27 countries participate
in the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme
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The OECD’s Core Values

Objective: Our analyses and recommendations are independent and evidence-based.

Open: We encourage debate and a shared understanding of critical global issues.

Bold: We dare to challenge conventional wisdom starting with our own.

Pioneering: We identify and address emerging and long term challenges.

Ethical: Our credibility is built on trust, integrity and transparency.
Strategic Orientations by the Secretary-General

Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD

“Key Partner and Accession Countries

53. The OECD will continue to integrate Key Partner Countries (Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa) into the work of the OECD. This includes encouraging them to join OECD bodies, adhere to legal instruments and establish mechanisms for jointly identifying mutually beneficial work priorities. The Organisation will build on the strategic relationship developed with China over the past year. This year marks the 20th anniversary of co-operation with China. A joint work programme for 2015-16, includes supporting China in its G20 Presidency, in particular in the fields of inclusive growth, new sources of growth like innovation and skills, trade and investment and the fight against corruption. China has also announced that it will join the Development Centre, which will further strengthen co-operation. A joint work programme with Indonesia provides the basis for deeper engagement with the country in 2015-16 with the support of the newly established OECD Office in Jakarta, which will engage with the whole of Southeast Asia. Brazil has also expressed its willingness to sign a framework agreement with the OECD and to develop a joint work programme. We will also strive to create similar arrangements with India and South Africa.”

Full Report available on the public website www.oecd.org
Meeting of Agricultural Ministers

On 7-8 April 2016, the Directorate for Trade and Agriculture (TAD) hosted a Meeting of Agriculture Ministers at OECD Headquarters. Ministers from OECD countries and partner economies discussed Better Policies to Achieve a Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Global Food System, assessing whether existing government policies are well targeted to address emerging issues and public priorities. The event was a follow-up to the last OECD Agriculture Ministerial meeting held in February of 2010. The objective of the discussions were to highlight the common policy priorities of governments confronting both opportunities and challenges in feeding a growing world population, managing its resources, and dealing with climate change. For more information about the event please go to the link: http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/ministerial/

Why a meeting of ministers?

Ministers of Agriculture from OECD countries and partner economies around the world met at OECD headquarters in Paris on 7-8 April 2016, to discuss Better Policies to Achieve a Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Global Food System. Ministers explored the new policies needed to achieve this widely shared interest, and exchanged on how to ensure that existing policies begin to shift in these directions more quickly.

Agriculture Ministers last met at the OECD in February 2010, in the midst of volatile world food markets. Six years later, and as requested by Ministers, it is again time to assess whether the policies governments are pursuing are well targeted to address emerging issues and public priorities. Population growth and increasing prosperity are driving and changing demand for agricultural products. The sector will need to adapt to climate change, including to the expected increased frequency of extreme events, and will also have to be part of the mitigation effort. There will be increased competition for limited natural resources, in particular water.

Against this background Ministers:

- exchanged ideas about which policies would best accompany the sector in responding to these opportunities and challenges and how to manage the transition to a new policy framework;
- covered the entire food chain, with a strong focus on the knowledge and innovation systems needed to achieve sustainable productivity growth;
- discussed how to strengthen global collaboration to that end, including through trade, science and technology, and education and advisory services;
- reflected on how the food system can contribute to the overall well-being of their economies, and on how overall policy settings can be more conducive to achieving sustainable productivity growth in the global food system.

This meeting of Agriculture Ministers comes in the wake of several other important high-level events: the G20 Agriculture Ministerial under the Turkish Presidency of the G20 in May 2015, the UN Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015, the COP21 in November-December 2015, the WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2015, and Germany’s Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in January 2016.
Agriculture and Climate Change: Towards Sustainable, Productive and Climate-Friendly Agricultural Systems

Highlights

- The uncertain impacts of climate change will further increase the production risks faced by the agricultural sector.
- Agriculture also contributes a significant share of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change – 17% directly through agricultural activities and an additional 7-14% through land use changes. It is therefore part of the problem – and potentially an important part of the solution.
- To support the objectives of sustainable, climate-friendly and productive agriculture, reforms are needed at the international, national and sector levels to correct misaligned incentives and redirect policy efforts to specific investments in pursuit of these explicit objectives.

