

Summary of changes to NVT Protocols as at 22 May 2007

Section 1 Background

- Explanation for the number of years of NVT evaluation of unreleased lines for non-cereal crops.

Section 2 NVT Database

- Training on the NVT Database is available to Trial Service Providers on request.

Section 3 Farmer Agreement

- Clarification of need for a Farmer Agreement where the trial site is on land belonging to a farmer or third party.
- Clarification of the trial information that a Trial Service Provider can provide to the farmer about the NVT trial on their property.

Section 4 Site Selection and Characterisation

- Further instructions for selection of NVT trial sites (Sites should be as near as practical to access roads; Ensure the trial is in a paddock of the same crop)
- Clarification of soil test requirements
- Clarification of instructions for recording plot locations (GPS coordinates; white peg to be placed at plot 1, range 1).
- Instructions for collection of monthly rainfall data.

Section 7 Seed Acceptance to National Variety Trials (“Acceptance Criteria”)

- Measurements of seed viability and seed size (1000 grain weights) must accompany the seed to the Service Provider.
- Clarification of the admissible levels of adventitious presence of GM in NVT trials. All sowing seed for 2007 trials must contain no more than 0.5% adventitious presence of GM.
- Seed providers must provide the NVT Manager with documentation that the seed has been tested for adventitious presence to the 0.5% detection level.
- Clarification of the “*seed delivery date*” and consequences of failure to deliver seed by this date.

Section 8 Seed supply

- Clarification of winter increase nurseries for commercial varieties of wheat, barley and triticale.
- Instructions to seed providers on permissible seed treatments. Untreated seed is preferred
- Instructions to Trial Service Providers on the appropriate way to record “Filler” entries.

Section 11 Sowing

- Instructions to Trial Service Providers to use buffer rows
- Instructions to Trial Service Providers to retain packing plans for a minimum of 18 months after sowing.

Section 12 Trial Monitoring

- Modification of the recommended site visit schedule for Trial Service Providers to be more practical.

- Instructions to Trial Service Providers to record covariates
- Explanation of flowering dates
- Instructions to Trial Service Providers to supply minimum temperature records over the flowering period.

Section 15 Site Inspections

- Instructions to Trial Service Providers to provide the Trial manager with a mud maps for trials within six weeks of sowing.
- Clarification of procedure for site visits by third parties.

Section 17 Harvesting

- Instructions to Trial Service Providers to notify NVT Manager regarding trials that are not harvested.

Section 18 Seed testing

- Clarification of delivery standard parameters (moisture requirements for measuring protein content; LMA check varieties for each region)

Section 21 Site Audit

- Expansion of breeder audit system with a regional agronomist network to visit sites.

Section 22 Winter Nurseries

- Winter nurseries will be subject to third party inspection to ensure confidence in weed management.
- Seed samples from a random selection of lines will be sent to an accredited seed laboratory for purity testing.
- In 2007, the sowing seed for the winter nursery will be replaced with fresh seed from the breeding company to maintain genetic integrity.