

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE  
COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE

**Annual Meeting of Representatives of the National Designated Authorities for the  
Implementation of the OECD Schemes for the Varietal Certification of Seed Moving in  
International Trade**

**DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EXTENDED ADVISORY GROUP MEETING**

**Held at the OECD Conference Centre, Paris, France  
5-6 November 2009**

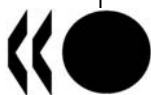
*This document was prepared by the Secretariat and the Co-ordinating Centre, in consultation with the Bureau of the Schemes.*

*The document is circulated to all Delegations and National Designated Authorities for information and approval at the next Annual Meeting, to be held in March 2010 in New Zealand.*

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## Executive Summary

The Extended Advisory Group Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes took place on 5 and 6 November 2009 in Paris, France. The main objective of the EAG meeting is to prepare the documents for the 2010 Annual meeting of the Schemes.

- **Rules for admission of new countries to the Schemes**

The Extended Advisory Group Meeting discussed at length and improved the draft proposals amending the Rules for admission of new countries to the Schemes.

- **Draft Action Plan**

There were further discussions on the projects listed in the Revised Action Plan for the OECD Seed Schemes and the Action Plan will now be further revised, in time for discussion at the next Annual Meeting.

- **The EAG meeting made the following recommendations:**

- **Guidelines for post control plots and field inspection**

The text of the Guidelines for post control plots and field inspection Parts I, II, and III was recommended for approval by the next Annual Meeting.

The publication of the characters to be used for assessing varietal identity and varietal purity for a further 5 species was recommended for approval by the next Annual Meeting.

- **Compacted Rules of the Schemes**

The Revised Compacted Rules of the Schemes were endorsed by the meeting and recommended for approval by the next Annual Meeting.

- **Review of the Vegetable Seed Scheme**

The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Review of the Vegetable Seed Scheme will redraft its Terms of Reference to make them more specific.

- **Certification of seed for trials**

The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Certification of seed for trials made good progress at its first meeting and will be meeting again prior to the next Annual Meeting. It will be drafting a proposal, to allow the marketing of small quantities of seed, belonging to varieties that are already undergoing registration testing, for trial purposes.

- **Different Regulatory aspects affecting World Seed Trade**

There was a lively discussion on the first draft of the paper summarising the different regulatory aspects affecting World Seed Trade. The meeting agreed that the paper should be used as an internal document of the Seed Schemes, must give only factual information and the target date for final acceptance by the Annual Meeting will be 2011.

- **OECD statistical database**

The development of the OECD statistical database for storing data on Weights of Seed Certified and Post Control tests is progressing well. The first data should be available from the database by the middle of next year.

- **Tender for the appointment of the Co-ordinating Centre**

The OECD Procurement Board will make a decision on the winning tender for the appointment of the Co-ordinating Centre, for the period 2010 to 2012, at its next meeting on 10 November 2009.

- **The Second World Seed Conference**

A leaflet presenting the conclusions of the second world seed conference, held in Rome from 8 to 10 September, has been published. The conference was a great success.

- **Future Meetings**

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held in Christchurch New Zealand, from 22 to 26 March 2010.

<b>2010 OECD Seed Schemes Meetings</b>		
<b>22-26 March 2010 – Christchurch, New Zealand</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>22 March</b>	<b>09:00-13:00</b>	<b>Bureau Meeting</b>
<b>22 March</b>	<b>14:00-18:00</b>	<b>Technical Working Group Meeting (TWG)</b>
<b>23 March</b>	<b>09:00-17:00</b>	<b>Technical Working Group Meeting (contd.)</b>
<b>23 March</b>	<b>17:00-19:30</b>	<b>Ad hoc WG – Certification of Seed for Trials</b>
<b>24 March</b>	<b>Whole day</b>	<b>Field Trip</b>
<b>25 March</b>	<b>09:00-18:00</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
<b>26 March</b>	<b>09:00-16:00</b>	<b>Annual Meeting (contd.)</b>
<b>26 March</b>	<b>After Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Bureau Meeting</b>

## **DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EXTENDED ADVISORY GROUP MEETING**

*Held at the OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André- Pascal, 75016 Paris, France  
5-6 November 2009*

### **1. Opening remarks**

Mrs. Merete Buus, the Chair of the OECD Seed Schemes, welcomed the delegates to the meeting.

