

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

SEMIS UoN

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SEMIS-Seed Quality Assurance and Seed Enterprise Quality Management

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PURPOSE OF ACREDITATION

- 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.



Accreditation of Company Laboratories

Two routes:

1. Issuing domestic (national) certificates
2. Issuing international certificates

Same basic requirements in both cases

Based on QA principles



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.

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



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.



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

- Nations must be members
- Monitors and movements of goods and services
- Intellectual property Key component
- Provisions for Sanctions

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