

# RATIONALE AND PROCEDURES FOR ACCREDITATION (ISTA, OECD, UPOV, ISO, WTO)

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# PURPOSE OF ACCREDITATION

- Quality Assurance
- Standardized way of certification
- Building confidence and trust
- Increasing efficiency
- Promoting movement of seeds

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# What is Quality Assurance?

QA started in the 20th century

- Complex industries with 100% reliability targets  
e.g arms, munitions, computers
- Then spread to mass production industries  
eg cars, and to testing services

Instead of waiting until the product is made, and then checking if it is right QA is used to check all the steps in the process

If the processes are ok then the product will be ok

# What is Quality Assurance?

- Company quality assurance (QA) is the means by which a seed company is satisfied that its products and services are maintained and enhanced, meeting customer and corporate expectations.
- Seed QA program provides a uniform and unbiased quality control systems and marketing tool for crop seeds merchandised as varieties lends or brands.
- Seed QA system makes everybody in the seed production and marketing chain responsible for seed quality.

# ISO Certification

ISO 9000 and ISO 9001:2008 are the standards used to CERTIFY companies in, for example, manufacturing or service industries.

Testing laboratories are certified using another standard - ISO 25 (now known as ISO/IEC 17025)

ISO 9000 and ISO 9001:2008 are the basic blueprint for Quality Assurance.

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They cover areas of activity which have to be complied with in order to meet the standards

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# From ISO 9000 to ISO 17025

**The ISO 17025 standard is used for the ACCREDITATION of testing laboratories eg chemistry or molecular biology.**

It is based on ISO 9000 but places extra emphasis on:

- Staff competence
- Equipment control and calibration
- Appropriate methods and method development
- Mandatory referee tests (proficiency testing)

# From ISO 17025 to the ISTA Standard

The ISTA Standard is adapted from ISO 17025 to meet the specific needs of seed labs.

It asks: “Is your system effective, are your staff competent, and are your referee tests ok?”

Specific features of the ISTA Standard include:

- Sampling
- Independence of labs
  - Use of ISTA Rules
- Staff competence
- Mandatory participation in the ISTA
- referee test programme



# PROCEDURE FOR ACCREDITATION INTERNATIONAL SEED TESTING ASSOCIATION ISTA

## ISTA Membership

•Laboratories wishing to become members are requested to contact the ISTA Secretariat for the necessary application forms. The ISTA Executive Committee will then decide about the application and grant membership

## Participation in the ISTA Proficiency Testing Programme

•All accredited laboratories have to participate successfully in the ISTA Interlaboratory Proficiency Testing Programme, consisting of at least three rounds per year

## Establishment of a Quality Assurance System

•A laboratory that wishes to become accredited must set up a Quality Assurance System including documentation following the ISTA Accreditation Standard. This standard is based on ISO/IEC 17025 Standard and especially amended to meet the needs of seed testing laboratories.

## ISTA Audit

•Prior to accreditation, and every three years thereafter, the laboratories are audited by two ISTA Auditors (system and technical) and based on the auditor's recommendation and the performance in the proficiency tests, accreditation is granted.

## Authorisation to issue ISTA Certificates

•After having successfully fulfilled the requirements of accreditation, authorisation to issue ISTA Certificates is obtained through agreement of the Designated Authority.

## Installation of a Monitoring Programme

•Upon decision of the government of each country a Monitoring System could be installed for company laboratories.



# OECD

- Objective Control of Seed Moving in International Trade
- open to all Members of the Organisation, as well as to any Member of the United Nations
- implemented by the Authorities designated for that purpose by govnts
- A State desiring to adhere to one or more OECD Seed Scheme(s) shall notify the Secretary General
- applicable to seven groups of species

# Other requirements

- Satisfaction of technical criteria covering
  - Description of national certification scheme, national rules and procedures.
  - Comparison of rules in respect of
    - Previous cropping history
    - Isolation distances
    - Verification of varietal identity
    - Varietal purity standards
  - Existence of a national list of varieties.
  - Development of certification scheme for the previous five yrs.
  - Qualified staff and necessary facilities

# UPOV

- International Union for Protection of New Varieties of Plants
- Convention (1963, 1978, 1991) States
- Unified testing systems and protocol
- International treatment
- Must have a law, which must be accepted by the Council

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# World Trade Organization

- It is an intergovernmental organization.
- Nations are members.
- Handles global rules of trade between nations.
- Provide framework for negotiating trade agreements.
- Enforce adherence to WTO agreements
- Monitors movements of goods and services.
- Provisions for Sanctions
- Trade dispute resolutions

# Application process.

- A country wishing to accede to the WTO submits an application to the General Council.
- An application is submitted to the WTO in a memorandum.
- Memorandum describe all aspects of its trade and economic policies.
- Application will be analyzed by working party for variance between WTO trade rules and applicants rules
- However the processes are unique to each applicant country based on level of trade.

**END**

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**THANK YOU**

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