



# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

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# OVERVIEW

- 1. INTRODUCTION TO ISTA**
- 2. ISTA IN AFRICA**
- 3. ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA**

# 1. INTRODUCTION TO ISTA





*An international, non-profit association  
of seed testing laboratories  
and individual seed professionals*



***ISTA operates under the governance  
of the government of member countries  
and distinct economies***



# ISTA HAS BEEN FACILITATING THE SEED TRADE SINCE 1924

**1876** Friedrich Nobbe published his famous Handbook of Seed Science, and the Motto of the Meeting held in Hamburg that year was “uniformity in seed testing”, later becoming the ISTA logo

**1924** 26 countries participated in the meeting held in Cambridge, and the International Seed Testing Association was founded

**1931** At the request of FIS (ISF), ISTA adopted the first ‘International Rules for Seed Testing’, as well as establishing the ISTA Certificates Scheme

**1950** The ISTA Congress was held in Washington DC, the first outside of Europe, and demonstrated that, after 13 years of interruption by World War II, ISTA was indispensable to seed business

**1995** During the ISTA Congress held in Copenhagen, ISTA Membership was opened to private laboratories and private seed companies

**1996** To ensure harmonised seed testing worldwide, ISTA initiated the Quality Assurance Programme to accredit seed testing laboratories. The first ISTA Member Laboratory was audited under the new set-up in this year

**2004** During the ISTA Congress held in Budapest, it was agreed to consider accreditation as a purely technical task, and the responsibility to give authorisation to issue ISTA International Seed Analysis Certificates was given to the ISTA Executive Committee



Photo courtesy of NIAB, UK.



# ISTA OBJECTIVES

- (1) *develop, adopt and publish **STANDARD PROCEDURES** for sampling and testing seeds and promote uniform application of these procedures, for evaluation of seeds moving in international trade*
  
- (2) **PROMOTE RESEARCH**  
*in all areas of seed science and technology*



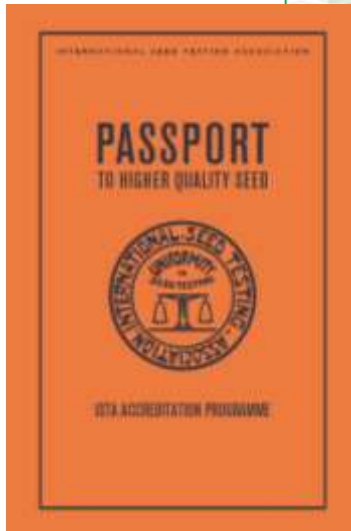
# UNIFORMITY IN SEED TESTING

- the ISTA seed testing methods captured in the ISTA rules and
- the ISTA test results reporting used on the ISTA Certificates



**ARE A GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED LANGUAGE...**  
**...THIS UNIFIED LANGUAGE FACILITATES SEED TRADE**  
**WORLDWIDE**

# ISTA CERTIFICATES



## ISTA CERTIFICATES: VISAS FOR INTERNATIONAL SEED TRADING

Only ISTA-accredited laboratories are authorised to issue ISTA Certificates for seed analysis.

By reporting seed test results on ISTA Certificates, the issuing laboratory assures that the sampling and testing has been carried out in accordance with the ISTA Rules.

ISTA Certificates are accepted by many authorities and are mentioned into the Seed Act of several countries.

The ISTA Certificates are assuring that the test results are reproducible, true and represent the quality of the seed.

An **Orange International Seed Lot Certificate** is issued when both sampling from the lot and testing of the sample are carried out under the responsibility of an ISTA-accredited laboratory.



