The OECD Codes and Schemes on the African Continent

Information Brochure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OECD Seed Schemes</th>
<th>OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme</th>
<th>OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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May 2019
The OECD Codes and Schemes facilitate international trade through the simplification of procedures in the field of Seeds, Fruit and Vegetables, Forest Reproductive Material and Tractors.

These programmes contribute to reducing technical barriers to trade that particularly affect trade between developing and developed countries.

By joining programmes such as the OECD Codes and Schemes, emerging and developing countries can reap the benefits of globalization and penetrate global markets. They will be able to export to foreign markets, at a regional level but also with partners on other continents.

Trade has been recognized as a very efficient driver of growth. Africa is host to 10 % of the world population but the continent contributes, so far, to less than 2% of global trade.

Being members of the OECD Codes and Schemes is a definite advantage to promote growth thanks to an increased trade in some key agricultural sectors.

13 countries on the African continent actively participate in the OECD Codes and Schemes. The first African country that joined the Schemes was South Africa in 1961, by becoming a member of the Seeds Scheme. It later joined the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme in 1994 and hosted the first official meeting on the continent, the 8th Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services in Cape Town in March 1997. A year later, in April 1998, the Annual Seeds Meeting took place in Pretoria. More recently, in January 2016 the Technical Working Group Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes was hosted in Cape Town by SANSOR (South African National Seed Organization).

**Date of accession to the Schemes**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Seeds</th>
<th>Fruit and Vegetables</th>
<th>Forest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1998</td>
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<td>Morocco</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>2015</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1992</td>
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</table>
Among the 61 Member countries, **10 from Africa currently participate in the OECD Seed Schemes.**

Of the 26 countries that are **Members of the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme, 3 are on the African continent.** There are 27 countries participating in the **OECD Forest Scheme**, including several tropical countries (**5 from Africa**) that are developing their forest seed trade for reforestation.

- The **OECD Seed Schemes provide an international framework for the certification of agricultural seed moving in international trade.** The Schemes were established in 1958, driven by a combination of factors including a fast-growing seed trade, regulatory harmonisation in Europe, the development of off-season production, the seed breeding and production potential of large exporting countries in America and Europe, and the support of private industry.

**There are 8 agricultural Seed Schemes. They aim to encourage the use of “quality-guaranteed” seed in participating countries.** The Schemes authorise the use of labels and certificates for seed produced and processed for international trade according to agreed principles ensuring varietal identity and purity.

As National Designated Authority of **South Africa** for the OECD Seed Schemes, the Vice Chair of the Bureau of the OECD Seed Schemes has extensive knowledge of African countries. His experience and expertise on the OECD Seed Schemes helps ensures that African countries receive the correct information on the Schemes.

**Senegal** was officially admitted to the Maize and Sorghum Seed Scheme and to the Cereal Seed Scheme in 2015. A monitoring mission took place in 2017 in order to coincide with the AFSTA Congress taking place in **Senegal** at the same time. The Annual Meeting approved the recommendation from the mission team that **Senegal** continues to be a member of the Seed Schemes.

After the evaluation mission held early 2016, **Tanzania** was admitted to the OECD Seed Schemes for Cereals, and Maize & Sorghum Seed in June 2016.
In 2016 Zambia applied for membership in the Schemes. The 2017 Annual Meeting approved the application from Zambia for admission to the Maize Seed Scheme and the Sorghum Seed Scheme.

Implementation of the OECD Seed Schemes in participating countries - Zimbabwe

During the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Seed Schemes, the delegate from Zimbabwe provided an overview of the national implementation of the OECD seed varietal certification system and the national seed sector.

During the presentation, the delegate of Zimbabwe explained that the seed sector is vibrant in the country with 39 registered seed companies. The principle crops are maize, soybean, cowpea, wheat, potato and cotton. Certified maize seed production is by far the most important for Zimbabwe. The presentation detailed the different steps in the process of certified seed production.

The Secretariat and delegates welcomed the positive developments in Zimbabwe.

Nigeria and the OECD Seed Schemes

During the Technical Working Group Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes held in Argentina in Jan.-Feb. 2019, Nigeria provided a brief introduction to its seed sector and its capacity building needs. It has a population of 200 million with 70% employment in the agricultural sector. There is a nascent seed sector with many budding entrepreneurs. There has been a reliance on oil in the past but the government is looking to diversify the economy and is committed to developing the seed sector. It realises that to compete on the global market it needs to be a member of the OECD seed schemes. Nigeria invited Delegates to attend the Seed Connect conference in April 2019.