Mr. Ryan, the Head of the Codes and Schemes Secretariat, also welcomed the delegates and gave a special welcome to the Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy, Mr. Melnyk Sergiy Ivanovych, and his colleagues.

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Secretariat pointed out that the agenda was revised [TAD/CA/S/A(2009)6/REV1]. Under Item 7, the paper on amending the Rules for admission of new countries was a revised paper [TAD/CA/S(2009)9/REV1] following amendments made at the Bureau meeting.

Under Item 12, France would give an oral report of the Ad Hoc meeting on the Vegetable Seed Scheme and under Item 13 United States would give an oral report of the Ad Hoc meeting on Certification of seed for trials.

There being no other Items, the agenda was adopted.

### **3. Report on the Bureau Meeting held on 3 November 2009**

The Chair gave a report of the Bureau meeting which had taken place on the morning of 3 November 2009.

The Bureau discussed the proposals for amending the Rules for admission of new countries and made several changes to the original paper.

The Bureau discussed the 2009/2010 programme of work and budget. It was vital that the OECD Budget Committee policy of Zero Nominal Growth, introduced in December 2008, be changed to Zero Real Growth because costs were rising. A continuation of a ZNG budget would clearly have adverse effects on the Programme of Work in the longer term.

The question of old arrears was discussed at length and the Bureau proposed that the OECD Seed Schemes should make use of the "reserve fund" of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD) to settle the old arrears incurred prior to the start of the new arrears policy on 1 January 2007. The Bureau also recommended that when a country is in arrears (under the new policy) it must pay off the oldest arrears first, and also pay interest on old arrears.

Ukraine's admission to two OECD Seed Schemes was endorsed by the Committee for Agriculture and the OECD Council will make its decision at the end of November 2009.

Evaluation missions to both India and Moldova will be taking place in 2010 during the crop inspection season.

The question of whether to use 2 letters ISO or 3 letters ISO varietal code for the Schemes was discussed. The List of Varieties now uses 2 letters to save pages, while the Seed Schemes rules indicate that the 3 letters ISO code should be used. The Bureau recommended that the Schemes continue with the possibility to use either a 2 letter ISO code or a 3 letter ISO code at the choice of the country.

#### **4. Summary Records**

##### **4.1 *Annual Meeting of the Seed Schemes 11-12 June 2009* [TAD/CA/S/M(2009)4/REV1]**

The European Commission asked for the following amendments:

- Item 18, use of synonyms in varietal denomination, Page 16 paragraph 4, the first sentence to be amended to read as follows: “European Commission noted that it would be useful to have an annual report on the use of synonyms.”
- Item 21, Update on the status of the discussion on VCU in OECD Seed Schemes, Page 17, the second sentence of paragraph 2 to be deleted.

The Secretariat invited the delegates to present their final comments so that the Summary Record could be amended shortly after the EAG meeting, and be ready for approval at the Annual Meeting in March 2010.

##### **4.2 *The 7th TWG meeting, 10 June 2009* [TAD/CA/S/M(2009)3]**

The Secretariat informed the meeting that the Summary Record was made available on Olis in July and includes comments received from Member countries.

The Chair asked if the Summary Record could now be recommended for approval by the Annual Meeting. This was agreed.

#### **5. Secretariat activities and budgetary issues**

##### **5.1 *Committee for Agriculture approvals since the 2009 Annual Meeting***

The Secretariat reported that Japan’s participation in the Cereal and Maize and Sorghum Schemes had been approved and their participation will be added in the 2010 Seed Schemes Rules.

