



OECD SEED SCHEMES

AN INTERNATIONAL SEED VARIETAL CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

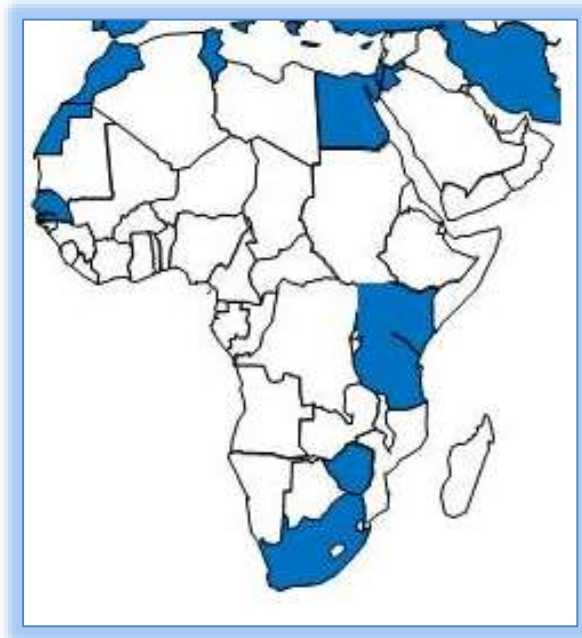
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Challenges for the OECD Seed Schemes in Africa

The OECD Seed Schemes seek to facilitate International trade in Seed through harmonised standards, and varietal certification procedures



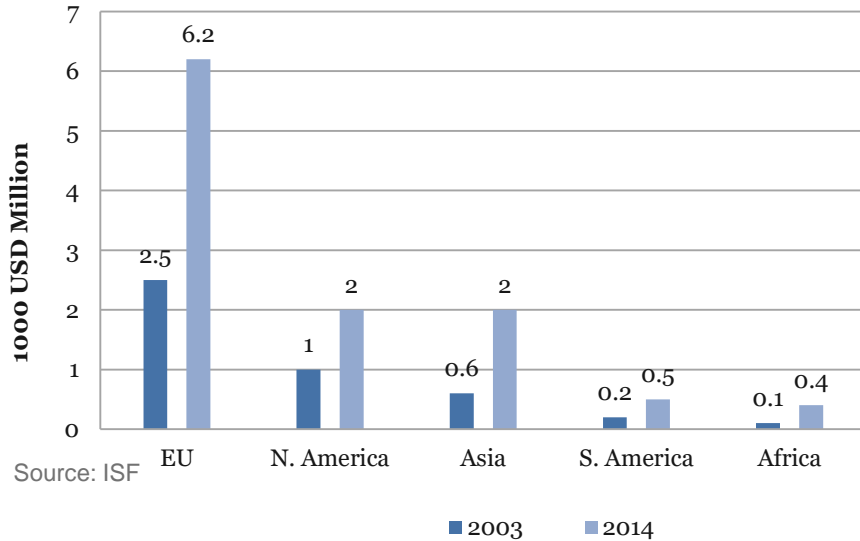
Varietal certification procedures include generation control, varietal identity and purity standards in control plots and crops checked by trained inspection personnel



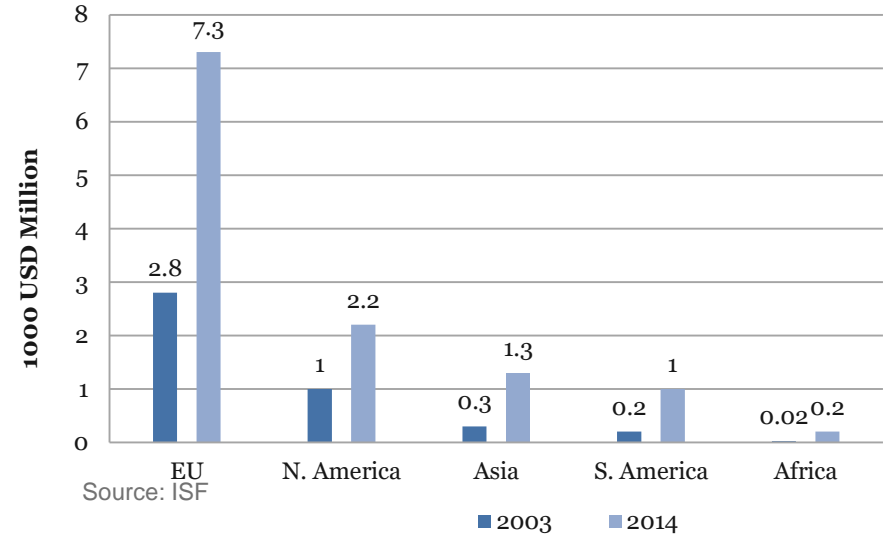
Challenges for the OECD Seed Schemes in Africa