Blue International Seed Sample Certificate



Testing under responsibility of ISTA accredited laboratory





# INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED

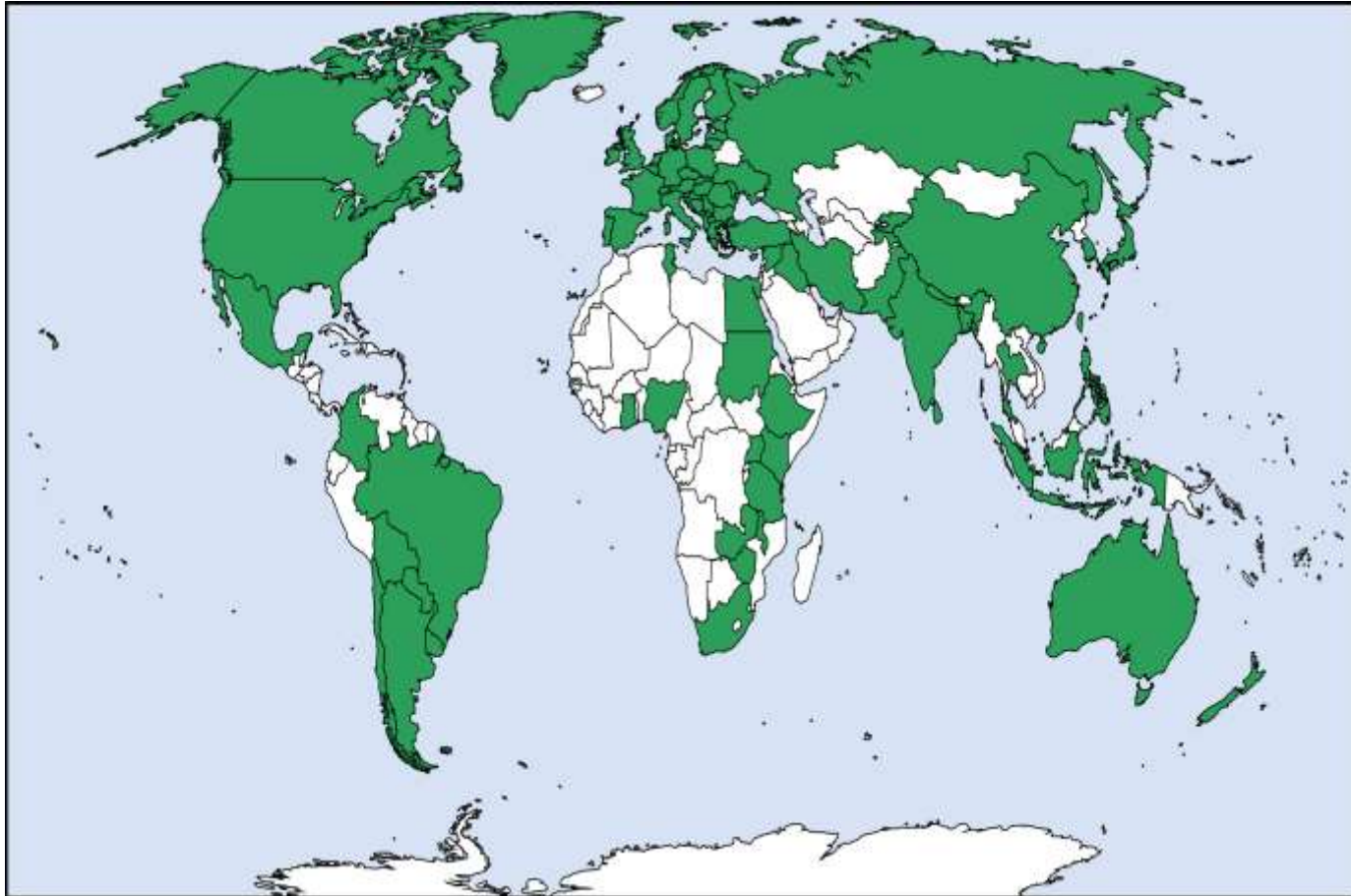




# ISTA'S FEE STRUCTURE

- *Laboratory membership fee (including one personal member): 5 214 CHF*
- *Laboratory accreditation fee: 1 224 CHF*
- *Laboratory audit fee: 4 330 CHF*
- *Personal member: 1 049 CHF*
- *Associate member: 214 CHF*
- *Industry member: the fee depends on the number of employees*
- *Cost of an ISTA Certificate purchased at the ISTA Secretariat: 3.25 CHF*

# A GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP





# MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

**222**

**MEMBER LABORATORIES**

**134**

**ACCREDITED LABORATORIES**

**58**

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

**34**

**PERSONAL MEMBERS**

**05**

**INDUSTRY MEMBERS**



# LABORATORY MEMBERSHIP

**97**

**EUROPE**

**10**

**AUSTRALIA/OCEANIA**

**67**

**ASIA PACIFIC**

**16**

**AFRICA**

**13**

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**19**

**NORTH AMERICA**

## 2. ISTA IN AFRICA





# MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES IN AFRICA

16

MEMBER LABORATORIES

7

ACCREDITED LABORATORIES

4

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

5

PERSONAL MEMBERS

7

DESIGNATED  
AUTHORITIES



# MEMBERSHIP IN AFRICA

## Designated authorities:

Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

## Member laboratories:

Egypt 1, Ethiopia 1, Kenya 2, Malawi 1, South Africa 3, Sudan 1, Tanzania 1, Tunisia 1, Uganda 1, Zambia 1, Zimbabwe 3 = 16





# BENEFITS OF ISTA MEMBERSHIP



1/ Standardised Methodologies:

2/ Standardised Performance:

3/ Standardised Reporting Results:

4/ Benchmark Standard Performance

5/ Access to Premium Knowledge:

6/ Continued Education:

7/ Professional Networking:

# **ISTA RULES**

# **ACCREDITATION PROGRAM**

# **ISTA CERTIFICATES**

# **PROFICIENCY TEST**

# **ISTA PUBLICATIONS**

# **ISTA WORKSHOPS**

# **ISTA COMMITTEES & EVENTS**



# MEMBERSHIP IN AFRICA

## **Accredited laboratories:**

Egypt 1, Kenya 1, Malawi 1, South Africa 1,  
Uganda 1, Zambia 1, Zimbabwe 1,

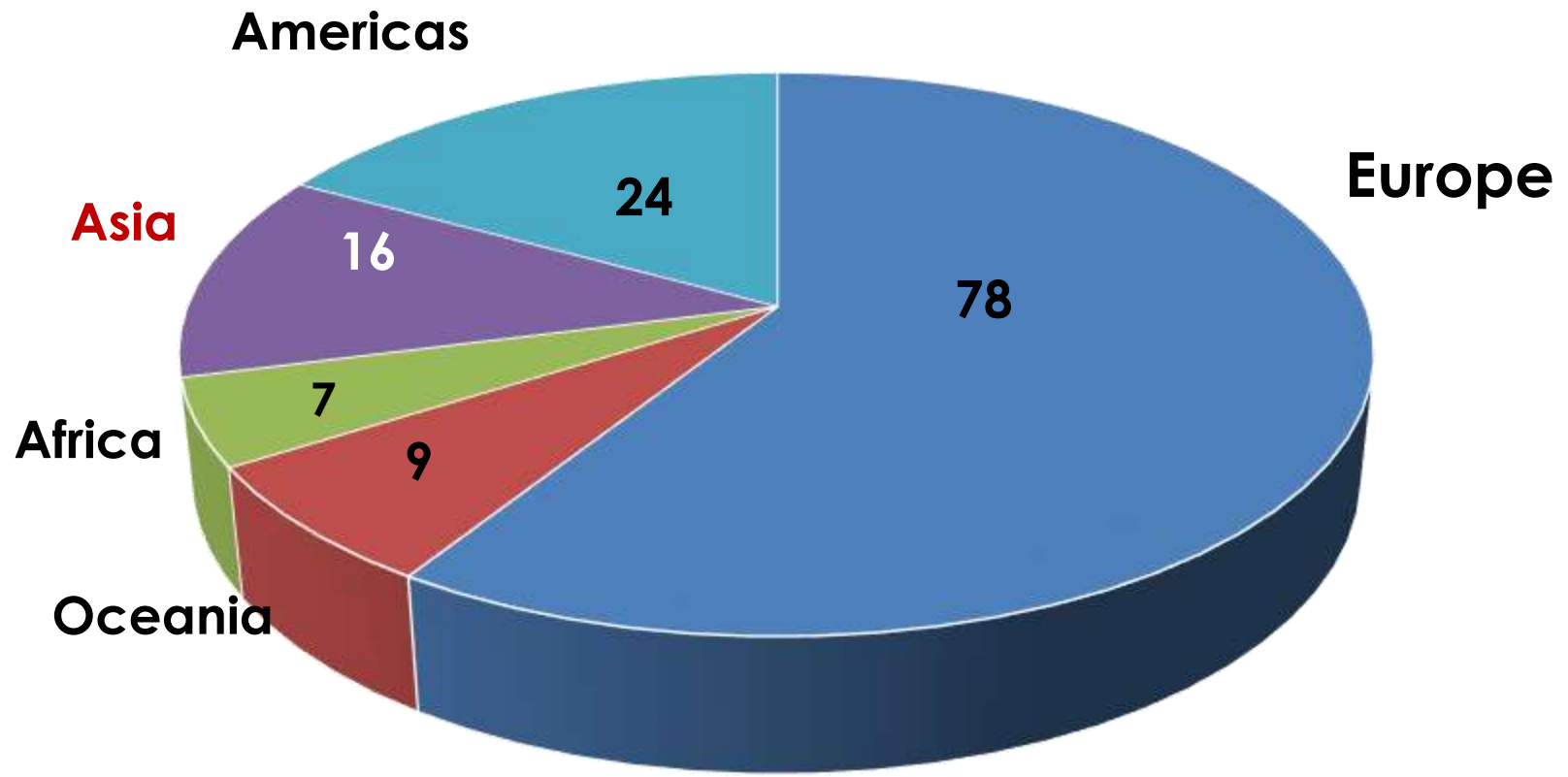
## **Personal members:**

Egypt 1, Kenya 1, South Africa 1, Zambia 1,  
Zimbabwe 1

# 134 ISTA ACCREDITED LABORATORIES



## Number of Accredited ISTA Laboratories by Continent





# **MEMBERSHIP IN AFRICA**

## **Associate members:**

Kenya 1, Nigeria 1, South Africa 1, Uganda 1

## **Technical Committee Members from Africa:**

Egypt 1, Ghana 1, Kenya 1, South Africa 6,  
Zambia 3

# 18 TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND THREE ADVISORY GROUPS



ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE  
BULKING AND SAMPLING COMMITTEE  
FLOWER SEED COMMITTEE  
FOREST TREE AND SHRUB SEED COMMITTEE  
GERMINATION COMMITTEE  
GMO COMMITTEE  
MOISTURE COMMITTEE  
NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE  
PROFICIENCY TEST COMMITTEE  
PURITY COMMITTEE  
RULES COMMITTEE  
SEED HEALTH COMMITTEE  
STATISTICS COMMITTEE  
SEED STORAGE COMMITTEE  
TETRAZOLIUM COMMITTEE  
VARIETY COMMITTEE  
VIGOUR COMMITTEE  
EDITORIAL BOARD (SST)

SEED SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP  
SEED INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP  
VEGETABLE SEED INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP



# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



| African members in ISTA technical committees |  |
|--|--|
| Number                                       | Technical Committee                    |
| 1  | Advanced Technologies Committee / SSAG |
| 2  | Bulking and Sampling Committee         |
| 1  | Flower Seed Testing Committee          |
| 1  | Moisture Committee                     |
| 1  | Purity Committee                       |
| 2  | Seed Health Committee                  |
| 3  | Seed Storage Committee                 |
| 1  | Statistics Committee                   |

# 3. ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



- The fees to ISTA are considered to be expensive



# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



- ISTA is still perceived as un-African due to low numbers of African species in proficiency tests and the dominance of European and American species in the Rules

# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



| Proficiency test rounds | Species relevant to Africa | Species not relevant to Africa |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2001-2004               | 6                          | 4                              |
| 2005-2007               | 5                          | 4                              |
| 2008-2010               | 4                          | 7                              |
| 2011-2013               | 6                          | 6                              |
| 2014-2016               | 6                          | 5                              |
| 2017-2019               | 4                          | 9                              |
| Total 2001-2019         | 26                         | 37                             |

# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



- The accreditation process is too long and costly



# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