The two new species *Eragrostis tef* and *Paspalum vaginatum*, requested by USA, were added to the list of eligible species in July 2009.

The Committee also approved the changes to Rule 9 which deals with synonyms. These rule changes will be introduced in the 2010 edition of the Seed Schemes Rules.

Following the preliminary report on Ukraine’s request to join two OECD Seed Schemes, a further mission to Ukraine took place in July 2009. The final evaluation report, which recommended acceptance of

Ukraine into the Schemes, was sent to all 57 participating countries for approval under the written procedure. The proposal for admission was approved and submitted to the Committee for Agriculture that has now endorsed Ukraine's participation in the OECD Seed Schemes. The OECD Council will make its decision on the application before the end of November 2009.

## **5.2 *Update on budgetary issues***

The Secretariat gave an update on the budget situation. The 2009 budget expenditure will be 91% of the projected total. It was pointed out that conference costs were very high now that meetings were held in OECD Headquarters. Some savings were made on staff costs and the annual budget surplus would be carried forward to 2010. The OECD policy of Zero Nominal Growth means that the budget for 2009 and 2010 will be the same as the one for 2008. Revision of the 2010 Budget to Zero Real Growth should be discussed at a meeting of the Budget Committee. If agreed, it will be put to Council for approval in December. The Council has already approved an additional supplementary budget of Euro 7,105, following the accession of India and Moldova to the Schemes.

The Secretariat will continue to try to recover the outstanding fees.

## **5.3 *Preparation of the programme of work for 2011-12***

The Secretariat invited the delegates to propose any new projects that should be included in the 2011-2012 programme of work. The Action Plan now formed the basis for the programme of work. Any new projects had to be identified by early May 2010, in order to be submitted to the Schemes parent Committee.

<b>Action: The Secretariat invited the delegates to send their written comments by 31 December 2009.</b>
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## **6. *Update on the implementation of the recommendations of the in-depth evaluation***

The Secretariat confirmed that all four programmes of the Codes and Schemes were operating well. The evaluation team had recommended the sharing of information between the four programmes as a more effective way of working. An Ad Hoc Working Group, made up of the chair from each programme, has been set up to try to improve the structure and efficiency of all the programmes. The other three programmes regard the Seed Schemes as a model that could be followed. The Forestry Scheme is now developing a Strategic Plan and a TWG for that Scheme has also been introduced. A formal paper will be produced by the end of the year looking at shared approaches for all the programmes. To date there have been no comments on how to improve the work of the Seed Schemes, all the other programmes are following our working patterns.

## **7. *Preliminary draft proposals amending the Rules for admission of new countries to the Schemes* [TAD/CA/S(2009)9/REV1]**

The Chair confirmed that the paper has been revised by the Bureau at their meeting on Tuesday, and the paper version of REV1 was circulated to all delegates.

### **Proposal I: Section 2 – “Technical Criteria”, Rule 2.5 (Amendment of Rule 2.5)**

The proposed amendment to rule 2.5 was accepted.

Proposal II: Section 3 “Evaluation Mission”, Rules 3.1 to 3.5 (Amendment and addition of new rules in Section 3)

After a lively discussion the meeting agreed to revise the text in order to include changes made to paragraph 3.4: the wording “of the evaluation process” was included at the end of the paragraph.

Proposal III: Section 5 - “Supervision by the OECD”, Rule 5.1 (Amendment of Rule 5.1)

The proposed amendment to rule 5.1 was accepted without comments.

The Chair summarized the remarks made by delegates:

- Revision of rule 2.5 was requested by France with regard to the request of 3 years post control plots experience. Since this technical requirement was not changed in the present document, France should send a written proposal to the Secretariat.
- There is a need to clarify the wording “nominated representatives (normally persons appointed by a NDA)” in paragraph 3.3.
- In paragraph 3.4 there is a reference to “other participating countries”. It should be clarified that the paragraph talks about all countries participating in the Seed Schemes.

