



50th Anniversary of OECD



Angel Gurría, Secretary- General of the OECD

The OECD's 50th anniversary occurs at a time of rapid changes in the global governance architecture, spurred by the need to strengthen and deepen international co-operation. This is an opportunity and a challenge.

The "raison d'être" of this Organisation, is to be a source of evidence-based advice for governments and a standard setter to address many global challenges.

Our multidisciplinary expertise, peer learning process and experience in identifying best practices can contribute to coherent, integrated approaches to address these challenges. We will continue working towards this aim, contributing to "better policies for better lives".

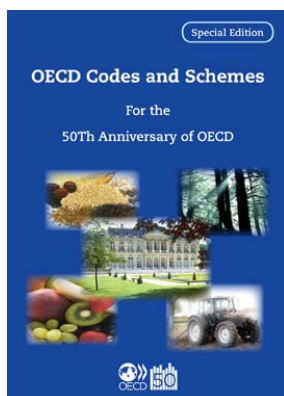
Our **50th Anniversary celebration**, from **December 2010 to September 2011**, will encompass a series of substantive events and debates, both at OECD headquarters and outside. Specific events in OECD Member countries and the launch of some of our flagship publications will contribute to national policy debates, support governments reform agendas and include a multitude of stakeholders.

These actions will enable us to anchor the anniversary into a substantive discussion about our present and future role. The 2011 Ministerial Meeting, chaired by the United States, will undoubtedly be an important milestone for the commemorations, coinciding with the French Presidency of the G20. 50 Years of OECD will involve celebration of the past, reflection on the present and focus on the future on the basis of close co-operation, support and engagement of OECD Member states and partner countries in the emerging and developing world.

Together, we can use this unique milestone to build on it a meaningful and solid bridge into the next 50 years.

Contents

- **50th Anniversary of OECD**
- **Contribution from Ukraine for the 50th Anniversary**
- **OECD List of Varieties**
- **2011 Annual Meeting hosted in May by Turkey**
- **Seed Sector in Turkey and Future Developments**
- **Integrating Seed Varietal and Phytosanitary Certification: "The New Zealand Way!"**
- **Ukrainian Seed Staff trained by NAK**
- **Novel Food, New Breeding Techniques, GMOs... – is there any future for innovation in Europe's agriculture?**



Ministerial Council Meeting 25-26 May 2011

The 2011 MCM will be an opportunity to commemorate 50 years of cooperation and development experiences and to set the Organisation on a path that will make it even more inclusive and global. It will give us the opportunity to build on the foundations of our mandate, in order to improve economic perspectives and living standards in member and partner countries for the next 50 years.

In the context of the recovery from the worst economic and financial crisis in decades, the celebration will help sharpen our contribution to a resilient and balanced world economy, supported by new sources of growth and jobs and new paradigms for development.



The 50th anniversary MCM 2011 will be chaired by the United States. The Vice-Chair will be Germany.

In consultation with the Council, the dates for the 50th Anniversary MCM have been set for 25-26 May 2011. The MCM will be held back-to-back with the OECD

Forum (24-25 May 2011). Both will take place in Paris at the OECD Conference Centre.

For the 50th Anniversary of OECD, Ms. N. Khrapiichuk - Acting Head, Ukrainian State Seeds Inspectorate, Ministry of Agricultural Policy of Ukraine - provides her views on the OECD Seed Schemes.

Your country joined the Seed Schemes in 2009. Why did it decide to become Member at that time?

Since the year 2008 Ukraine is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). However, this did not provide us with the absolute right on trade, and on seed and seed material commercialization, in particular. For the absolute membership in the Organization and the national products commercialization possibility, in the sphere of seed-growing in particular (for exporting to the European countries) in Ukraine there appeared the need to participate in a number of international unions and organizations, one of which the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Seed Schemes.

Could you mention briefly some developments in the Seed Schemes in the years following your country's membership? (international exchanges, safety....).

The OECD Seed Schemes accession enables the possibility:

1) To adapt the Ukrainian normative – legal basis to the international legislation in the

sphere of seed-growing, which furthers to the Ukraine's World Trade Community integration.

2) To improve the seed – growing system and to strengthen the variety control, which lead to the national seed quality improvement.

3) To define the future development direction of Ukrainian seed – growing sphere, namely to define the possibility of accession to other OECD Seed Schemes in the nearest future, to harmonize the national guidelines for field inspection and post control tests, as well as to maintain the professional relations on equal terms with foreign colleagues;

4) Having got acquainted with the seed segment of the European market, to define the possibility of the inclusion of Ukrainian varieties into the OECD List.



