



INTERNATIONAL SEED TESTING ASSOCIATION (ISTA)

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Directive

Terms of reference: Seed Science Advisory Group

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	Created by	Reviewed by	Approved by
Date:	September 2019	September 2019	October 2019
Name:	TCOM Manager	SSAG Chair	ISTA President
Valid from: 22.10.2019			

SCOPE

This procedure explains the work of the Seed Science Advisory Group.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

TCOM-P-07- Procedures within the SSAG

RESPONSIBILITIES

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ABBREVIATIONS

SSAG: Seed Science Advisory Group

PROCESS DESCRIPTION

Composition

The Seed Science Advisory Group (SSAG) will be made up of active applied seed scientists. The Advisory Group will consist of up to 10 people. The appointed members of the SSAG will be the Chief Editor of Seed Science and Technology, ISTA Seed Symposium Convenor and ISTA Honorary Life Member Alison Powell. An ECOM representative will be appointed for the SSAG. The ECOM representative will not be included in the membership count. The Chair, vice-Chair and members of the SSAG in addition to those appointed, will be elected under the same terms as the ISTA Technical Committees. The group will also consult with experts in fields outside their own expertise when needed.

Aims and objectives:

1. To provide a link between fundamental research and the use of that research to meet the needs of ISTA members. This will include identifying fundamental research results that have applicability to ISTA, and facilitating collaboration between the researcher and the end user.

Background:

There are observations made in basic seed science that fundamental scientists suggest have potential practical use. However, the links between the fundamental science and applied science are poor, meaning that the potential of some observations is not followed through to application. There is a real desire amongst university scientists to see an applied outcome of their work and they have appreciated practical involvement in trying to link the basic with the applied side of science. Where this occurs it is a positive experience for both sides.

Actions:

- I. The members of the SSAG will identify research that may have potential for practical application and have discussions by email and during meetings at ISTA events or through visits to each other. In addition, ISTA TCOMS, ISTA members and the ECOM would be encouraged to submit suggestions of topics to the group for consideration and examination.
 - II. Following identification of work with potential for development in seed testing, the group, in collaboration with any appropriate ISTA TCOM/s, would identify appropriate ISTA laboratories to encourage their collaboration with the seed scientists and help develop the plans for a work programme, including the selection of appropriate seed material.
2. Appraisal of evidence for techniques/equipment available for use in seed testing laboratories

Background:

New equipment and techniques are frequently developed for which there is limited independent evaluation of their efficacy.

Actions:

- I. The SSAG will make themselves aware of novel developments, in liaison with the appropriate TCOM's and will gather together evidence and proof of effectiveness of these developments. This evidence will come from both published papers and formal requests to developers for supplementary evidence and proof of effectiveness. This evidence will be evaluated and a report produced for the ECOM, and then published in Seed Testing International.
- II. The group will develop guidelines in liaison with the appropriate TCOM's to enable ISTA members to judge for themselves whether equipment that has not been evaluated by the SSAG is suitable for their use, on the basis of information provided by the selling company .

As a result of the above activity a proper evaluation of the evidence to support novel developments would be produced and will be made available for ISTA stakeholders.

3. Respond to requests from ECOM and TCOM Chairs for advice related to scientific issues.

Financial support

The working group will be eligible to apply for financial support under the same terms as the ISTA Technical Committees.

Review of Roles and Terms of Reference

This is a new group to ISTA. The role and terms of reference of the SSAG will be reviewed after eighteen months of operation (experience) to confirm that SSAG is meeting its aims and that the terms of reference are enabling it to do so. The number of members will also be reviewed after eighteen months.

ANNEX

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DISTRIBUTION LIST

ISTA Website

REVISION HISTORY

Version #	Changes
2.1	Recoded from TCOM-TG-04 to TCOM-P-06; transferred to the new format
2.2	Recoded from TCOM-P-06 to Mng-D-03
2.3	Changes in membership composition