The Chair invited written comments on the proposed amendments to the Rules to be sent to the Secretariat by 11 January 2010, to allow time for further revision of the amendments before the next Annual Meeting. Therefore, the revised document [TAD/CA/S(2009)9/REV1] will be circulated by the Secretariat to all delegates.

**Action: National Designated Authorities to send their written comments on the amended rules to the Secretariat by 11 January 2010.**

## **8. Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the OECD Seed Schemes – Action Plan**

[TAD/CA/S(2008)18/REV2]

The Secretariat reported that the latest revised Action Plan (REV2) was the result of the discussions that had taken place during the Annual Meeting in June 2009 and further comments which had been received by the end of July.

### Section A – Effective Implementation of the Schemes

The Secretariat confirmed that as a result of the comments, Item 1 had been modified to take into account the comments that “consistent concerns” over the implementation were rare and that evaluation missions were not really necessary. It was considered sufficient to have regular country progress reports.

Kenya pointed out that the first country reports had already been presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Delegates suggested that the Secretariat develop a check list of minimum requirements for a country report.

It was also pointed out that in Item 1, under Resource requirements, it should read “No additional **Secretariat** resources required”.

The European Commission noted that it would be useful to put corresponding figures for the projects in the Action Plan.

#### Section B – Effective Communications

The Secretariat confirmed that the priority for Item 3 (modernisation of the list of varieties) had been changed to “high” priority. This was welcomed by Australia who noted that this is core work of the Schemes and should be covered within the existing budget envelope.

#### Section C – Enhance Policy Awareness through better Linkages to Seed related issues

The Secretariat confirmed that in Item 4, the title of the “interdisciplinary” was changed to Seed Policy Awareness Group. For Item 5 the priority has been changed to “low”.

United States was concerned about the additional resources that would be needed for Item 4 and was not in favour of any additional funding for Item 5, but did support the idea of a workshop on Item 5 at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

The Secretariat reported that the second phase of the bio-energy working group project is being developed and a paper will be presented to the Committee for Agriculture. The first phase of the report has been issued and the second phase is in process but will not include much new substantial data.

With regard to Item 4, the Secretariat confirmed that the Schemes were not committed to writing a paper or doing analytical work. The Schemes were just keeping abreast of developments in this field.

New Zealand felt that a better title for Item 4 might be “**the impact of bio-energy demands on seed certification**”. Bio-energy had the potential to impact on the Schemes.

The Chair reminded delegates that the meeting could recommend changes to the projects in the Action Plan, but the titles should remain consistent with the Strategic Plan.

Several delegates recommended that the Strategic Plan and Action Plan should be kept up to date and it might be necessary to change the titles within the documents from time to time.

#### Section D – Address Institutional and Technical Developments

The Chair noted that the wording of the last sentence in paragraph one in Item 2, (Review and Update the Vegetable Seed Scheme) would perhaps be better if it reads “While there has been little use made of **certification under** the Vegetable Scheme in the past, **there** is likely to be more **demand** in the future.

Several delegates did not think that Item 5 (Enlarge certification to tropical species and vegetatively-propagated material) was needed. There were no requests for this enlargement at present, thus the paragraph should be modified.

The delegate from ESA confirmed that, after consultation, the Seed Potato Group was not interested in co-operating with the OECD Seed Schemes.

The Secretariat recalled that several countries had indicated in the Questionnaire that they may want to look at potato seed and he would be happy to receive written proposals for a revised form of wording from New Zealand and USA.

New Zealand noted that the wish to explore some areas should be distinguished from the actual need for certain projects. The title could probably be kept, but the substance needs to be changed as well as the timeframe.

The Chair invited delegates to send concrete proposals for the new wording.

The meeting was reminded that the document is living and perhaps it should be revised every 1 to 2 years after being approved.

#### Section E – Enlarge Participation in the Schemes

The Secretariat confirmed that Item 1 was revised in order to include the change requested from UPOV, namely the title to read “co-operation” with International and Regional Organisations involved in the seed sector. Item 2 has been modified to define more clearly the concept of the “observer” status.