What’s the issue?

Climate change has created challenges for the agricultural sector – and will continue to do so. Climate change-induced increases in temperatures, rainfall variation and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are adding to pressures on global agricultural and food systems.

Climate change is expected to negatively affect both crop and livestock production systems in most regions, although some countries may actually benefit from the changing conditions. The changing climate is also adding to resource problems, such as water scarcity, pollution and soil degradation.

Agriculture contributes a significant share of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are causing climate change – 17% directly through agricultural activities and an additional 7-14% through changes in land use. It is therefore both part of the problem and potentially an important part of the solution.

The main direct agricultural GHG emissions are nitrous oxide emissions from soils, fertilisers, manure and urine from grazing animals; and methane production by ruminant animals and from paddy rice cultivation. Both of these gases have a significantly higher global warming potential than carbon dioxide.

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON YIELDS HAMPER YIELD GROWTH IN MOST PRODUCING REGIONS (RED SHADING), HOWEVER, YIELD GROWTH IN SOME REGIONS MAY ACTUALLY INCREASE (BLUE SHADING)

Example of maize

Note: Projected changes in yields for maize in 2050 under climate change as compared with potential 2050 yields if there had been no change in climate after 2005. This map is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area. Source: Adapted from OECD/IFPRI (2014), Modelling Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture, OECD Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Papers, No. 70. http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5jwqyupv7c-en.
Self-initiated efforts by farmers to adapt to climate change while decreasing the GHG footprint of agriculture are unlikely to be sufficient, given uncertainties surrounding the timing and nature of climate change. The share of agriculture in global emissions, the need for further global mitigation efforts, and continued projected agricultural emissions growth in many countries all combine to underline the necessity of stronger, more effective policies.

What should policymakers do?

Policy reforms are needed within and beyond the agricultural sector to strengthen farmer incentives to achieve sustainable productivity growth without sacrificing climate change mitigation and adaptation.

At international level:
- Implement the Paris Agreement reached at the 2015 United Nations climate change conference - COP21. Both the text and the country-level strategies for emissions reduction, which are outlined in the form of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), recognise the threat which climate change poses to sustainable food production, and offer valuable opportunities for agriculture and the food chain to be an active part of the solution to climate change.

At national level:
- Wider social, economic and environmental policy settings – such as trade, investment, infrastructure, and education policies – should consistently support sustainable productivity growth, in combination with adaptation and mitigation efforts. Inconsistent or contradictory signals, such as import restrictions that protect water-intensive crops, can exacerbate poor choices by farmers. Improving overall policy coherence will be more effective than the marginal fine-tuning of existing agricultural policies.

At sector level:
- There is a need to reform misaligned and distortive agricultural policies that encourage unsustainable intensification and the overuse of natural resources and potentially damaging inputs. More than half of agricultural support across the OECD area continues to be potentially damaging to the environment, while measures targeting sustainable productivity or climate change goals remain marginal. Oversubsidised insurance, market price support and input subsidies should be reduced with a view to their eventual elimination.
- Further investment in research and development (R&D) is needed to spur innovation that can improve sustainable productivity growth. Governments may further facilitate private sector innovation by, for example, addressing investment barriers that impede R&D, ensuring that private knowledge is disseminated, and encouraging – where appropriate – public-private partnerships for R&D that have public goods outcomes.
- Policies that aim to address climate change should emphasise outcome-based farmer incentives and knowledge transfer systems that enhance farmer capacity to achieve sustainable productivity growth through mitigating and adaptive practices.
- Where possible, financial incentives should target sustainability performance as opposed to practices. Untargeted incentives can encourage farmers to adopt measures that have high upfront costs, or that are socially beneficial but costly at private level.
- Governments should ensure the provision and dissemination of relevant and up-to-date information on resource use efficiency and risk management to help farmers and other private agents make informed investments in adaptation and mitigation measures. Strengthening access to knowledge and risk management mechanisms is key to increasing adoption of sustainable and productive practices. It is often advisable to streamline adaptation and mitigation advisory actions into existing institutions and to coordinate such actions with the private sector.