Capacity Building

During the 2018 Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed schemes, an OECD expert, presented a draft training module on field inspection for approval. The Annual Meeting approved the training module on field inspection. Delegates also agreed to start working on two modules: seed biology and traceability & information management.
South Africa reported on capacity building activities in Africa at the OECD Technical Working Group Meeting held in Argentina in Jan.-Feb. 2019. During last year’s annual meeting, OECD was approached by the seed industry to help with capacity building. Activities began in Zambia and included a workshop in November 2018. Training took place over two weeks and included both theoretical and practical skills (sampling, post control tests etc). There was a focus on priority species, such as maize and sorghum.

**African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA)**

AFSTA is a not-for-profit membership association formed in 2000 to champion interests of private seed companies in Africa. It is registered in Kenya as an International Organization with an office for West Africa in Dakar, Senegal. Currently, the Association has about 100 members comprising of seed companies and National Seed Trade Associations, among others.

**World Seed Partnership**

The World Seed Partnership (WSP) is an initiative taken by four international organizations to support the development of the seed sector in countries around the world:

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
- International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV),
- International Seed Testing Association (ISTA),
- International Seed Federation (ISF).

The World Farmer’s Organisation (WFO) is working closely now with the World Seed Partnership as advisory partner.

The mission of the World Seed Partnership is to enhance cooperation between the partner organizations and to provide a focal point for information on the role of internationally harmonized seed systems in supporting sustainable agriculture.

In April 2019, Mr. Gaspar, Programme Manager for the OECD Seed Schemes, represented the OECD Secretariat and the World Seed Partnership during the 2nd Edition of SeedConnect Africa Conference & Exhibition held in Abuja, Nigeria.

To find out more about how the partnership can help you, please consult the WSP website (www.worldseedpartnership.org) or send your enquiry to: info@worldseedpartnership.org

- The main objectives of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme is to facilitate international trade through the harmonization and interpretation of marketing standards.

Kenya is a member of the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme since 2009 and is currently the Chair of the Bureau. Kenya is also developing the OECD Explanatory Brochure on Passion Fruit, based on the CODEX standard. As Chair of the Bureau, Kenya is helping build new bridges of collaboration between Africa and OECD.
Peer Review of Kenya

The Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries agreed to volunteer for a Peer Review of their Fruit and Vegetables quality inspection system. This peer-review comes very timely, 10 years after Kenya’s accession to the Scheme.

The Peer-Review team consisted of one OECD staff and one expert from Finland who met with representatives of the main operating public bodies and of two big traders’ federations. The Peer Review team made a series of field visits that included all production steps from field to the exit point, for avocado, broccolis, fresh herbs, French beans, other beans and peppers.

A further objective of the Scheme is to facilitate mutual recognition of inspections by participating countries. The Fruit and Vegetables Scheme is well known for its explanatory brochures on standards, but is also involved in defining inspection procedures that are recognized in many countries, and in sponsoring training courses. South Africa hosted the 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services in Cape Town in 1997 and Morocco hosted the 12th Meeting in Agadir in December 2006.

Morocco was represented at the 2018 Plenary Meeting of the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme.

Namibia was invited as Observer in the OECD 2018 Plenary Meeting of the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. The country updated delegates on the status of their national quality inspection system for fruit and vegetables and informed delegates of their interest in joining the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme.
The Europe-Africa Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) is a civil society organisation (CSO) established in 1973 whose main purpose is to support the development of a sustainable and competitive agriculture and agribusiness.

The COLEACP objective as an association is to contribute to poverty alleviation and food and nutrition security through the development of sustainable agricultural value chains throughout ACP (African Caribbean and Pacific) Countries.

COLEACP is an important player for sustaining the ACP horticultural industries and more and more systematically associated to the reflection on this thematic. Since 40 ans, the association works on the strengthening of the inclusive value chains and the public-private partnerships. The COLEACP position is based on the convergence of the objectives of the association and those of the development of the ACP countries (agriculture modernization, imperative of sustainability and resilience, food security), important objectives of EU public policies (food safety) and markets evolution under the pressure of the European and ACP consumers (fair trade, food quality, organic agriculture).

**FFM : Strengthening competitiveness and sustainability of the ACP horticultural sector**

The specific objective is to allow smallholder farmers, producer groups, farmer organisations, and small and medium enterprises, to access international and domestic fruit and vegetable markets by complying with the SPS standards and market requirements, in a sustainable framework.

COLEACP participates regularly in the Plenary Meetings of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme, and provided an update on its ongoing activities at the 2018 Plenary Meeting of the Scheme.
Fruit and Vegetable Standards Brochures

These brochures facilitate the consistent interpretation of the international standards for fruit and vegetables by means of photos and explanatory notes. They are intended as tools for Inspection Authorities and professional bodies responsible for the application of standards or interested in trade in these products.

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

Kenya was admitted to the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme in 2014. The National Designated Authority of Kenya was appointed Chair of the Bureau in 2017.

