



AMIS Agriculture Proficiency Testing Scheme

1. What AMIS will offer to the participant:

- 1.1. The Proficiency testing samples shall be couriered to your organization at the cost of AMIS; this includes laboratories outside of South Africa.
- 1.2. Deadlines for the submission of results shall be indicated on the Round Robin Participation Letter per round, which will be sent together with the samples.
 - Two reminders shall be sent to your laboratory via email to ensure that deadlines are adhered to.
- 1.3. Should you require any additional information, please contact any of the email addresses below.
- 1.4. Upon receipt of data, the Proficiency Testing Report indicating interlaboratory comparison shall be shared with your organization within 30 days following the closure of the Round Robin PT Scheme. Your organization shall receive a unique ID which will be randomized upon each round to ensure confidentiality.
- 1.5. The data tables shall include the following data:
 - Total number of labs that participated.
 - Number of results i.e. the total number of results received from labs.
 - Number of excluded results
 - p i.e. the total number of results after exclusion (if applicable)
 - Assigned value (Median)
 - Standard Deviation for Proficiency Assessment σ_{pt} and Expanded Standard Deviation for Proficiency Assessment
 - Standard Uncertainty of the assigned value
 - Satisfactory range of results
 - Robust z-score (z-score or z-prime score) for each analyte, tabling all results.
 - Unit

2. Capabilities:

- 2.1. AMIS is both ISO 17034:2016 and ISO 17043:2010 accredited, which is for Certified Reference Material producers and Proficiency Testing providers, respectively. AMIS is also ISO 9001:2015 accredited, for Quality Management Systems. These accreditations enable us to effectively administer the Agriculture Proficiency Testing Scheme.
- 2.2. Personnel have the skills and expertise necessary to produce reference/ certified reference material.

3. Subcontracted activities:

- 3.1. Sample courier
- 3.2. All analytical testing

4. Disciplines and Scheduling:

- 4.1. The initiation of each proficiency testing scheme will depend on reaching the necessary minimum number of laboratories essential for the statistical evaluation to hold significance. The determination of this minimum number rests with the discretion of AMIS.
- 4.2. The AMIS Agriculture Proficiency Testing scheme will include a total of five different disciplines.
- 4.3. Each commodity (Feeds, Solid Fertilizer, Plant, Soil and Water) will have two samples— Samples 1 and 2.
- 4.4. The proficiency testing scheme will be running for 12 months with a total of 6 schemes in the year.

5. Sample Preparation:

- 5.1. The samples will be pulverized, classified, homogenized, and sent to laboratories as per information provided on the registration form.
- 5.2. The samples are packaged in vacuum sealed foils, thereafter they are sealed in a plastic bag and packed in a box.
- 5.3. Storage and analysis shall be conducted under controlled environmental and quality conditions.
- 5.4. Samples shall be treated in the same manner as routine samples.
- 5.5. Participants in the scheme will be offered the opportunity to supply the testing material for a round. This will enable participants to obtain scheme data on their own matrix and material type. Please contact the AMIS to obtain details of quantities required, etc.
- 5.6. Portions as specified in the table below are weighed, dispensed, and packaged into individual standard paper Geochem sachets and plastic bottles.

Commodity	Packaged amount(s)
Feeds	150g
Solid Fertilizers	150g
Plant	10g
Milled Soil	200g
Unmilled Soil	150g
Water	250mL

6. What will AMIS receive from the participant:

- 6.1 A laboratory may or may not be ISO17025 accredited.
- 6.2 AMIS shall receive two results per scheme (2 samples 1 and 2) from the participating laboratory as indicated on the Proficiency Test Request Letter.
- 6.3 The laboratory shall conduct analysis as per Section 2 of the request letter, as per method capabilities of the laboratory.
- 6.4 All results must be traceable including being metrologically traceable – results will be submitted as per reporting template.
- 6.5 All proficiency testing samples shall be treated the same as routine test samples.
- 6.6 All results shall be reported to maximum decimal places i.e., dependent on the laboratory's capabilities.
- 6.7 Kindly report all results on the template provided as well as in PDF format.
- 6.8 Ensure all uncertainties are included with the results.
- 6.9 Laboratories have 15 working days from the last date the samples are dispatched to report results.
- 6.10 Please inform AMIS at least one week in advance if deadlines cannot be met.
- 6.11 Laboratories will receive the Proficiency Testing Report 15 working days after the proficiency testing closure date.
- 6.12 Laboratories will send results to Agri@amis.co.za

