



Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

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 co-operation
- Policy recommendations and good practices



Structure of OECD

COUNCIL

Executive Directorate

Public Affairs and
Communications

General
Secretariat

Co-operation
with
non-members

Semi-autonomous bodies

International Energy Agency

Development Centre

Nuclear Energy Agency

Centre for Educational
Research & Innovation

European Conference of
Ministers of Transport

Club du Sahel

Directorate for Financial,
Fiscal and Enterprise Affairs

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



Trade & Agriculture Directorate

- **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

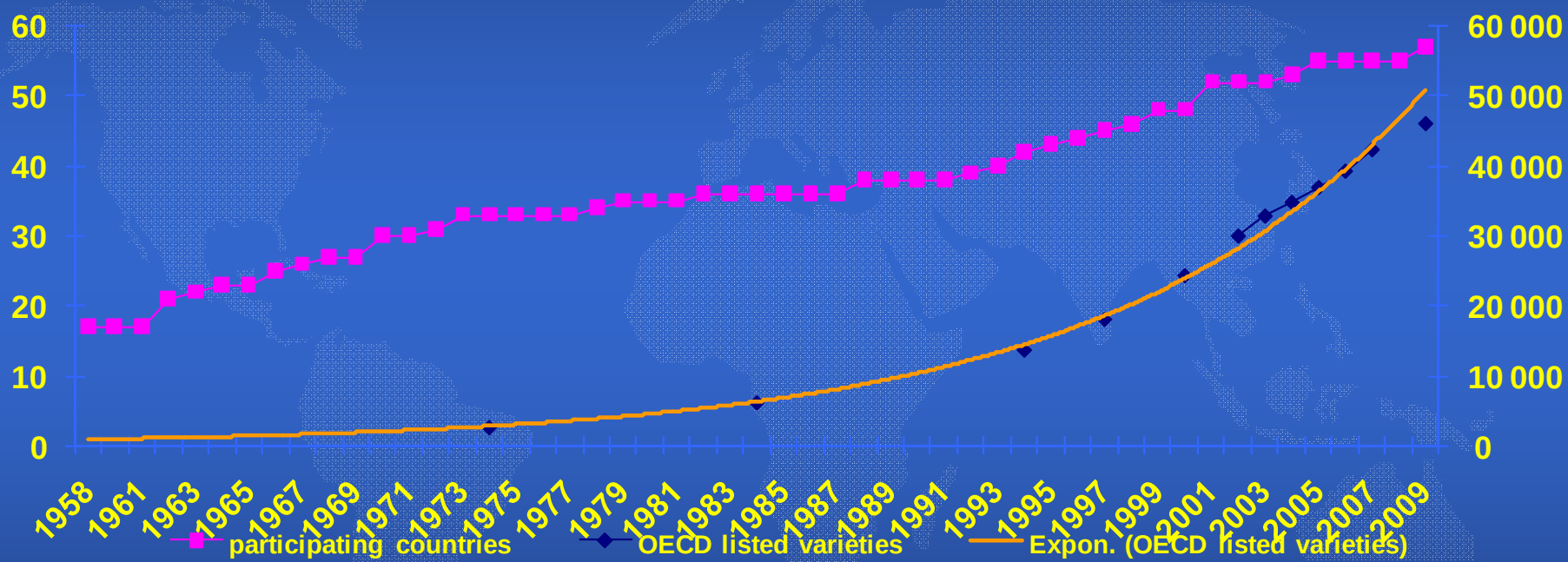


OECD Seed Schemes

- **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						
	Grasses and legumes	Crucifers and other oil or fibre species	Cereals	Fodder Beet and sugar beet	Maize and sorghum	Subterranean clover and similar species	Vegetables
ALBANIA							
ARGENTINA							
AUSTRALIA							
AUSTRIA							
BELGIUM							
BOLIVIA							
BRAZIL							
BULGARIA							
CANADA							
CHILE							
CROATIA							
CYPRUS							
CZECH REPUBLIC							
DENMARK							
EGYPT							
ESTONIA							
FINLAND							
FRANCE							
GERMANY							
GREECE							
HUNGARY							
ICELAND							
INDIA							
IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF							
IRELAND							
ISRAEL							
ITALY							
JAPAN							
KENYA							

	OECD SCHEMES FOR THE VARIETAL CERTIFICATION OR THE CONTROL OF SEED						
	Grasses and legumes	Crucifers and other oil or fibre species	Cereals	Fodder Beet and sugar beet	Maize and sorghum	Subterranean clover and similar species	Vegetables
KYRGYSZTAN							
LATVIA							
LITHUANIA							
LUXEMBOURG							
MEXICO							
MOLDOVA							
MOROCCO							
NETHERLANDS							
NEW ZEALAND							
NORWAY							
POLAND							
PORTUGAL							
ROUMANIA							
RUSSIAN FEDERATION							
SERBIA							
SLOVAK REPUBLIC							
SLOVENIA							
SOUTH AFRICA							
SPAIN							
SWEDEN							
SWITZERLAND							
TUNISIA							
TURKEY							
UGANDA							
UNITED KINGDOM							
UNITED STATES							
URUGUAY							
ZIMBABWE							



OECD Labels





OECD Labels

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*)



Main Instruments of the Schemes (Contd.)

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

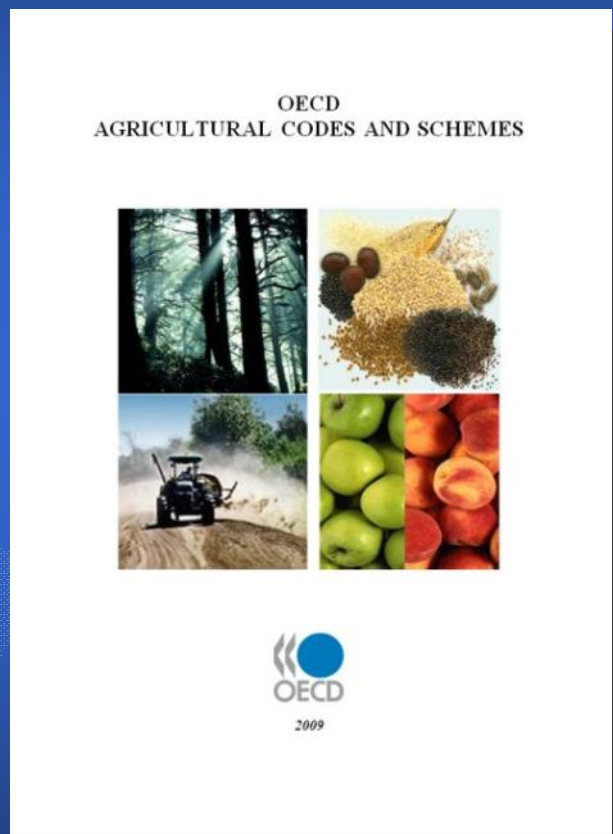
www.oecd.org/tad/seed

- **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