African international seed trade

Seed import per continent



Seed export per continent



Membership of the Seed Schemes, 2017





General overview of the OECD Seed Schemes

Formed
1961
(OEEC - 1958)

8
Schemes

60
Participating
countries

62 000
varieties eligible
for OECD
certification

1 100 000
tons of
OECD certified seed
per year





General overview on the OECD Seed Schemes **Varietal certification and the global seed system**

- Contributing to a globally harmonised seeds system.
- Facilitate trade and market access through harmonised standards and certification procedures.
- Breeder reassurance when distributing new varieties.
- Provide framework for varietal control of seed multiplication abroad.



General overview on the OECD Seed Schemes

- 8 Seed Schemes

- **Grasses and legumes;**
- **Crucifers and Other Oil or Fibre Species;**
- **Cereals;**
- **Fodder Beet and Sugar Beet;**
- **Subterranean Clover and Similar Species;**
- **Maize**
- **Sorghum;**
- **Vegetables.**



General overview on the OECD Seed Schemes

Keystones of OECD Certification

- 1. Common agreed standards**
- 2. Generation system**
- 3. Traceability**
- 4. Crop registration**
- 5. Crop inspection**
- 6. Representative samples**
- 7. Variety description and standard samples**
- 8. Co-operation between
National Designated Authorities**
- 9. Secure labelling and sealing**
- 10. Control plots**



General overview on the OECD Seed Schemes

Main Instruments of the Schemes

- OECD Seed Schemes Rules and Regulations 2017
 - OECD List of Varieties
 - Guidelines for Control Plot Tests & Field Inspection of Seed Crops
- All of them are available from the official website:
www.oecd.org/tad/seed



General overview on the OECD Seed Schemes

OECD Label





General overview on the OECD Seed Schemes Labelling

AD-HOC Working Group on Labelling

Members: Denmark, Egypt, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, UK, EU, ESA and ISF

Mandate, objectives:

- Identify methods for enhancing seed container identification and security which discourage/prevent the fraudulent use of labels
- Consider additional methods for seed container identification which should bring benefits for identification, security, reduction of handling, speed of handling in relation to their cost and appropriateness to seed
- Make recommendations for adoption of the most appropriate methods for the use by the seed schemes in addition to the existing labelling methods. Availability, robustness, security and cost should be considered

Ongoing discussions:

- Fraud: Challenges and improvements to OECD Seed Schemes for label security, traceability, IT developments
- Addition of new information and security elements to labels
- Improvements to exchange of information between NDAs on seed lots
- Availability of official information on seed lots to consumers



General overview on the OECD Seed Schemes Implementation

- National Designated Authorities implement the programme in member countries:
- Registration of varieties on the national list of varieties eligible for certification under OECD (after DUS and VCU tests);
- Certification of varietal identity and purity:
 - Field inspection
 - Post control tests





Requirements for accessing to the OECD Seed Schemes

- ✓ Seed certification system in accordance with the OECD Seed Schemes
- ✓ Organised and functional certification structure
- ✓ Training of crop inspectors and control plot assessors
- ✓ Records of field inspections
- ✓ Quality control of crop inspectors activities
- ✓ Results from three years of post control testing
- ✓ Use of standard samples in post control plots
- ✓ Seed lot Identification process and records
- ✓ Seed lot sealing/fastening systems for OECD certification



Requirements for accessing to the OECD Seed Schemes Other Areas

- ✓ Conduct DUS and VCU tests
- ✓ National List of registered varieties
- ✓ Maintain stock of definitive variety samples
- ✓ Operate an approved seed sampling (and testing) system

