THE OECD SEED SCHEMES
International Seed Certification Standards

2nd World Seed Conference
Session 5: The Role of International Certification in Facilitating Trade and Market Developments
FAO, Rome, 8-10 September 2009

Michael M. Ryan
OECD
OECD Seed Schemes

- **Introduction**
  - International trade aspects
  - International Certification Standards
  - New plant varieties
    - Food Security
    - Crop productivity

- **OECD**
  - Intergovernmental organisation…
  - Policy analyses
  - Policy advice and good practices
Structure of OECD

COUNCIL

Executive Directorate
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 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
**An Overview of the 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
  - 198 species, >40,000 varieties -- eligible for seed certification
  - Seed certification instruments – based on varietal identity and varietal purity
Countries Participating in the OECD Seed Schemes 2009

ALBANIA
ARGENTINA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
BELGIUM
BOLIVIA
BRAZIL
BULGARIA
CANADA
CHILE
CROATIA
CYPRUS
CZECH REP.
DENMARK
EGYPT
ESTONIA
FINLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
GREECE
HUNGARY
ICELAND
INDIA
IRAN
IRELAND
ISRAEL
ITALY
JAPAN
KENYA
KYRGYZSTAN
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
LUXEMBOURG
MEXICO
MOLDOVA
MOROCCO
NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
NORWAY
POLAND
PORTUGAL
ROMANIA
RUSSIAN
FEDERATION
SERBIA
SLOVAKIA
SLOVENIA
SOUTH AFRICA
SPAIN
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
TUNISIA
TURKEY
UGANDA
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES
URUGUAY
ZIMBABWE
Growth in Varieties and Participating Countries (1958-2009)
Cooperation with other stakeholders

Development of the OECD Schemes has also involved close collaboration with:

- IGOs such as UPOV, FAO, UNECE, etc.
- IOs such as ISF, ISTA, AOSCA, AOSA, etc.
- EC and the CPVO
- Research Organisations e.g. ICARDA, etc.
- IFAP, COPA-COGECA, etc.
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

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<th>OECD Schemes for the Varietal Certification or the Control of Seed</th>
<th>Grasses and legumes</th>
<th>Crucifers and other oil or fibre species</th>
<th>Cereals</th>
<th>Fodder Beets and sugar beet</th>
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OECD Labels
Implementation of the Schemes

OECD SEED SCHEMES sets out the Rules & Legal principles

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

List is produced biannually (January/July)

includes

- List of varieties eligible for certification
- Details of the maintainer of the variety
- Countries where the variety has been registered

- 2009 List
  - >190 species
  - > 42 000 varieties
 Implementation of the Schemes (Contd.)

• Guidelines for Control Plots and Field Inspection of seed crops
  • Used to check
    – Varietal identity and varietal purity of seed in official post-control plots
    – Under the Authority of the NDA
Joining the Seed Schemes

• Country requirements for joining the Schemes:
  – National Seed Law
  – National List of Varieties
  – System of post-control checks
  – A domestic certification system
  – A satisfactory laboratory system for seed analysis
  – Export and/or import potential
Recent & Ongoing Developments

- New species and countries
- Extension of participation in other Schemes
- 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 & Ongoing Developments

- **Strategic Plan --- General Framework**

- **Action plan & resource requirements**
  - Simplify the rules
  - Improve the monitoring of the implementation of the schemes
  - Modernise the statistical databases
  - Identify new projects

- **TWG & Ad hoc Working Groups**
Global Seed Market

- Size of the global seed market is estimated at about US$ 37bn.

- Size of the seed trade is estimated at US$6.4bn in 2007
Benefits of International Certification

• **Improve market access and facilitate trade in seeds**
  - Reduce technical barriers (TBTs)
    - harmonisation of certification procedures
    - use of internationally recognised labels/certificates
    - improve traceability along the supply chain

• **Simplify international rules**
  - evolution of the rules and procedures
  - use of the Schemes (Domestic, International)
  - maintain seed certification at a global level
Benefits of international certification

- **Enhance cooperation between countries & the public/private sectors**
  - Develop and set standards that are internationally acceptable
  - Multiplication of seed in third countries
  - Authorisation of inspection

- **Share information on best practices**
  - Exchange information and experiences with other NDAs
  - Share information with IOs and other stakeholders in the seed chain
  - Regular updates on policy developments
OECD Seed Schemes

Thank you

www.oecd.org/tad/seed