPTClarificationpaper-unitsandstandards_FinalMay2008_.pdf">http://www.seedtest.org/upload/cms/user/GMPTClarificationpaper-unitsandstandards_FinalMay2008_.pdf</a></p>

The laboratory is free of choosing among the analytical methods for which it seeks accreditation or for which is already accredited. Laboratories participating on a voluntary basis are free to choose the method they find appropriated.

#### 5. PARTICIPATION FEE

For the 23<sup>rd</sup> ISTA GMO Proficiency Test non-members of ISTA pay a participation fee of 1000 CHF (approx. 1000 US\$). The fee covers costs for seed material, sample preparation, GMO purity check and phytosanitary tests, packaging and shipment (priority).

ISTA Member Laboratories do not have to pay a participation fee. They must identify themselves on the registration form by referring to their ISTA member code.

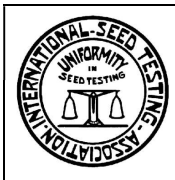
#### 6. REGISTRATION

Please send your registration form by email to the ISTA Secretariat stating the laboratory's name, the person in charge, the mail address (for sample delivery), the phone and the fax number.

#### 7. Material Transfer Agreement (MTA)

Participating laboratories must return the signed Material Transfer Agreement (MTA). Samples will only be dispatched after the MTA has been received at the ISTA Secretariat.

The MTA will be sent to you upon registration for the proficiency test. You are kindly asked to check name and address of the person in charge for correctness on the MTA provided and inform the ISTA Secretariat if changes are necessary.



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Please submit the signed MTA by email (two copies) to the ISTA Secretariat. We will return one signed copy.

#### 8. SHIPPING

The dispatch of the samples to the laboratories will start presumably by mid-August, 2021.

The package will contain 8 samples, each of about 1000 soybean seeds, in total about 1350 gram wt. The seeds have not been treated. The samples are packed in hermetically sealed foil bags and the consignment will be labelled 'seeds for scientific propose only'.

**If necessary, a phytosanitary certificate will be enclosed. If there are special requirements for shipping samples into your country, please let us know indicating them in the Application form.**

#### 9. REPORTING RESULTS

Results are expected to be reported to the ISTA Secretariat latest by **November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021**.

Please use the result sheets to submit the results together with the information requested either by email.

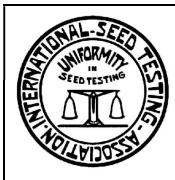
A laboratory may submit more than one set of result sheets for different test methods but must clearly indicate which set of results should be evaluated. Only one set of result sheets per laboratory is accepted for the evaluation.

Laboratories not having sent the results to the ISTA Secretariat two weeks before the deadline will receive a reminder. Laboratories encountering difficulties to report on time have to inform the ISTA Secretariat before the deadline stating the reasons for the delay and providing an indication when results will be reported. It will be decided on a case-by-case basis whether delayed results can be included or not.

Participants who have sent in their results, will receive a preliminary and a final result report containing the following:

- the positive and negative samples,
- the spiking level of each sample,
- the laboratory's qualitative test results,
- the laboratory's quantitative test results.

The final result report will show a rating for the qualitative and the quantitative results as appropriate. A summary of the results reported by all laboratories participating in this test round will be sent to the laboratories and published on the ISTA Website.



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#### 10. TIME SCHEDULE

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|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Registration of laboratories interested in participation        | beginning of April 2021      |
| 2. MTA for signing and directions of payment sent to participant   | upon receipt of registration |
| 3. Submission of the signed MTA and payment of participation fee   | 1 May 2021                   |
| 4. Sample shipment   | end August 2021              |
| 5. Submission of test results to the ISTA Secretariat              | 1 November 2021              |
| 6. Reporting of preliminary performance results by the Secretariat | 1 December 2021              |

Yours sincerely,

Nadine Ettel  
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ISTA Secretariat

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