

Seed health—TESTA

Development of seed treatment method

Evidence for seed transmission and assessment of seed health



A two day training course on methods for detecting seed-borne disease in arable crops

TESTA is a European Union funded project under the FP7 programme, running from October 2012 for forty months. It is focused on the development of novel methods for detection of seed-borne diseases, on the derivation of appropriate seed sampling strategies, and on improved and effective disinfection processes. It includes activity on a number of key seed-borne diseases of arable crops as well as a focus on high value, small seeded vegetable species.

Training in TESTA

The project will deliver five training courses, with applicants selected on the basis of their background skills and functions in both private and publicly funded organisations.

The aim of the course at NIAB will be to give delegates a detailed knowledge of the importance of seed-borne diseases in arable crops in northern Europe, their epidemiology and the regulations controlling their incidence in seed, and training in the detection methods that have been developed or validated during the project. In addition, a range of other seed-borne diseases in cereals, oilseed crops and pulses will be detailed and test methods described.

Target crops

Major northern European arable crops – wheat, barley, oats, pulse crops, oilseed rape, plus minor interests eg linseed, herbage seed crops. Relevant TESTA targets – *Ditylenchus*, *Fusarium*, *Phoma lingam*. These will be covered plus other major seed-borne diseases not included in TESTA.

Expected delegate profile

Seed analysts, plant health inspectors, new researchers. As there are many practical sessions, numbers will be limited to 12. All teaching and course materials are free.

A small administration charge of £50 excluding VAT will be made. Delegates must cover their own travel and accommodation costs. Information on local hotels will be provided on registration.

NIAB, Cambridge, UK
27-28 January 2015

Registration

Delegates must register and pay £50 by **Friday 9th January 2015**. Places will be allocated according to the expected delegate profile and then on a first come, first served basis.

To register, please contact Dr Jane Thomas at jane.thomas@niab.com

Course Outline

Day 1	Tuesday 27th January
08.45	Registration
09.00	Importance of seed-borne disease in epidemic development and crop biosecurity
10.00	Break
10.30	Different types of seed-borne disease, life cycles and biology. Regulations and seed treatment overview
12.30	Lunch
13.15	Testing techniques, principles
14.00	Practical demonstrations; conventional and novel techniques
17.30	Finish
Day 2	Wednesday 28th January
08.45	Practical exercises - Protocols developed and developing in TESTA and other procedures
10.00	Break
10.30	Practical exercises - continued
12.30	Lunch
13.15	Implementing TESTA outcomes; planning exercise for participating labs
14.30	Practical exercises – continued and review
17.30	Finish



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