7. Certificate of Participation Criteria:

- 7.1. Certificates of Participation will be issued to all laboratories that meet the set criteria after the third 'Scheme'.
- 7.2. Criteria for Certification:
 - Each laboratory must participate in 4 out of 6 (half year) 8 proficiency testing schemes out of the 12 in the year.
 - Secondly, from the above-mentioned participations the results from each laboratory must lie between z score -2 and 2.

8. Sample Delivery:

- 8.1. AMIS shall be solely responsible for the delivery of samples required for each scheme of the Proficiency Testing (PT) scheme outlined above.
- 8.2. The delivery of samples shall be conducted in a timely manner to ensure that participants receive the samples within the stipulated timeframe for the respective testing schemes.

AMIS

A: 11 Avalon Road, West Lake View, Ext 11, Modderfontein, 1609, South Africa

T: +27 (0) 11 923 0800

W: www.amis.co.za

- 8.3. All samples shall be shipped according to the Delivery Duty Paid (DDP) Incoterms. Under DDP, AMIS assumes the responsibility for all costs associated with the delivery of samples to the specified destination, including customs duties, taxes, and transportation charges.
- 8.4. The laboratory shall inspect the samples promptly upon receipt. Any discrepancies or damage to the samples shall be reported to AMIS within 3 days of receiving the samples.
- 8.5. In the event of damaged or compromised samples, AMIS shall work collaboratively with the laboratory to investigate the cause and, if necessary, provide replacement samples.
- 8.6. It is the laboratories' responsibility to ensure that their delivery details, including the designated shipping address and contact information, are accurate and up to date.
- 8.7. Any changes to the delivery details must be promptly communicated to AMIS in writing to avoid any delays or mis-deliveries.

9. Return of material:

- 9.1. The laboratories are instructed that on completion of analysis the samples are to be stored for a period of 3 months. Thereafter, they may be disposed of according to individual laboratory procedure.
- 9.2. If the samples need to be returned; all associated costs will be billed to the client.

10. Disclaimer: Cooperation with participants

- 10.1. AMIS is committed to supporting customers regarding the use of our products and services, as such we pride ourselves in resolving any queries/ non-conformance received.
- 10.2. AMIS is willing to assist participants with the interpretation of the PT reports communicated.
- 10.3. A minimum of 12 labs per commodity are required for a scheme to be initiated.
- 10.4. Any additional analytical work or statistical evaluation outside of the specified scope will be billed separately, unless otherwise agreed with AMIS.
- 10.5. Payment terms will be as per AMIS agreement – Advance Payment unless otherwise agreed.
- 10.6. Participants will be invoiced, pro-rata, on an annual basis (Calendar year), for the schemes that they choose to partake in.
- 10.7. This document forms part of a contract with AMIS in signing up for the AMIS Agriculture Proficiency Testing Scheme.

11. Company Details:

African Mineral Standards
a Member of The Particle Group Pty Ltd
Reg. No 2022/626674/07
VAT Reg. No 4210307981

Address	Postal Address	Contact Details
11 Avalon Road	11 Avalon Road	Tel: +27 11 923 0800
Westlake Ext 11	Westlake Ext 11	E-mail: siyanda@amis.co.za
Modderfontein, 1610	Modderfontein, 1609	
South Africa	South Africa	

Sincerely,



Jumien Peceur
General Manager

AMIS

A: 11 Avalon Road, West Lake View, Ext 11, Modderfontein, 1609, South Africa
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Acceptance

I accept the terms of this proposal and enter into this agreement with AMIS.

Signature	
Name	
Designation	
Date	

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