Further reading

This document is based on the evidence and analysis found in a number of OECD reports and papers published in recent years:

- Mitigating Droughts and Floods in Agriculture: Policy Lessons and Approaches
- Drying Wells, Rising Stakes: Towards Sustainable Agricultural Groundwater Use
- Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change
- Compendium of Agri-environmental Indicators
- Modelling Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture
- Farmer Behaviour, Agricultural Management and Climate Change
- Policy Measures Addressing Agri-environmental Issues

A complete list of relevant books and papers can be found at http://oecd.taking-stock or on the Agriculture Ministerial website at www.oecd.org/agriculture/ministerial.
WHAT IS THE G20

The G20 is a forum of 19 countries plus the European Union, representing both developed and emerging economies whose size or strategic importance gives them a particularly crucial role in the global economy. Its role is to co-ordinate policies at the international level and to make globalisation a smoother, more harmonious and sustainable process.

The countries are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, the European Union, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Following the largest financial, economic and social crisis in decades, the world’s twenty most influential economies decided to meet at the Leaders’ level for the first time in November 2008 in Washington D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to cope with the most current challenges of the escalating economic and financial crisis. Following that first meeting, the G20 was officially designated as the premier forum for economic co-operation at the Pittsburgh Summit in September 2009.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Since they first met in 2008, the G20 Leaders have taken decisive action to prevent future financial crises, while securing sustainable and balanced global growth and reforming the architecture of global economic governance. The decisions made by the G20 have been key to the stability of the global economy at the height of the crisis and to avoiding an outright collapse of the international financial system. For instance, G20 leaders endorsed in 2009 the largest internationally-coordinated stimulus package in history. They also committed to keeping markets open and launched a major overhaul of the international financial and prudential regulation framework, as well as of the international tax architecture.

By committing every year to an action plan of growth and jobs and monitoring its implementation, the G20 shows continuous engagement towards creating high quality jobs and opportunities for all. Specifically at the Brisbane Summit in November 2014, the G20 committed to lift global growth by 2% by 2018 (“2 in 5”) over a baseline scenario defined in the second half of 2013. In Antalya in November 2015, leaders endorsed ambitious G20 Country Investment Strategies to lift the G20 investment to GDP ratio. They also put forth a G20 youth employment target to reduce the share of young people who are most at risk of being permanently left behind in the labour market by 15% by 2025 in G20 countries, as well as a G20 Skills Strategy to counter inequality and grapple with low productivity growth in many G20 countries.

With the active support of the OECD, the G20 has also achieved concrete progress in domains such as tax transparency and the fight against tax evasion, thanks to the peer review of tax legislation carried out in the Global Forum (in relation to exchange of tax information on request), the adoption of a new global standard for the Automatic Exchange of Information to be implemented by 2017-18, and the endorsement of the 15 Actions identified in the G20/OECD BEPS Action Plan to combat tax avoidance.

The G20 has also achieved very concrete progress in the areas of financial regulation, anticorruption and food security – with the design of mechanisms to stem food price volatility (AMIS). Through its efforts to address the global economic challenges, the G20 has proved to be an influential international forum where global economic heavyweights from both the developed and the emerging world are sitting together on an equal footing.
THE OECD IS AN ACTIVE PARTNER OF THE G20

Since the Pittsburgh Summit, the OECD has been an active partner of the G20 in its efforts to strengthen the global economy, accelerate recovery from the crisis and promote a more harmonious rules-based globalisation process. Upon a call by G20 Leaders, the Organisation supported the G20 during the crisis and continues to provide policy expertise and analysis to address the complex challenges of the post-crisis era and a fragile recovery.

The Organisation’s expertise continues to be increasingly recognised and relied upon for identifying the world’s most pressing policy challenges and finding ways to address them. The OECD works closely with the G20, carrying out tasks mandated by the members and in close co-operation with the Presidencies of the G20, in framing, developing and carrying out their priorities. By working with the different Presidencies, the OECD has broadened its support and become a recognised partner of the Group. This has also been the opportunity for the Organisation to build a closer relationship with non-member economies, allowing it to learn further about their policy expectations and integrate their views in a more systematic way, contributing to reaffirming the OECD’s role as a global standard-setter, and supporting its strive for relevance.

