

Seedling Evaluation Workshop
A. Towards a Uniform Evaluation of Hypocotyl Length
B. The Seedling Images Database as a Training and Learning Tool

June 8, 2025, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Organized by the Germination and Dormancy Sub-Committee

Instructor: R. Baalbaki

This half-day workshop will address two topics:

- A. *Towards a Uniform Evaluation of Hypocotyl Length.*** We will start by a brief discussion of factors determining hypocotyl length, emphasizing a more nuanced understanding of the hypocotyl's response to environmental factors. Given the wide variation in hypocotyl length within and among replicates, among tests from different lots and labs, and among species, the aim is to develop a more uniform approach to hypocotyl evaluations. Training will be virtual, using seedling images spanning a wide range of species. The focus will be on presenting a high number of examples, as well as group exercises on appropriate hypocotyl evaluations under different test conditions.
- B. *The Seedling Images Database as a Training and Learning Tool.*** The objective of this part is to train analysts on the multiple uses of the *Seedling Evaluation Database*, in order to improve evaluation uniformity. This part will demonstrate ways of using the database for group- and self-training, the database as an aid in evaluating 'difficult' seedlings and unfamiliar species, as well as its common use as a visual record of normal and abnormal seedlings across species.

Syllabus

8:00 am – 8:30 am:	Understanding seedling growth with emphasis on hypocotyl development.
8:30 am – 9:45 am:	Examples and applications of hypocotyl length evaluations.
9:45 am – 10:00 am:	Break.
10:00 am – 10:30 am:	The <i>Seedling Images Database</i> ; overview of contents and usage instructions.
10:30 am – 11:15 am:	Practical training on using the database as a learning tool.
11:15 am – 12:00 pm:	Practical training on using the database for evaluating 'difficult' and 'unfamiliar' species.