The OECD Seed Schemes and the Present

The OECD Seed Schemes celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2008. Now that 58 countries are Members of the Codes in 2011, what advantages are today offered by the Schemes? (particularly for new countries from Europe, Asia or Africa wishing to join).

The main advantages of being the participant of the OECD Seed

Schemes for Ukraine are the following:

1) The possibility to commercialize the seed of the national breeding on the world seed market.

2) The participation in the OECD Seed Schemes Meetings for establishing new and maintaining the existing professional relations with foreign colleagues – experts in the sphere of seed – growing, for the experience exchange and for cooperation promotion.

3) The possibility of improving the production of seed material, the originator of which the European breeders are, at the territory of Ukraine with the purpose of further commercialization, not only at the national level but also at the international level.

4) The support of OECD in the improvement of Ukrainian experts professional level in the sphere of seed – growing, by involving the Ukrainian inspectors to participate in seminars, conferences and trainings on field inspection, sampling and seed certification according to international requirements. Up to date, there were already few seminars and trainings organized by NAK, GNIS and SOC.

The OECD Seed Schemes and the Future

The concept for the 50th Anniversary is “better policies for better lives”. Based on your expertise and knowledge in the Seed field, what are your views on future challenges and developments in a changing environment? (taking into account

modern communication, globalization, green growth, and international trade).

In the context of the continuous changes of the environment as well as changes of the geographical dissemination of varieties and the continuous growth of the food demand, stronger attention is paid to the high quality seed material. Ukraine has an aim to access other OECD Seed Schemes in the nearest future. Taking into consideration the favorable soil-climatic conditions of the country and the strategic geographical location, we have as main goal – to become one of the world seed suppliers to meet the human demand.

OECD List of Varieties

The OECD List of Varieties is an official list of varieties which have been accepted by NDA's of participating countries as eligible for certification in accordance with the rules of the OECD Seed Schemes.



The 2011 version of the List, includes about **47 000** varieties from **200** species. The List of Varieties is available in electronic version on the website, and also as a hard copy.

2011 Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes

The Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on 12-13 May 2011. The Meeting will be hosted by the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.



As part of the 2011 Annual Meeting, there will be a special Workshop on 13 May on seed certification in ECO countries. The purpose of the Workshop is to have a discussion on seed trade and the role of seed certification in ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) countries.

Seed Sector in Turkey and Future Developments

By Eyüp Köksal and Dr. Aslı Onay⁽¹⁾

The actual surface area of Turkey, including lakes and rivers is 81.5 million ha (79 million land, about 27 million ha of land is suitable for crop production). The country is characterized by a great diversity of agro ecological zones. Because of these conditions, Turkey has significant opportunities for seed production.

Seed Sector Progress

Seed activities maintained only as improvement of diversity in some genus' and limited production of seed in Turkey until 1960s.

Until the mid-eighties, the seed supply system in Turkey had been

mainly dominated by the public sector, and the trade and marketing of seed had been heavily regulated.

Since then, however, deregulation of seed trade and the development of private seed companies have dramatically changed both the composition and structure of the seed industry. Today, the seeds of some arable crops and fodder plants and almost all of the vegetable crops are being produced, processed and marketed by private companies.

Seed Production, Import, Export

As a result of recent policies, seed production has been increased in the ratio of %165. While seed production was 145,000 tonnes in 2002, it has reached 498,000 tonnes in 2010. At the same period, seed import has increased in the ratio of % 57 and seed export has increased in the ratio of % 169. Also usage of certificated seed has reached from 150,000 tonnes to 377,000 tonnes and increased in the ratio of % 151.

Import Export Rules

Rules on seed import are determined by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. But, during the preparation process, visions of all shareholders are taken into account by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

It is obligatory to have OECD seed certified for importing of field and fodder plants' seed. Importing seed for seed production must be at least original echelon. While new diversity development is increasing in the country, seed import is declining.

In total, Turkey's seed imports were 40,610 tonnes in 2010 and its value was \$176,192,000.

Private seed firms earned a big export capacity to Turkey's economy in the last years. These firms export seed to many countries, including European countries.

Seed exports show a trend of constant and stable increase in the recent years. In the period of 2002-2010, seed export has increased in the ratio of 447% and it has reached 29,000 tonnes and \$96,000,000.

Legal Arrangement and Organization

The national seed industry had been operated within the framework of Seed Law no: 308 (1963) until 2006. But a new **Seed Law 5553** (Replacing 308) has become operative since 2006.