ISTA supported the idea of changing the title to co-operation and noted that the Seed Schemes had not participated in the ISTA meetings in 2008 and 2009.

The Secretariat explained that it was a budgetary issue and that it was not possible to participate in all international meetings each year. Also the Secretariat is in charge of 3 other programmes under the Codes & Schemes. However, there had always been a good co-operation and the Secretariat would do its best to attend ISTA, ISF, UPOV and FAO meetings. The Second World Seed Conference was a very good example of co-operation between the five organisations.

New Zealand felt that the Secretariat should use the skills and strengths of its Bureau or the Co-ordinating Centre to help with attendance at meetings of related seed organisations.

The Chair invited the delegates to send their written comments on the Action Plan by 29 January 2010. In the light of the discussions and the comments received, the Secretariat would revise the Action Plan in time for the next Annual Meeting in March 2010.

**Action: Delegates to send their written comments on the Action Plan to the Secretariat by 29 January 2010. The Secretariat will then revise the Action Plan for discussion and approval at the next Annual Meeting in March 2010.**

#### **9. Report of the 8th Technical Working Group Meeting held on 4-5 November 2009-11-12**

The Chair of the TWG, Mr. Peter Johnston, noted that the meeting had been very constructive. The Agenda and the Draft Summary Record of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TWG had been adopted.

Following a long discussion, constructive changes had been made to Parts I, II, and III of the Guidelines for Control Plot Tests and Field Inspection [TAD/CA/S/RD(2008)3/REV5] and the Chair of the TWG was pleased to ask the meeting to recommend the approval of the Guidelines at the next Annual Meeting.

The meeting had also agreed the characters to be used for assessing varietal purity and varietal identity for a further five new species, under Part IV of the Guidelines, and the meeting was invited to recommend the approval and publication of the characters at the next Annual Meeting.

The meeting had discussed at length, both the text of the Guidelines to be used for Multiplication abroad and also the grouping together of all the Seed Scheme Rules relating to multiplication abroad. The delegates had agreed to test the Guidelines at home and make further comments to both the Secretariat and the Co-ordinating Centre. The draft proposal for grouping the rules had been agreed, and with a little bit more fine tuning by the Co-ordinating Centre should be ready for approval by the next Annual Meeting.

The meeting had also discussed Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU). Italy and Denmark had made very good presentations on how their respective countries carried out VCU testing. The TWG has agreed to further progress discussion in this area. The European Commission and ISF have agreed to submit their suggestions on the VCU issue to the Secretariat.

Mr. Johnston thanked the Co-ordinating Centre for their excellent work. He also thanked the Secretariat and the delegates for their inputs.

The Chair thanked Mr. Johnston for Chairing the TWG and expressed her compliments for the results achieved during the 2 year period.

## **10. Revision of Guidelines for Post-control Plot tests and Field Inspection**

### **10.1 Draft revised Guidelines, General parts I, II, III [TAD/CA/S/RD(2008)3/REV5]**

**Action: The Chair invited the delegates to endorse the revised Guidelines and recommend them for adoption by the next Annual Meeting. This was agreed.**

### **10.2 Draft Revised Guidelines, Part IV [TAD/CA/S/RD(2009)11]**

**Action: The Chair invited the delegates to endorse the characters agreed for varietal purity and varietal identity for a further five species and recommend them for adoption by the next Annual Meeting. This was agreed.**

## **11. Revision of the Rules & Regulations of the Seed Scheme [TAD/CA/S(2009)6/REV1]**

The Co-ordinating Centre gave an update on the progress on the compaction of the Rules of the Schemes and made the following points on the revised version.

- Minor errors (editing marks left in), which were covered verbally at the 2009 Annual meeting, have been removed.
- Page 42, 19, “Cereals Only” has been added to the contents of the title parentheses, because it only refers to cereals.
- On page 35, paragraphs 11 to 14 refer to specific schemes and “point” to the fuller instructions given within the scheme specific pages, Paragraph 11 also refers to more than one scheme and is therefore placed in general texts.