Biodiversity conservation and climate change policies in Madagascar

During the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme the delegate from Madagascar presented an overview on their policies related to biodiversity conservation and climate change. The forestry system in Madagascar is facing many challenges ranging from the effects of climate change (fires, droughts) to the damages caused by intensive (and fraudulent) mining for export or the increase in trade of precious woods.
Uganda was admitted to the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme in 2014. The country has developed the necessary institutional capacity and legal framework for forestry and a certification system of forest reproductive material.

**Global Tree Seed Bank Project**

A representative from KEW GARDENS presented an overview on the Global tree seed bank project during the 2018 Annual Meeting. This project is funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation. Its main objectives are to establish the global seed tree bank, to collect 3,000 tree species worldwide, to conduct research on tree conservation and to facilitate reintroduction programmes. The seed collection and research projects involve 20 countries with over 40 partnerships.

The OECD has chosen to support the Gola Rainforest Project in Sierra Leone with the purchase of carbon credits to offset our corporate emissions.

Individually, we can go one step further and reduce and offset our own private emissions via the calculation and offsetting tool on the Greening Community.
Africa Forum

The 18th International Economic Forum on Africa took place in October 2018 in the OECD Conference Centre under the theme 'Africa's Shifting Boundaries'. A joint effort between the OECD Development Centre and the African Union, and in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD) the forum discussed key topics for Africa's development such as growth, employment, migration and development, in the wake of Africa's historical decision for closer integration with the signature by 44 countries in March 2018 of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. Participants included OECD experts and African policy makers, private sector, academia and civil society leaders as well as high-level representatives from international organisations gathered to weigh in on the continent's major transformations and discuss how better policies can further impact the region.

Flagship Publication

This new annual report, *Africa’s Development Dynamics*, analyses the continent’s development policies. It presents a fresh narrative on Africa’s development, assessing the economic, social and institutional performance in light of targets of the African Union’s Agenda 2063. This first edition examines the relations between growth, employment and inequalities in Africa and draws strategic policy implications.

*Africa’s Development Dynamics 2018* is the product of a collaborative approach. It results from a unique, broad partnership between the African Union’s Commission for Economic Affairs and the OECD Development Centre. A team of academic researchers, economists, statisticians, and other experts from Africa and diverse world regions contributed to this edition.

The report contains eight chapters. The first offers an overview of Africa’s development dynamics and its integration into the global economy. The second chapter introduces five key trends shaping the continent’s current and future development dynamics. Chapters 3 to 7 focus on Africa’s five regions as defined by the Abuja Treaty.

They provide detailed analyses of growth, employment and inequalities and offer tailored policy recommendations for each region. The final chapter wraps up the analysis by recommending ten policy actions that can help Africa achieve its development targets.

The statistical annex, published online, contains the latest economic, social and institutional indicators across African countries for which data is comparable. This compilation of policy-relevant data can inform decision makers, advisors, business analysts, private sector actors, journalists, non-governmental organisations and engaged citizens around the globe interested in measuring African countries’ development trajectories.
Reforest'Action

“Reforest'Action is a social responsible company, founded in 2010 by Stéphane Hallaire, with the aim to protect the environment and fight against deforestation. It allows individuals to offset their CO2 emissions and have a positive impact on the environment by planting trees.”

https://www.reforestaction.com/en/our-vision

The Great Green Wall

The Great Green Wall is an African-led project with an epic ambition: to grow an 8,000km natural wonder of the world across the entire width of Africa. Its goal is to provide food, jobs and a future for the millions of people who live in a region on the frontline of climate change.

Once completed, the Great Green Wall will be the largest living structure on Earth and a new Wonder of the World.

The Great Green Wall is taking root in the Sahel region, at the southern edge of the Sahara desert - one of the poorest places on the planet.

More than anywhere else on Earth, the Sahel is on the frontline of climate change and millions of locals are already facing its devastating impact. Persistent droughts, lack of food, conflicts over fewer natural resources, and mass migration to Europe are some of the many consequences.

Yet, local people from Senegal in the West to Djibouti in the East are fighting back. Since the birth of the initiative in 2007, life has started coming back to the land, bringing greater food security, jobs and stability to people’s lives.

The Great Green Wall isn’t just for the Sahel. It is global symbol for humanity overcoming its biggest threat – our changing environment.

It shows that if we can work with nature, even in challenging places like in the Sahel, we can overcome adversity, and build a better world for generations to come.

More than growing trees and plants, the Great Green Wall is transforming the lives of millions of people in the Sahel region.

Source: http://www.greatgreenwall.org/great-green-wall/#great-green-wall-internal

Membership of the OECD Codes and Schemes not only facilitates trade thanks to certification and harmonized practices for some key agricultural products, but also provides an opportunity to be part of the decision making process on rules to facilitate international trade.

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www.oecd.org/agriculture/topics/standards-seeds-tractors-forest-fruit-vegetables/