ISU Seed Testing Lab Receives 9001:2000 Certification

(Iowa State University Seed Testing Lab News, Fall 2004)

For the first time an AOSA Laboratory, the Iowa State University Seed Laboratory, has received ISO 9001:2000 certification. The ISU Lab received certification in December 2003 after an 18-month training process by the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS).

Becoming an ISO 9001:2000 certified laboratory has helped the Seed Lab in its everyday operations. "We are more customer focused, which is the underlying goal of the ISO 9001:2000 system," says Dan Curry, ISU Seed Lab Manager. The Lab has experienced improved internal processes. The third-party verification of the quality system of the lab will ensure that the Lab not only meets, but also exceeds the standard’s expectations.

Orion Registrar, Inc, the company that audited the Seed Lab, will continue to periodically monitor the Seed Lab through assessment audits over the next three years. These audits will hold the lab and its staff responsible for upholding the standards associated with the ISO 9001:2000 certification, and also for updating the service practices as standards in the industry change. The staff must inform Orion of changes in their quality practices, and must maintain and report any customer communications. The Seed Lab was certified in Seed Quality Assurance Services in Germination, Vigor Testing, Purity, Genetic Traits and Seed Health on over 300 species of seeds.