- Cheaper and convenient to import on OIC from other regions but trade locally and within the African region on national certificates



# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

- Because of seed trade liberalization and regional integration, more African countries are establishing/modifying trade protocols that are tailored to given trade requirements/restrictions hence the low level appreciation of OIC use

# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



- The intra African seed trade is very narrow and therefore most countries see no need to affiliate themselves to ISTA as they are not able to export seed within the region.

# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



- Low numbers of qualified seed analysts and samplers in Africa due to lack of formal recognition of the seed technology professions in the formal employment establishment and training systems

# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



| ISTA workshops organised in Africa during the last 10 years |  |              |
|---|--|--------------|
| Year  | Topic  | Country      |
| 2008  | Seed health testing                                  | South Africa |
| 2008  | Seed moisture, germination and vigour                | Kenya        |
| 2010  | Germination, tetrazolium, sampling and statistics    | Kenya        |
| 2015  | Seed sampling and quality assurance in seed sampling | South Africa |
| 2015  | Seed sampling and quality assurance in seed sampling | South Africa |



# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



| ISTA symposium/seminar organised in Africa during the last 10 years |                               |              |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Year  | Topic                         | Country      |
| 2008  | Seed health testing symposium | South Africa |
| 2009  | ISTA seminar for Africa       | Zambia       |

# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



Language issues Western vs Eastern part of Africa.

There has been a request to have (if possible) the Rules and other ISTA documents translated in other languages such as Spanish, Portuguese and French

# ISTA CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



## Seed security:

- Training
- Proficiency tests
- Exchange experience



# GET **LATEST UPDATES**  
FROM THE ASSOCIATION

# EXCHANGE & KEEP IN TOUCH WITH  
THE **ISTA COMMUNITY**

**UNIFORMITY IN SEED TESTING**

Founded in 1924, with the aim to develop and publish standard procedures in the field of seed testing, ISTA is inextricably linked with the history of seed testing. With member laboratories in 90 countries/territories across the world today, ISTA membership is truly a global network.

See more

**Recent Updates**

International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) NEW MEMBER LABORATORY. ISTA announces: Axia Vegetable Seeds B.V., Netherlands, has recently become a member of ISTA. ISTA would like to take this opportunity to thank them for joining ISTA and to wish them a warm welcome. ISTA member detail: <https://lnkd.in/sNwpxdQp>

**Certificate of Membership 2016**  
International Seed Testing Association

Organic  
Targeted to: All Followers

|             |        |              |            |
|-------------|--------|--------------|------------|
| 372         | 3      | 4            | 1.88%      |
| impressions | clicks | interactions | engagement |

Sponsor update

**THANK YOU**