Latest Advances in Seed Sector Coming with the Seed Act:

- ✓ Quality assurance
- ✓ Variety Evaluation, Realization, Registration And Certification in international norms
- ✓ Regulations on the seed production & trade
- ✓ Exceptional implementation and devolution of authority by Ministry in case of necessity
- ✓ Restructuring of the seed sector

The adoption of the Law No. 5042 **"On the Protection of the Plant Breeder Rights for New**

Varieties" in 2004 facilitated Turkey's application for membership to UPOV and following this Turkey has become a member of UPOV.

Implementation of this law is executed equally with the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO).

Also, 17 regulations prescribed by the "Seed Law" and 3 regulations related to "The Protection of the Plant Breeder Rights for New Varieties" were published.

Besides these two laws, "Biosafety Law" no: 5977 and "Veterinary Services, Phytosanitary, Food and Fodder Law" no: 5996 were published in 2010. These are also related to the seed sector.

Milestones in the Turkish Seed Sector

1923-1960	Informal System
1961	Founder membership of OECD
1963	Seed Law No 308 and ISTA membership
1968	Participation to OECD Seed Schemes
1982	Liberation of seed prices
1984	Liberation of seed imports
1985	Starting of Seed Supports
1998	ISF Membership
2004	Law 5042 (Plant Breeders Rights')
2006	Seed Law 5553 (replacing 308)
2007	Adoption of UPOV agreement
2008	Private Sector Reorganization
2009-2010	Preparation of secondary Regulations

Organization

The Public and Private Sectors work together to improve the seed sector in Turkey.

Under the Ministry of agriculture and Rural Affairs, MARA, three main General Directorates have responsibilities of seed issues.

The General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development, which is responsible for Seed policy, Breeder rights, Variety Registration and Certification, Support, Auditing and Domestic and International trade.

The General Directorate of Protection and Control is responsible for Phytosanitary & Quarantine measures, Food Security and Food Safety.

The General Directorate of Agricultural Research is responsible for all Research and Development affairs (R & D).

The Private Sector is also organized in the form of one Union, named “Turkish Seed Union” and follows seven Subunions, in conformity with the Seed Law.

The names and number of members’ Subunions are:

1. Plant Breeders (120)
2. Seed Industrialists and Producers (403)
3. Seedling Producers (71)
4. Sapling Producers (434)
5. Seed Growers (1919)
6. Seed Dealers (2437)
7. Ornamental Plants Producers (159)

All subunions have been clustered under the umbrella of the “Turkish Seed Union”.

In all stages of Organization and ongoing Registration the Private Sector has an important role.

Relations among Turkey, Regional Countries and International Institutions

Turkey has significant seed improvement opportunities due to its geographical position and is ready to share gained experiences with the countries in the region.

Up to present, some projects have been implemented and many meetings, workshops, technical visits realized throughout the region. The results of these activities have showed that:

- Countries in the region are willing to discipline their seed sectors and adapt to the International rules and put together their efforts with Turkey’s contribution.
- There is a big potential in the region for seed production and trade but this opportunity has not been used sufficiently.
- As well known, OECD and other international institutions, in accordance with their expanding policies, have been interested to contribute to seed improvement issues in the region.
- Furthermore, FAO has a sub regional office in Ankara, Turkey, covering the main Central Asian countries. The office has a strong collaboration regarding the Improvement of seed industry in these countries.



Recent & Future Seed Related Events in Turkey

- **ISF Meeting** realized in Antalya, 2009
- **Foundation of “Economic Cooperation Organization Seed Association” ECOSA**, March 2009 and “First International Seed trade Conference” December 2009, Antalya
- **Second International Seed trade Conference and Seed Fair**, October 2010, Istanbul
- **OECD, Seed Schemes Annual Meeting**, 9-13 May 2011 Istanbul
- **ISTA, Annual Meeting 2013**
To be held in Antalya



(1) Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development Seed Department

Integrating Seed Varietal and Phytosanitary Certification: “The New Zealand Way!”

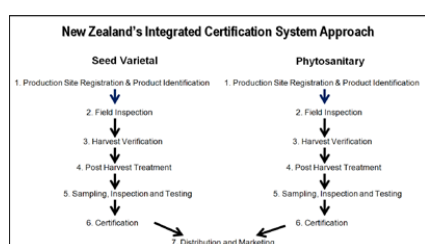
By Peter Johnston and Joanne Wilson, MAF

Seed is a critical component of the New Zealand pastoral sector for pasture, forage and the development of new varieties. The export of new varieties and multiplied seed is also a key contributor to the New Zealand economy and affiliation with the Organisation for the Economic Cooperation and Developments (OECD) Seed Schemes has had

significant benefits for ensuring New Zealand's reputation as a supplier of quality, true-to-type seed.