- It has been proposed that within Annexes VI to XI, Appendix 2, (which lists the species covered by each scheme) should be moved to the front of the relevant annex for each seed scheme.
- Two species, added during 2009, will need to be included, *Eragrostis tef* and *Paspalum vaginatum* Sw.
- Several comments have been received on the document, which suggest changes to the rules or the wording of the rules. These are outside the scope of producing a compacted version of the Rules, which is carried out to remove any duplication. The content of the Rules remains unchanged from the 2009 Seed Schemes version on which it is based.

The Co-ordinating Centre also drew attention to few editorial changes that will need to be made to the revised version on pages 24, 35 (paragraphs 11 to 14) and on page 102.

New Zealand wondered whether the next meeting of the TWG could start to look at the need to make amendments to the existing rules.

The Chair noted that the two processes should be kept separate and she invited delegates to send in any further editorial comments to the Secretariat and the Co-ordinating Centre by 31 December 2009. The aim is to have the compacted rules adopted by the next Annual Meeting and effective from 1 January 2011.

**Action: Delegates are invited to send further editorial comments to the Secretariat and the Co-ordinating Centre by 31 December 2009.**

## 12. Review of the Vegetable Seed Scheme

### 12.1 *Report on the AD Hoc Working Group meeting held on 3 November 2009*

Mrs. Marie-France Cazalere, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group, presented her report of the meeting.

The meeting had discussed the problem that several Designated Authorities faced, namely that of being asked to issue a “certificate” for a Standard Seed lot of vegetables. Over 99% of vegetable seed marketed in the world is marketed as Standard Seed, is not certified, and is just checked in post-control plots to verify its varietal identity.

The delegates felt that they needed more precise information about the domestic markets that were insisting on certificates being issued for Standard Seed and the precise difficulties faced by the companies marketing Standard Seed.

**Action: The delegate from New Zealand proposed to help the Chair of the Ad hoc WG to formulate a more precise Terms of Reference. It was decided to postpone the next meeting of the WG to the end of 2010 in order to know more precisely the difficulties faced by companies and what are the involved domestic markets.**

### **13. Certification of seed for trials**

#### ***13.1 Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting held on 3 November 2009***

Mr. Perry Bohn, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group presented his report of the meeting and made the following points:

- The meeting was well attended, approximately 25 people.
- The Chair presented a short history of the background to the issue.
- Mr. Piero Sismondo from ISF had made a short presentation on the need for this proposal.
- There had been a good discussion on the way to proceed.

It had been agreed that the Ad Hoc WG will meet again prior to the 2010 Annual Meeting and focus on the movement of trial seed of varieties already undergoing the registration process. The aim would be to have a new Appendix to the Rules of each scheme to permit the marketing of trial seed. The multiplication of trial seed was also discussed and delegates were reminded that this is already allowed and rules already exist for this purpose.

The Chair noted that the new Appendix could be based on the Commission Decision, 2004/842/EC, which allowed the marketing of seed belonging to varieties which were already undergoing registration testing.

It was agreed that the Ad Hoc WG on the marketing of seed for trials would need to meet next March and a time slot of 2-3 hours could be allocated by the host country.

**Action: The Chair of the Ad Hoc WG agreed to distribute the Terms of Reference to all attendees well in advance of the next meeting.**

### **14. Update on ongoing projects**

#### ***14.1 OECD Seed Schemes Newsletter***

The Secretariat noted that the first edition of the Newsletter, following approval by the last Annual Meeting, had been published in July 2009 on the OECD website. The second edition was handed out to delegates. The idea is to provide more current information on news and developments throughout the seed sector. The next edition will be published in July 2010, thus member countries and observer organisations are invited to send in articles of interest to the Secretariat by 31 May 2010.

