## IMPORTANCE OF USING GLOBALLY STANDARDIZED PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING PLANT PATHOGENS ON SEEDS



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Identification of plant pests on seed is used for import/export purposes, commercial movement of seeds or evaluation of efficiency of seed treatments. For a same pest, different detection methods can be used as for example detection on media, by serological or molecular techniques. Sample size and subsample size can also differ between detection methods. So depending on sample size, subsample size and level of detection of the different methods, this can lead to quantitative or even qualitative conflicting results between laboratories and countries. To avoid this problem, several initiatives have been taken to standardize and validate detection methods. Examples will be given of method validation undertaken at ISHI and ISHA level. Another aspect is that using a same method, laboratories can obtain different results. Example will be given on how ISTA assess proficiency of laboratories.