New Zealand's membership to the OECD Grass, Legumes and Crucifer Schemes began in 1966. Since this time, New Zealand has operated a seed varietal certification programme that conforms to OECD and other international agency's seed varietal certification specifications.

In 1998, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of New Zealand, recognised the benefits of the Seed Schemes in relation to also managing some of the operational components within its phytosanitary certification system. As a result, MAF formalized a unique export certification programme which integrated OECD seed varietal certification and other international specifications with phytosanitary (including treatments) activities into an integrated certification system.



The integrated systems approach (above) was developed and achieved through the establishment of an official phytosanitary seed varietal and certification system which is based on a series of technical standards, specifications. These standards may be found at (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/rgs/exports/plants/stds>).

These standards must be met and maintained for operators to become MAF-approved Organisations for the receipt of MAF phytosanitary &/or seed varietal certification.

The MAF seed certification standard only applies to seeds produced in New Zealand (not seed for re-export) and allows for the verification of seed production procedures compliant with the rules and requirements of the relevant OECD Seeds Schemes. In addition to OECD, MAF's integrated certification system utilises the rules and requirements of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), equivalency arrangements for exports to the European Union (EU), International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) and New Zealand Seed Quality Management Authority (SQMA) relating to plant health and varietal trueness to type certification.

As well as being the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) for New Zealand, MAF is the National Designated Authority for the administration of the Seed Schemes Rules in New Zealand, and as such, also the Designated Authority for the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). While MAF is not accountable for the issuance of ISTA certification, MAF has an authorisation role within the ISTA seed laboratory accreditation process. However, as part of the integrated certification system MAF recognizes the seed identification skills within ISTA accredited laboratories to undertake and complete this aspect of phytosanitary certification.

Seed varietal certification is not mandatory in New Zealand and a reasonable percentage of seed for

export is not certified from a varietal perspective. The phytosanitary standard remains the same for non-varietal certified seed and this seed is not endorsed or accompanied by any MAF seed varietal labels or certificates other than an export phytosanitary certificate where the seed meets an importing country's phytosanitary requirements. Laboratories analyzing samples of seed destined for export must be MAF-approved and ISTA-accredited for results to be acceptable for phytosanitary purposes.



Varietal certified seed for sowing sold by New Zealand to other countries is accompanied by an electronically produced phytosanitary certificate, OECD labels and certificate, and on request, ISTA orange international certificates of analysis. OECD labels and phytosanitary certificates are the only official New Zealand Government certificates issued for exports of certified seed.

The need for the integrated system was a logical step for New Zealand given that MAF is the NPPO and is also the National Designated Authority for the administration of the OECD Seed Schemes Rules in New Zealand, and the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). With these three roles operating within the same branch of MAF, MAF has become New Zealand's efficient one-stop-shop for both seed varietal and phytosanitary certification.

Ukrainian Seed Staff trained by NAK

By Max Soepboer, NAK

Field Inspection of Cereals

In 2009 Ukraine was admitted to the OECD Cereal Scheme as well as to the OECD Maize and Sorghum Scheme. In June 2010 NAK (Dutch General Inspection Service for agricultural seeds and seed potatoes) organised a 'train the trainer' course for field inspection of cereals. The training was held in the framework of a G2G (Government to Government) project financed by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and was held in Emmeloord, The Netherlands.

The training was attended by four Ukrainian field inspectors with the aim to up-grade their state of knowledge of the field inspection of cereals. The theoretical part covered the characters for field inspection and post control of wheat, barley, oats and triticale. It also dealt with the application of the so-called primary characters and additional or secondary characters.

The first part of the practical training consisted of a visit to the NAK pre- and post control plots. The system of sample selection, sampling, processing of samples and sowing as well as the instructions for the assessment of the plots were shown. After that the plots were visited and the assessment of varietal identity and varietal purity was demonstrated. This included the assessment of off-types, the characters that are used and at which growing stage they are used, the range of expression and types of off-types.

The second part of the practical training took the participants to a number of cereal multiplications. The system of field identification was shown as well as the way the varietal purity norms are assessed. The NAK field inspector demonstrated how the quadrates of 100 m² for the assessment of varietal purity are randomly selected and how the number of off-types per quadrate are counted. The trainees also did practicals in the assessment of varietal purity in different multiplication fields.

Quality Management and Auditing

The training was given in the framework of the bilateral project between the Ukrainian Ministry of Agricultural Policy and the Dutch General Inspection Service for Agricultural Seeds and Seed Potatoes (NAK).

Staff members of the State Seed Inspectorate, Plant Quarantine Inspection, Plant Protection Service and Research and Breeding Institutes participated in the training that was given in Kiev from 1 – 5 November 2010.