**Action: Participating countries and observer organisations to send their contributions to the Secretariat by 31 May 2010.**

**14.2 A summary of different regulatory Aspects affecting World Seed Trade**  
[TAD/CA/S/RD(2009) 14/REV1]

The Secretariat reported that the paper had been drafted by a NIAB consultant, outlining the role of the different international organisations (OECD, UPOV, FAO, ISF, ISTA) in the seed sector. It could be used as an educational tool for new participating countries and new participants from existing countries. The paper will be revised based on the comments received and presented to the 2010 Annual Meeting for discussion.

There was a lively discussion on the paper. The main points made are the following:

- The paper should be used as an internal document of the OECD Seed Schemes.
- The paper should elaborate factual information but there must not be any political statements.
- This paper would be useful for new countries to have it as a fact sheet.
- Each organisation should provide its own one page fact sheet (which could become a series of Appendices to the paper).
- The idea of having a template for the fact sheet for each organisation was proposed.
- The template should reflect how and where the different organisations contribute to the work of the OECD Seed Schemes.
- The references to the seed companies in paragraph 55 were not appropriate.
- Clarity was needed on the purpose of the paper.
- This Item could be moved to the “promotional” part of the Action Plan.
- A medium priority should be set for this Item.
- The regulatory background needed to be improved. The European Commission agreed to provide written comments to help with this aspect.
- UPOV wished to explain its position more clearly in the paper and agreed to provide the necessary written text.
- ISF wished to contribute to the text of the paper, particularly in relation to its rules for international seed trade and guidelines for dispute handling.
- ISTA noted that the paper needed further clarification and that it would like to contribute to the revision of the section on ISTA rules.
- Various countries were quoted in the paper and there should be dialogue with them to ensure that the information is correct.
- The paper listed UPOV membership but not of the other organisations.
- The reference to the WTO should be expanded (the TBT agreement within WTO).
- The conclusions of the 2nd World Seed Conference could be included.

The Secretariat suggested the 2011 Annual Meeting to be the target for the final discussion and possible approval of this document. The Bureau confirmed that it would draft a template for the fact sheet.

**Action: The Secretariat will circulate an e-mail in December asking for comments from delegates and submission of factual sheets from different organisations, with the deadline of 28 February 2010.**

### **14.3 Statistics**

#### *14.3.1 Update on the post control and weights statistics*

The Co-ordinating Centre thanked those delegates who had sent in statistics on post control and weights of seed certified since the last meeting. No updated sets of figures will be presented until the database is able to produce complete and accurate data.

The listing of statistics received to date will be circulated shortly and the Co-ordinating Centre asked that all NDAs check if the data they had submitted is included in the lists. Any NDA who has sent in two sets of data should advise the Co-ordinating Centre which set is to be used.

**Action: The Co-ordinating Centre asked that all the questionnaires be completed and returned by the deadlines.**

#### *14.3.2 Progress in developing the new statistical database*

The Co-ordinating Centre confirmed that the new seed statistical database will hold all the data in a single place. Mr. Frano Ilicic, OECD Statistician (TAD/CMU), is developing the database in co-operation with the Co-ordinating Centre. Mr. Ilicic was invited to give a presentation on the present position of the database.

Mr. Ilicic gave a brief presentation and made the following points:

- At present the upload of data is done manually. During the next 6 months an electronic questionnaire will be created which will speed up the upload process.
- The Meta Store for the metadata will be improved. This is a co-operative effort with NIAB and will determine the adequate internet links.
- All users will be able to select and see the data.
- All users will have free access to the data on the Internet and will be able to download data.

The Chair thanked Mr. Ilicic and invited questions.

Mr. Ilicic confirmed that when a NDA extract data it will be outputted in an excel format and would require the clicking of just one button.

The Co-ordinating Centre explained that metadata allowed the data to be attached to any data point. Some countries like, for example, to submit sub-species of *Festuca* as separate species; these can be combined as metadata.

The European Commission noted that there was a need for the database to be harmonised and linked with other similar databases and he asked how this inter-linkage might be achieved.