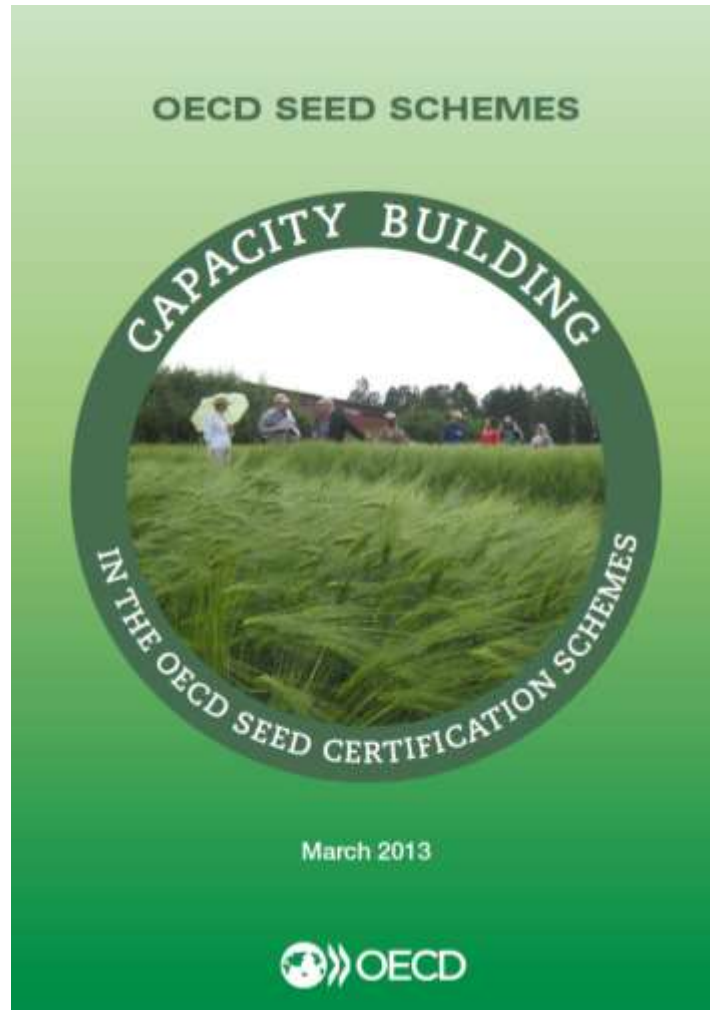


Difficulties frequently experienced with applications

- ✓ Seed certification system in accordance with the OECD Seed Schemes
- ✓ Organised and functional certification structure
- ✓ **Training of field inspectors and control plot assessors**
- ✓ Records of field inspections
- ✓ Quality control of field inspectors activities
- ✓ **Results from three years of post control testing**
- ✓ **Use of standard samples in post control plots**
- ✓ Seed lot Identification process and records
- ✓ Seed lot sealing/fastening systems for OECD certification
- ✓ **Conduct DUS and VCU tests,**
- ✓ **National List of registered varieties.**
- ✓ **Maintain stock of definitive variety samples**
- ✓ Operate an approved seed sampling system



Capacity building in the OECD Seed Schemes



http://www.oecd.org/tad/code/OECD-Seed-Schemes-Capacity-Building-Brochure_EN.pdf



Capacity building in the OECD Seed Schemes

- Help with developing the seed sector and national certification schemes
- Existing member countries can supply advice and advisers to help development of certification systems
- Training programs for national personnel carried out within the country and in other member countries by experts from existing member countries
- Co-operation from stakeholders in the country
- Invitation to attend meetings to gain information and experience the operation of OECD Seed Schemes
- A check list of requirements for membership are available from the OECD Secretariat to help countries assess their own readiness to apply for membership
- WSP can offer help
- * New ways to aid capacity building in member countries and countries seeking membership are currently being developed by the OECD Seed Schemes



Capacity building in the OECD Seed Schemes Other Organisations with Related Activities

UPOV – Varietal distinctness and description

ISTA – Seed sampling and testing methodology

ISF – Seed sector commercial organisation, contacts with other countries, help with assessing national commercial impact.



World Seed Initiatives

The Second World Seed Conference (Rome 2009):-

- Aimed to address farmers' access to quality seed of new varieties to increase crop productivity, food security and economic development. (FAO, ISF, ISTA, OECD and UPOV)

And to examine:

- Role of varieties and seed in addressing challenges facing agriculture
- Development of an enabling environment for seed production to provide food security and economic development

World Seed Partnership (WSP)



- Initiative launched by four international organizations
- To support the development of the seed sector in countries around the world
- To provide guidance on the development of an appropriate and effective seed regulatory framework

➤ [WSP Website : worldseedpartnership.org](http://worldseedpartnership.org)

➤ [WSP Contact: info@worldseedpartnership.org](mailto:info@worldseedpartnership.org)



NEW



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