HIGH LEVEL PARTICIPATION

Given its multidisciplinary character, the OECD participates both at the highest level (Sherpa, Finance Deputy, Ministers and Leaders) as well at the technical level (Working Groups) by contributing to virtually all of the Group’s strands of work and most G20 working groups with data, analytical reports, policy recommendations and standards. Our contributions to the Group’s work are frequently carried out in collaboration with other international organisations.

This relationship has shown to be mutually beneficial. The G20 process helps international organisations to co-ordinate their work, gives it leverage, and when necessary, injects the political momentum to break deadlocks.

http://www.oecd.org/g20/about.htm
OECD In Brief

OECD Headquarters
Photographer: Luc Boegly

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an inter-governmental organisation founded in 1961, provides a multilateral forum to discuss, develop and reform economic and social policies. Today it has 35 member countries. The OECD’s mission is to promote policies for sustainable economic growth and employment, a rising standard of living, and trade liberalisation. It is at the forefront of efforts to help governments understand and respond to new developments and concerns so that economic and social developments are not achieved at the expense of environmental degradation.

The OECD brings together its Member countries to discuss and develop domestic and international policies. It analyses issues, identifies good policy practices and recommends actions in a unique forum in which countries can compare their experiences, seek answers to common problems, and work to co-ordinate policies. It shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 100 countries worldwide and engages in dialogue with business, labour, and civil society organisations on topics of mutual interest. The OECD is the largest and most reliable source of comparable statistical data and information on economic, environmental and social developments in its Member countries.

The OECD’s work is overseen by several bodies. At the highest level is the OECD Council, made up of Ambassadors from all Member countries. The Council’s main role is to review and approve the OECD budget and Programme of Work. The specific policy and technical work is directed by specialist Committees, supported by Working Parties and ad hoc meetings, which bring together technical expertise from Member countries. The daily work of the OECD is coordinated and supported by its Secretariat in Paris, with 2 880 staff and a budget of over € 353 million.

OECD member countries in 2016: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States. The European Commission also participates in the work of the Organisation.
The **Directorate** for **Trade and Agriculture (TAD)** is the part of the OECD Secretariat that undertakes the work on behalf of the Trade, Agriculture and Fisheries Committees. The key objective of OECD work on trade is to support a strong, rules-based multilateral trading system that will maintain the momentum for further trade liberalisation, while contributing to rising standards of living and sustainable development. OECD also analyses food, agriculture and fisheries issues and provides advice to governments on practical and innovative options for policy reform and trade liberalisation, as well as facilitating the negotiation of international rules on official export credits. An important part of the mandate of the OECD is to provide analytical support to agricultural trade liberalisation, as well as estimating the effects of further trade liberalisation. Working closely with Member countries, the Directorate collects information and data, and develops modelling capacity to analyse the policy issues identified by the Committees. The **Committee for Agriculture** The Committee for Trade, and the **Committee for Fisheries** are responsible for implementing the agriculture, trade and fisheries biennial programme of work, once it has been approved by the OECD Council.

The **Directorate** is structured around seven divisions that work together to deliver the work programme: Agro-food Trade and Markets, Development Division, Fisheries Policies, Agricultural Policies and Environment, Policies and Trade in Agriculture, Trade Policy Linkages and Services and Export Credits. Two other units are attached to the Directorate: **Agricultural Codes and Schemes**, and the **Co-operative Research Programme**. The staff of the Directorate is drawn from Member countries. In 2015 there were 120 full-time staff, and increasingly, the Directorate also welcomes staff on short-term appointments, consultants and trainees.
Jonathan Brooks,

Head of the Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD)

The Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD) undertakes a range of quantitative and qualitative analysis of the links between policies and markets within the agro-food sector. A key output is the annual OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook publication, which is prepared jointly with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and provides ten-year projections for agricultural markets. The Agricultural Codes and Schemes Unit is located within the Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division.

The OECD Codes and Schemes increases market transparency by helping to reduce technical barriers to trade, enhances market openness and access through the simplification of procedures, and helps to strengthen market confidence by ensuring product quality.
Agricultural Codes and Schemes

The OECD Agricultural Codes and Schemes facilitate international trade through the simplification and implementation of international standards.

