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Report

Reaccreditation of the Seed-Testing Laboratory by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)

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Every year, Agroscope's seed-testing laboratory analyses the quality of more than 6000 seed samples from over 200 different plant species. These analyses are pivotal in ensuring that only seed of impeccable quality is marketed and sold.

In addition to carrying out national seed certification, the laboratory also serves as an independent testing centre for the international seed market. The accreditation of the seed-testing laboratory by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA, www.seedtest.org), authorises Agroscope to issue ISTA certificates, which are required for the international seed market.

This accreditation must be actively renewed every three years. For this, ISTA auditors from outside Switzerland check whether the laboratory continues to possess the necessary competencies to carry out seed testing in accordance with current international guidelines. The requirements include methodological competencies based on ISTA regulations, and a quality assurance system complying with ISTA standards, similar to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

The seventh external audit took place in November 2017 in the seed-testing laboratory on the Reckenholz site. The laboratory once again successfully demonstrated its expertise, and was officially reaccredited by the ISTA for the period 2018-2020.



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