The Co-ordinating Centre replied that at present the development is focussed on getting a working database to store data collected by OECD. The developers have not yet planned any additional links, and the database is available only in English at present.

Delegates congratulated Mr. Ilicic and the Co-ordinating Centre on the progress made with the database development and asked that copies of Mr. Ilicic's slides be distributed.

**Action: The publication of the statistics on Weights of Seed Certified and Post-control testing will be presented at the next Annual Meeting.**

#### **15. Update on the outcome of the tender for the appointment of the Co-ordinating Centre for the period 2010-2012.**

The Secretariat confirmed that two tenders had been received, to carry out the work of producing the OECD List of Varieties, by the closing date of 4 September 2009.

A recommendation has been sent to the OECD Procurement Board that will make a decision at its next meeting on Tuesday 10 November 2009. The results will be published after that meeting.

#### **16. Update on the outcome of the 2nd World Seed Conference**

The Secretariat reported that a leaflet had been published presenting the conference conclusions. The conference had been held, from 8-10 September 2009, in Rome. The first two days consisted of an expert forum with the results fed into a Policy forum on the third day. High level policy makers had been invited to the policy forum. The keynote speaker at the forum was Professor Swaminathan, the Father of the Indian Green Revolution.

The conference had been designed to raise awareness of the importance of new plant varieties and high quality seed and considers how governments can develop an enabling environment. A meeting of the five organisations will take place next week to look at which projects can be moved forward.

The Chair congratulated the five organisations on producing an excellent conference. She considered the speech of the key note speaker to be outstanding.

The Secretariat confirmed that each organisation had on its website a link to the World Seed Conference. Hard copies of the conference papers will be available, by the end of November, to all those who attended the conference.

## **17. Future meetings**

### **Preparation for the 2010 Annual Meeting in New Zealand**

Mr. Johnston confirmed that arrangements for the Annual Meeting were well underway and were available via the web-links. He advised that anyone stopping over in a country on the way down should make sure of their visa rights in that country. He hoped that participants would register early.

The Secretariat confirmed that the Preliminary Draft Agenda for the AM would be circulated in early December to help participants to obtain visas.

### **Annual Meeting in 2012**

The Bureau had discussed the venue for the 2012 AM and felt that it should come back to a European country.

Both Finland and Turkey offered to host the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Schemes. The Chair noted that the final decision on which country will host the AM in 2012 will be taken at the Annual Meeting in New Zealand.

It was noted that in view of the high costs of holding meetings at OECD Headquarters in Paris, the Bureau is seriously considering whether it is necessary to have an AM in Paris. It might be more cost effective to have, for example, the AM in 2012 in Finland and the AM in 2011 or 2013 in Turkey.

### **Other Meetings**

Delegates noted that the next meeting of the Extended Advisory Group (EAG) should be held in November 2010 rather than the end of January 2011. It would be a more equal time split between March 2010 and June 2011 to have the EAG meeting in November. Maybe it would be possible to have the meeting in a European country.

The Chair would have to consult with her Ministry about the possibility to host one of the future EAG meetings in Denmark.

ISTA noted that its meetings for the period 2010 to 2014 were all scheduled for the second half of June and wished not to have an overlap with the OECD Meetings in June.

## **18. Other business**

The Co-ordinating Centre informed the delegates that Mr. Fenwick Kelly, former Deputy Director of NIAB and a joint founder of the OECD Seed Schemes, had died on 25 September 2009.

The Chair reported that this meeting might be the last that Mr. John Kadera from Kenya would be able to attend and she thanked him for all his constructive contributions and hard work during the last 6 years as a Chair and a member of the Bureau.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat and the Co-ordinating Centre for preparing the papers together with the Secretariat.

The Secretariat thanked Mrs. Buus for her excellent Chairing of the meetings over the last two years.

**Extended Advisory Group Meeting**  
held at the OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André-Pascal, 75016 Paris, France

**5-6 November 2009**

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