For Seeds and Forests, the Schemes encourage the production and use of seeds or plants of consistently high quality for which trueness to name or source is guaranteed.

For Tractors, the Codes enable an importing country to accept, with confidence, the results of safety and performance tests carried out in another country, and in the case of Fruit and Vegetables, the Scheme promotes the use of uniform classification and quality control procedures.

The Codes & Schemes were created in the late 1950s/early 1960s and the number of participating countries has been constantly rising. The Codes and Schemes are open to any OECD or non-OECD country that is a member of the United Nations, or of the World Trade Organisation. In addition to the 34 OECD countries, which are all members of at least one of the Codes & Schemes, participation currently encompasses 29 non-OECD Economies including some of the major players in world trade (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Argentina, Ukraine). There is also close co-operation with the UN family especially the FAO, UNECE, UNESCAP and UNIDO as well as manufacturer non-governmental organisations and manufacturer and farmer organisations.
The overarching objectives of the Codes & Schemes are to simplify existing international trade procedures, increase transparency, reduce technical barriers to trade, contribute to international harmonisation of standards, environmental protection, and to increase market confidence through enforcement of quality control and inspection procedures, and facilitate the traceability of the traded products.

The objectives are achieved through ongoing dialogue and debate with the designated authorities of member Countries, observers and other stakeholders, including farmers, industry and trade. This comprehensive and inclusive process ensures that the standards are reliable, efficient and fit for purpose.

International product certification differs from national certification as domestic regulatory systems may vary to a large extent. A voluntary international system is a tool that countries can use for specific products traded. The benefits from product certification and guarantees are shared among all stakeholders.

It is important to note that all decisions to amend/update the rules are taken by full consensus of all member countries. The Rules governing the Codes and Schemes are regularly updated to reflect changes in trade, agriculture, environment and health and safety standards in member countries.

The following are the prerequisites for joining the Codes & Schemes:

- An official request to join is sent to the OECD Secretary-General, accompanied by the relevant documentation.

- This is followed by an evaluation process, usually involving a short mission to the applicant country.

- The evaluation report is circulated to the authorities of the participating countries and discussed at the OECD Annual Meeting.

- The final step is an internal OECD process resulting in a Council Decision. The whole procedure takes about one year.
Global Relations

In an increasingly integrated world economy, the prosperity of OECD member countries depends not only on the development of their own economies but also on global economic development. It is therefore essential that the Organisation promotes, on a global scale, those principles, values and policies that lead to sound, sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

Mandate

Global reach has been an integral part of the OECD from its beginning in 1961. Its global nature was already expressed in the original OECD Convention. The Convention’s Article 1 states that members “should contribute to sound economic expansion in member as well as non-member countries in the process of economic development.” To do so, Article 12 stipulates that the Organisation may:

- Address communications to non-member states or organisations;
- Establish and maintain relations with non-member states or organisations;
- Invite non-member governments or organisations to participate in activities of the Organisation.

The "Revised Council Resolution on a New Governance Structure for the Organisation" reaffirms the Organisation’s engagement with non-members, in particular large emerging economies, to share best practices and to promote economic development. The OECD offers members and non-members a platform for discussion, and the exchange of experiences and insights.

Strategic Framework

Recognising that the OECD's relationships with non-member economies are even more fundamental in today's interdependent world than they were when the Organisation was founded, the OECD in 2005 adopted a strategic framework to guide its global relations. This framework allows for flexibility in individual areas of work while encouraging a coherent overall OECD approach to global relations. OECD's co-operative activities with non-members aim to support the following strategic framework:

Contribute to the harmonious functioning of the global economy

- By promoting worldwide policy coherence;
- By engaging major global actors as well as significant actors in specific policy fields outside of OECD membership in the work of the OECD;
- By reducing risks of tensions and preventing conflicts through comparative research and policy dialogue;
**Promote shared prosperity**

- By facilitating the integration of economies outside of OECD membership in the global economy;
- By capitalising on the comparative advantages of the OECD;
- By enhancing the economic prospects and standards of living of economies outside of OECD membership, taking into account of their desire and capacity to co-operate/benefit from relevant policy dialogue and related activities;

**Encourage shared knowledge for better public policy**

- By drawing from experiences outside of OECD membership to anticipate significant new issues relevant to the OECD mission;
- By capturing and disseminating good practices that are relevant to the mission of the OECD beyond the OECD membership.

https://www.oecd.org/globalrelations/
The OECD's Relations with its Key Partners

The 2012 Ministerial Council Meeting marked the fifth anniversary of the launching of Enhanced Engagement, aimed at advancing the OECD’s relationship with five Key Partners, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa.