The items dealt with during the course were:

- General introduction to Quality and Quality Management
- Integrated Quality Management
- Project plan
- Process analysis
- Procedures and work instructions
- Quality Manual
- Certification and accreditation
- Audits
- Audit training

Each item started with a presentation and explanation by the NAK lecturers. After that the participants worked assignments in small working groups thus gaining practical experience in drafting a project plan and making a process analysis. The program followed the ISO 9001 accreditation standard. The assignments were directly related to the activities of field inspection, sampling, seed testing and breeding for which procedures and instructions were drafted by the working groups.



Novel Food, New Breeding Techniques, GMOs... - is there any future for innovation in Europe's agriculture?

By Garlich von Essen, Secretary General, European Seed Association



Years of talks between European Parliament and EU Member States on a new regulation on novel foods finally collapsed on March 28, leaving the issue on how to

regulate the development and marketing of food products resulting from innovative technologies wide open. Main reason for the breakdown was the Parliament's insistence on a ban on food from cloned animals and their descendants, motivated by its perception of a negative public attitude towards the technology highlighted in a recent "Eurobarometer" survey. Member States and Commission argued that such a ban would be impossible to implement and enforcement would be technically unfeasible in practice, irrespective of possible EU labelling provisions as third countries would not apply the same approach to such products, and that a ban of imports would not be compatible with the international trade rules that the EU has signed up to - with the European Parliament's explicit consent. The failed negotiations now leave the old Novel Food Regulation in place, which had been put up for revision mainly to provide more legal certainty and to promote innovation in food production. The failure of talks also means that proposed rules in other areas such as innovative breeding techniques and Nano-materials will not (yet) come into force. But there are worrying signals that this may only be a matter of time: experts from EU Member States are currently discussing the regulatory status and possible extension of requirements for numerous modern plant breeding techniques and the Commission has been quick to assure that a new proposal to regulate Novel Foods, i.e to subject them to stringent safety assessment, authorisation and possibly traceability and labelling requirements will be put forward soon. This policy approach is much in line with the EU's still on-going debate on the use of

biotechnology in general and most specifically GM technology in its agri-food production chain. Here as well, science plays a minor role in the discussion. While evidence of the safety and usefulness of GM crops is literally growing on around 150 million hectares each year, Europe finds ever new reasons to deny its breeders, farmers, growers and food producers access to this technology. All in all, it seems there is little hope for innovation in European plant breeding and crop production. At the same time, the EU continues to promote its general objective of becoming the most innovative knowledge-based bio-economy on the planet. And still co-funds numerous R&D projects in the respective areas of science and technology.



Europe's plant breeding industry always insisted that only such novel products that are substantially different from existing ones should be regulated. We still fear that science, practicality and fair competition will be pushed to the side lines by regulatory overkill concepts. If Europe's plant breeders will become subject to new requirements and rules wherever they make use of modern breeding techniques in the development of new plant varieties, irrespective of the nature of the final product, innovation will be stigmatised and its competitive advantages undermined. ESA has repeatedly underlined that such EU

requirements would not be enforceable for imports as most third countries don't see a need for specific rule. But also is it impossible to detect or differentiate many of the new products. It would thus be misleading to single out some products just because of their production technology, even where the end product is exactly the same as any other. As an industry, we fear that the EU approach will effectively discourage innovation and, after GM crops, well drive yet another set of modern technologies out of Europe – only to see the resulting products being imported without such rules and associated costs applied to them.

Together with farmers and public research institutes, ESA and a number of individual plant breeding companies are trying to address the consequences that such loss and lack of innovation will have on the entire EU agri-food chain, for European consumers, but also for the EU's contribution to the resolutions of some of the greatest challenges of our times: preservation and sustainable use of natural resources to produce more food at affordable prices for the growing world population. "More and better" are the key words in this challenge and genetic progress is the key to meet it. A high level conference mid of May will bring leading experts, business representatives and policy makers together in Brussels to address these and many other points in the common quest for of promoting plant breeding innovation (http://www.plantetp.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=163). But clearly, more than a one-off event is needed to change the tide. Plant breeders, farmers and food producers must continue to join forces in

explaining the need for and crucial role of innovation in their commitments to sustainability, safety and their contributions to the greening of our economies, improvement of food security and preservation of resources; and of a suitable regulatory requirement that promotes such innovations instead of hindering them or rendering them economically unviable. Only if we succeed will we be able to free the impressive innovative capacity of Europe's plant scientists, plant breeders, farmers and food producers. And only if we do will Europe stand a chance in meeting its self-proclaimed policy objective and truly become the knowledge-based bio-economy of the 21st century.

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