THE OECD SEED SCHEMES

European Conference on Ensuring Seed Availability in the 21st Century
EC, Brussels, 18 March 2009

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Codes & Schemes
Trade & Agriculture, OECD
The OECD

- **Inter-governmental Organisation**
  - Established in 1961
  - 30 Member countries
  - Works with over 70 developing and transition economies

**Multilateral Forum …**

- Address economic, social and environmental challenges
- Economic analyses
- Provides comparative data to underpin multilateral cooperation
- Policy recommendations and good practices
Structure of OECD

**COUNCIL**
- Executive Directorate
- General Secretariat
- Co-operation with non-members

**Semi-autonomous bodies**
- International Energy Agency
- Nuclear Energy Agency
- European Conference of Ministers of Transport
- Development Centre
- Centre for Educational Research & Innovation
- Club du Sahel

**Directorate for Financial, Fiscal and Enterprise Affaires**
- Directorate for Trade and Agriculture
- Development Co-operation Directorate
- Environment Directorate
- Economics Department
- Statistics Department
- Public Management Service
- Education, Employment, Labour And Social Affairs
- Directorate for Science, Technology And Industry
- Territorial Development Service
• **Policy Analysis**
  – Monitoring changes in agricultural policies
  – Medium term commodity outlook
  – Agro-Food Chain analysis
  – International Standards
  – Bio-energy policies
  – Multilateral analysis of trade agreements
    • (agriculture, manufactures, services, export credits)
T&A Part II Programmes

• Codes & Schemes & CRP
• Participation open to all countries
• Voluntary programmes – self financing
• Currently 62 countries -- C&S
  – Equal voting rights
  – First step to participating in other activities
  – Member countries -- annual contribution
  – Seed Schemes, Forest Scheme, Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, Tractor Codes
Objective of the OECD Schemes
- To encourage the use of seed of consistently high quality in participating countries
  - Authorise the use of labels and certificates for seed produced & processed for international trade according to agreed principles

Schemes established in 1958
- 57 participating countries
- National Designated Authorities (NDA)
- 7 schemes – different groups of species
- 197 species, 45,900 varieties -- eligible for seed certification
- Seed certification instruments – based on varietal identity and varietal purity
Growth in Varieties and Participating Countries (1958-2009)
Countries Participating in the OECD Seed Schemes 2009
7 OECD Seed Schemes

- Grasses & Legumes
- Crucifers & Other Oil or Fibre Species
- Cereals
- Maize & Sorghum
- Beet
- Vegetables
- Subterranean Clover & Similar Species
## Country Participation in Various Schemes

### OECD Schemes for the Varietal Certification or the Control of Seed

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Grasses and legumes</th>
<th>Crucifers and other oil or flax species</th>
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OECD Labels
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- **Striped label:** Pre-basic Seed (PB)
- **White label:** Basic Seed (SB)
- **Blue label:** Certified Seed 1st Generation (C1)
- **Red label:** Certified Seed (C2)
Main Instruments of the Schemes

The Rules & Legal principles:

OECD Seed Schemes 2009

Participating countries agree on harmonised procedures for production, processing and trade

- Categories of Seed
- Minimum varietal purity standards
- Varietal identity (trueness to type)
- Control of seed production in the field and post-control plots
- Labelling
- Authorisation (field inspection, sampling, labelling and testing)
- Multiplication in another country (grey labels)
OECD List of Varieties Eligible for Certification

The list is produced annually and includes:

- details of the maintainer of the variety
- countries where the variety has been registered

- List 2009: **197 species, 45 900 varieties**

*Interim List of Varieties*

*next update July 2009 on the Website*
Main Instruments of the Schemes (Contd.)

- Guidelines for Control Plots and Field Inspection of seed crops
  - Checking the varietal identity and varietal purity of seed in official post-control plots
  - Under the Authority of the NDA
How to Join the OECD Seed Schemes?

- **Official letter**
  Ministry of Agriculture to the OECD Secretariat

- **Basic documentation**
  Seed certification in the country, imports and exports, varieties registered on the National List, post-control etc.

- **Evaluation mission**
  Undertaken by the OECD (2 experts, 3-5 days)

- **Evaluation Report**
  - Annual Meeting of the Seed Schemes

- **Official admission procedures**
  Approval, by consensus, at the OECD Annual Meeting, OECD Committee for Agriculture and the OECD Council
Recent Developments

- **New species and countries**
  - 3 new species added in 2008
  - 2 new countries, India & Moldova

- **Extension of participation in other Schemes**
  - Netherland -- Vegetable Seed Scheme
  - Kyrgyzstan --- Grasses & Legume Scheme

- **Revision of maximum seed lot size** 30 tonnes

- **Revision of the isolation distances for cotton seed**

- **Addition of definitions of varietal identity and varietal purity**

- **Amendments to the post-control rules**
Recent Developments (contd.)

• **New WG on Varietal Identity & Varietal Purity**
• **Ad hoc Working Groups**
  - Seed Multiplication abroad
  - Variety synonyms
• **Strategic Plan for the Schemes**
• **Discussions on the Action Plan**
  • Update and simplify the rules
  • Adaptation of the Schemes
  • Systematic monitoring of the implementation of the Schemes
  • Further modernisation of the List of Varieties
  • Review the Vegetable Seed Scheme
  • Role of seed certification in the bioenergy debate, organic agriculture, etc.
Why Participate the OECD Seed Schemes?

• **To facilitate trade & improve market access**
  - Reducing technical barriers
    - through the harmonisation of certification procedures
    - the use of internationally recognised labels/certificates
    - improves traceability along the food chain

• **To contribute to the international rules for seed certification**
  - evolution of the rules and procedures
  - use of the Schemes (Domestic, International)
  - maintain seed certification at a global level
Why participate the OECD Seed Schemes

• **To improve collaboration between countries & the public/private sector**
  - multiplication of seed in third countries
  - authorisation of inspection

• **To share information on best practices**
  - exchange information and experiences with other NDAs
  - participation of other IOs and stakeholders in the meetings
  - Regular updates on policy developments in OECD
    - Trade, Agriculture, Environment, etc.
    - Regulatory changes in participating countries
Further information on the Schemes

www.oecd.org/tad/seed

- Rules of the OECD Seed Schemes 2009
- List of Varieties --- Interim ver. July 2009
- Guidelines for Field Inspection & Control
- Statistics on OECD Seed Certification
- National Designated Authorities
Thank You

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www.oecd.org/tad/seed