Key partners contribute to the OECD's work in a sustained and comprehensive manner. A central element of the programme is the promotion of direct and active participation of these countries in the work of substantive bodies of the Organisation. Each country participates in OECD work through a programme containing a mix of several elements, notably:

- participation in OECD committees,
- regular economic surveys,
- adherence to OECD instruments
- integration into OECD statistical reporting and information systems,
- sector-specific peer reviews.

The actual mix and the sequencing of the elements is determined by mutual interest.

Date of accession of some of the key partners to the OECD Codes and Schemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>OECD Seed Schemes</th>
<th>OECD Tractor Codes</th>
<th>OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td></td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1961</td>
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 OECD Active with…
(brochures available on the public website www.oecd.org)

“…The OECD is proud to have Brazil as a key Partner. Brazil participates actively in a number of key OECD Committees, as well as in various areas of work…”

“… The OECD takes pride in its co-operation with China. Today, with China’s increasing importance as a dynamic engine for the world economy, this partnership is more relevant than ever…”

“… The OECD is proud to have India as a key partner and is working closely with the Indian Authorities to advance socioeconomic development and well-being…”

“… Since the turn of the century, the Latin America and Caribbean region was able to combine robust economic growth and social progress. Today, Chile and Mexico are members of the OECD…”

“… OECD’s co-operation with sub-Saharan Africa has strengthened significantly over the years in response to increasing demand from African governements for OECD expertise and support…”

“… The creation of an integrated ASEAN economic community beginning in 2015 will generate even more opportunities for growth and employment across the region…”
About the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme

The OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme was launched in 2008 to support Eurasian economies in **developing more vibrant and competitive markets**. The programme uses OECD instruments and tools in order to assess where and how to enhance competitiveness of countries, sectors and regions to generate sustainable growth. It includes two regions: **Central Asia** (Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and **Eastern Europe and South Caucasus** (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

**A three-step approach**

This approach comprises both a regional dimension, which entails **peer dialogue and capacity building**, and a country-specific aspect supporting the implementation of a number of prioritised reforms. Sectoral analyses cover the formulation of targeted policies and strategies requested at the industry level.

Within the framework of the programme, public authorities, the private sector and civil society in these countries have been engaged in a dialogue and collaborative process to support policy actions and identify the key barriers to sectoral competitiveness. The participation of all the stakeholders in the reform process, including foreign investors, is considered to be crucial for guaranteeing the effectiveness and transparency of the recommended policies.

**Date of accession to the OECD Seed Schemes of some of the countries from Central Asia And Eastern Europe and South Caucasus**

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<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
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<td>Republic of Moldova</td>
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<td>Ukraine</td>
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Website: [www.oecd.org/globalrelations/eurasia.htm](http://www.oecd.org/globalrelations/eurasia.htm)
27 Countries

Participate in the

OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme

in 2016
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<th>Countries</th>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Seeds</th>
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Annual Meeting
of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme
4-5 October 2016

The OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme aims to encourage the Certification of Forest Reproductive Material Moving in International Trade.

Member Countries

Austria  Belgium  Burkina Faso  Canada
Croatia  Denmark  Finland  France
Germany  Hungary  Ireland  Italy
Kenya  Madagascar  Netherlands  Norway
Portugal  Romania  Rwanda  Serbia
Slovakia  Spain  Sweden  Switzerland
Turkey  Uganda  United States

Website: http://www.oecd.org/tad/forest To contact us: csaba.gaspar@oecd.org
# OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme

## Objectives of the OECD Scheme for Forest Reproductive Material

The OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme is a certification system to facilitate international trade in forest seeds and plants. The Scheme aims to encourage the production and use of forest reproductive materials that have been collected, processed, raised, labelled and distributed in a manner that ensures their trueness to name. The Scheme reflects the wish for governments to have these materials correctly identified, with a view to minimising uncertainty in achieving successful afforestation.

