



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance



Bassersdorf, Switzerland
27.09.2019

Press Release

32nd ISTA CONGRESS

The 32nd ISTA Congress held in Hyderabad, India from 26 June to 3 July 2019, welcomed over 500 participants from around the world.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, were hosts of the event.

The Union Minister of Agriculture to the Government of India and the Minister for Agriculture of Telangana State attended the opening ceremony, which gave great political support and raised awareness for uniformity in seed testing. Mr. Shri Kailash Choudary, the Honourable Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, highlighted the importance of seed in Indian industry.

The meeting enabled associated workshops and events to take place, such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) workshop on 'Seed Production, Quality and Marketing', a one-day event for 1,700 local farmers, and the Seed Expo with over 100 exhibitors.

The local organising committee was led by Dr Keshavulu Kunusoth, who has now become ISTA's Vice-President.

The Congress was a very important event for the Association, as the new President, Vice-President and Executive Committee (ECOM) 2019–2022 were voted for and selected. The new President, Steve Jones works in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as the Diagnostic Test Supervisor for the Seed Certification Testing Unit in the Seed Science and Technology Section (SSTS) of the Saskatoon Laboratory. Dr Keshavulu Kunusoth is currently Director of the Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority (TSSOCA); he is also

CONTACT

Fabiola Rivera

Communications Specialist

International Seed Testing Association

Tel: +41 44 838 60 03

Email: fabiola.rivera@ista.ch

Email: www.seedtest.org

ABOUT ISTA

Founded in 1924, with the aim to develop and publish internationally agreed rules for seed sampling and testing, accredits laboratories, promotes research, provides international seed analysis certificates and training, and also disseminates knowledge in seed science and technology. ISTA members are over 85 countries/distinct economies worldwide and they work together to achieve their vision of 'Uniformity in seed quality evaluation worldwide'. This facilitates seed trading nationally and internationally, and also contributes to food security.





ISTA

Seed Quality Assurance



the Designated Authority of the OECD Varietal Certification for nine Indian states and is the authority for certification of organic agricultural products. Following ISTA Articles, Dr Kunusoth will become President in 2022 and will lead ISTA into its second century.

The new ECOM members-at-large are Sylvie Ducournau, Ruel Gesmundo and Claid Mujaju. Sylvie Ducournau is Head of the Germination Laboratory for Geves, France at the National Seed Testing Station. Ruel Gesmundo is currently Head of the National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) in the Philippines. Dr Claid Mujaju is the Head of the Seed Services Institute, in charge of the Variety Release System and of Seed Certification and Quality Control in Zimbabwe.

ISTA awarded Joël Léchappé an Honorary Life Membership during the Congress. He was the Immediate Past President and has made significant contributions to the Association in the past 32 years. He is currently one of ISTA's most experienced technical auditors, having been an auditor since the beginning of the Accreditation system.

On the closing day of the Symposium, his Excellency the Governor of Telangana State, Shri ESL Narasimhan, highlighted the need to feed the growing global population and the role of quality seed in agriculture. He also emphasised what ISTA does and how important it is to have access to quality seed.

In the Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) the ISTA Designated Members voted on the 'Proposed Changes to the ISTA International Rules for Seed Testing 2020 Edition' and the Association method validation reports, which met the Association quorate requirements.

The next Annual Meeting will be held in Verona, Italy on 25–28 May 2020. It was also announced that the 2021 Annual Meeting will take place in Cairo, Egypt and the 33rd ISTA Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand (2022). Save these dates and ISTA looks forward to meeting all in the near future.

CONTACT

Fabiola Rivera

Communications Specialist

International Seed Testing Association

Tel: +41 44 838 60 03

Email: fabiola.rivera@ista.ch

Email: www.seedtest.org

ABOUT ISTA

Founded in 1924, with the aim to develop and publish internationally agreed rules for seed sampling and testing, accredits laboratories, promotes research, provides international seed analysis certificates and training, and also disseminates knowledge in seed science and technology. ISTA members are over 85 countries/distinct economies worldwide and they work together to achieve their vision of 'Uniformity in seed quality evaluation worldwide'. This facilitates seed trading nationally and internationally, and also contributes to food security.