## Participating Countries

Currently, 27 countries participate in the Scheme, including several tropical countries that are developing their seed trade for reforestation.

## How does the Scheme work?

Different OECD labels are used according to the four categories for forest reproductive materials. The labelled product is then recognised internationally as a guarantee of quality and as a certificate of origin. Forest seed sources and stands are approved by participating countries as the basic material for harvesting the reproductive material, i.e., seeds; regions of provenance are delineated and carefully documented. A total of 424 species of trees are currently eligible for certification under the Scheme.

## Latest developments

Many countries, especially from the tropical part of Africa, South America and Asia have expressed interest in the Scheme, when developing their own national certification system for forest seeds & plants. Some of them have already joined. The increasing number of Members from tropical regions brings new challenges to the Scheme. The Rules are reviewed and are under revision to better adapt the Scheme to conditions in these countries, like using multifunctional trees for national afforestation and reforestation programmes.

Agroforestry is becoming a more and more important part of the forest sector. The Scheme intention is to provide an appropriate system which enables the certification of these reproductive materials. The increasing importance of advanced seeds and plants also means new challenges to the Scheme such as ensuring proper certification rules and labelling taking into account the breeder's rights and legal rights to access to these reproductive materials.

Climate change may have an effect on national forestation and reforestation policies. The Scheme's aim is to ensure reproductive materials which are adapted to the changing environmental conditions. Therefore, the Scheme is reviewing the use of regions of provenances taking into account the newest scientific results.

## Outlook

There is growing awareness of the potential benefits of the OECD Scheme in the context of harmonising regulations and facilitating international trade in forest reproductive materials, including in tropical areas.

For more information see: [www.oecd.org/tad/forest](http://www.oecd.org/tad/forest)
Celebration of the 20th anniversary of Hungary’s accession to the OECD

7 April 2016 - OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría with Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary at OECD Headquarters, Paris.

Hungary was admitted in 1989 to the Scheme for the certification of Forest Reproductive Material

Technical Working Group Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme held in Sopron, Hungary in April 2016
Field Trip held in Sopron, Hungary in April 2016

Plant stocks of poplar stool bed
(Plants frost damaged 25-27 April 2016)

Clonal collection
of hybrid poplars registered
In Hungary

Visit to stool beds (super elite)
The 2015 version of the Rules and Regulations brochure contains the Rules of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. It is updated on a regular basis incorporating the latest changes to the Rules.

The OECD Guidelines on the Production of Forest Reproductive Materials primarily focus on production procedures of forest reproductive materials for moderate climate zones. However, they will be revised at a later stage to include procedures that are typical to tropical countries. The application of these Guidelines is not obligatory but provide guidance on the implementation of procedures. They are particularly useful for new Member countries, or countries in the process of developing a national certification system for forest reproductive materials. These Guidelines were approved at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme.
Farmers will undertake many adaptation actions to meet changing climate conditions and will often do so without any government intervention. However, when such actions provide both private and public benefits, the public sector may play a role in how these are developed. This report aims to establish a framework to help identify specific actions that governments could take in this respect and that could avoid sending signals leading to non-adaptation or maladaptation.

This fact-filled statistical book periodically presents key environmental indicators endorsed by OECD Environment Ministers and major environmental indicators from the OECD Core Set. These indicators reflect environmental progress made since the early 1990s and thus contribute to measuring environmental performance. Organised by issues such as climate change, air pollution, biodiversity, waste and water resources, they provide essential information for all those interested in the environment and in sustainable development. Extensive use of graphics makes country comparisons quite compelling.
COP21 - RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS
Implications for agriculture and forest

1- COP 21, an important milestone in climate policy
Agriculture and forest in the agreement

Agriculture in the Paris agreement
- Préambule: recognizes the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems;
- Art. 2 (Purpose): the agreement aims to strengthen the global response to climate change (...) in a manner that does not threaten food production

Carbon sinks and reservoirs (forest and agriculture) in the Paris agreement
- Art. 5.1: Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases
- Art. 4.13: In accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals, Parties are expected to follow some general principles and additional guidance (cf. dedicated work program in para 31 of the Decision)

Forests in the Paris agreement
- Art. 5.2 encourages Parties to implement and finance REDD+ and alternative approaches (joint mitigation and adaptation, and non-carbon benefits).
- Para 55 of the Decision recalls the importance of adequate financial resources for actions mentioned in Art. 5.2
For the signature of the COP21 Paris Agreement, the OECD announced that it would sponsor the plantation of one tree per staff in a forest of the Paris area. By doing so, the OECD joins the global campaign of planting 8 billion trees by 2020, one for each person on Earth. At least 3,250 trees will be sponsored thanks to funds from the Carbon Pricing Initiative in 2016.

In May, a small group from the Secretariat planted some 50 walnut trees on one of the plots of the Bréval forest (les Yvelines), as a ‘test run’ of a larger upcoming tree-planting event. The feedback on this exercise was very good, and staff concerned considered they – and the OECD – were contributing directly to improving the environment.

This project in Bréval contributes to restoring biodiversity while storing atmospheric dioxide!

**Did you know?**

On average, each tree from this particular project shall store 150kg of CO\(_2\) over 30 years. Through this project, the OECD is contributing to the storage of almost 500 tons of CO\(_2\) over 30 years.
OECD Forest Meetings to be held at OECD and abroad in 2016

OECD Forest Scheme

26-27 April 2016
Sopron, Hungary
Technical Working Group Meeting

4-5 October 2016
Annual Meeting

Some pictures of OECD
Photographer: Luc Boegly
Useful information

The following OECD web pages can be consulted for additional information (latest publications, news and events, list of participating countries).

**Agriculture (general):**
www.oecd.org/tad

OECD Directorate for Trade and Agriculture
2, rue André – Pascal
75775 Paris, Cedex 16
France

**Codes and Schemes (general):**
www.oecd.org/tad/code

**Seeds:**
www.oecd.org/tad/seed

**Contact:**

Csaba Gaspar, Programme Manager
E-mail: csaba.gaspar@oecd.org
Miscellaneous information
This edition of the Agricultural Outlook – the twenty-second OECD edition and the twelfth prepared jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – provides projections to 2025 for major agricultural commodities, biofuels and fish. The 2016 report provides a special focus on prospects and challenges for agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The market projections not only cover OECD member countries (European Union as a region) but also FAO member countries, notably Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, People's Republic of China and South Africa.
OECDPublishing

OECD Publishing is one of the world’s largest publishers of books in the fields of economics and public affairs. It publishes more than 250 new books, 40 updated statistical databases, and thousands of new statistical tables, working papers, and journal articles each year. What's New @ OECD is OECD's monthly e-newsletter highlighting key new books, reports, and statistics from various OECD sources. To sign up to receive it each month, go to:

www.oecd.org/about/publishing/oecddirect.htm.

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http://www.oecd.org/about/publishing/
Two and three star Hotels close to OECD Headquarters – Paris 16th

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<td>48, rue de Passy, 75016 Paris</td>
<td>+33 1 42 88 47 55</td>
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Getting to the OECD Headquarters

Address: 2, rue André-Pascal, 75016 Paris

The Château de la Muette is the centre of the OECD Headquarters. This historic building is adjacent to the OECD Conference Centre. Please consult the links provided on the OECD Conference Centre website for instructions on how to get here and formalities to obtain a badge: [www.oecd.org/conferencecentre](http://www.oecd.org/conferencecentre)

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For more information concerning public transport in the Paris region, please consult the RATP website, [http://www.ratp.fr/](http://www.ratp.fr/)

Air France coaches are at your service with 5 regular bus lines taking you to and from the airports. Please see their website for more information, [http://videocdn.airfrance.com/cars-airfrance/](http://videocdn.airfrance.com/cars-airfrance/)

Map of the area around OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André Pascal, 75116 Paris
OECD Agricultural Codes and Schemes

2016

27 countries participate in the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme

www.oecd.org/tad/code