

The OECD Codes and Schemes in Asia



Information Leaflet

<p>OECD Seed Schemes</p>  A close-up photograph of two hands, one wearing a gold bangle, holding a large quantity of golden-brown seeds, likely rice or wheat, in a bowl.	<p>OECD Tractor Codes</p>  A red tractor is shown in a green field. The image includes circular inset graphics showing different agricultural scenarios, such as a tractor plowing and a tractor with a harrow.	<p>OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme</p>  A collection of fresh produce, including several bright green limes and a single brown, textured fruit, possibly a jackfruit or a similar tropical fruit, resting on a wooden surface.	<p>OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme</p>  A landscape photograph of a tropical forest with numerous palm trees and other lush vegetation, situated near a body of water.
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September 2011

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In the context of the 50th Anniversary of OECD (December 2010 - September 2011), OECD co-operation with Asian enhanced engagement countries - China, India, and Indonesia - since 2007 helps the OECD better address global economic, environmental, and social challenges.

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.

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.

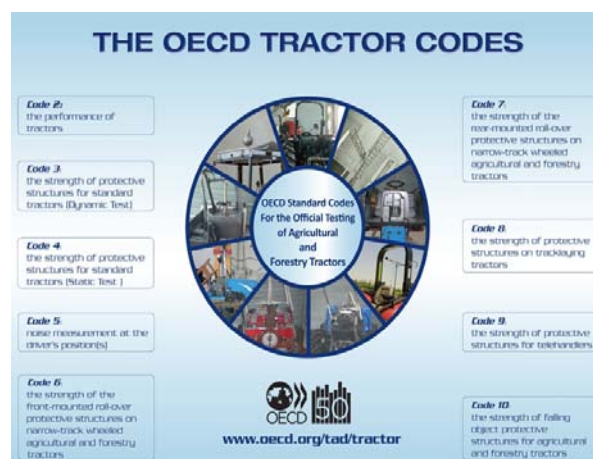
Already six countries in Asia actively participate in 2011 in the OECD Codes and Schemes.

Date of accession to the Codes and Schemes

	OECD Seed Schemes	OECD Tractor Codes
China		1988
India	2008	1988
Iran	1995	
Japan	1967	1966
Korea		1995
Kyrgyzstan	2005	

OECD Tractor Codes

The first standard Code for the Official Testing of Agricultural Tractors was approved on 21 April 1959. This Code has since been extended to cover forestry tractors and other features of performance, safety and noise.



More than 2750 tractor models have received performance test approval since the Codes were established in 1959.

Furthermore, more than 10 800 variants of tractors were tested for noise measurement at the driving position, or for the driver's protection in case of tractor roll-over; Having satisfied the safety criteria of the Codes they have been marketed nationally and internationally.

At present, 27 countries, i.e. 23 OECD Members and 4 countries which are not members of the OECD, adhere to the Codes which are open to all Member States of the U.N.

A particular feature of the OECD Tractor Codes is that, since 1981, a **Test Engineers' Conference** is organized every two years at the invitation of a participating country.

The first **Asian country that joined the Tractor Codes** was **Japan** in 1966. **Japan** hosted the **OECD Test Engineers' Conference in Omiya**, in 1997.

China joined the OECD Tractor Codes in 1988 and was the **second Asian country to host the Engineers' Conference in Beijing and Luoyang** in 2005.

Korea became an official Member of the Tractor Codes in 1995 and was the **third Asian country to host the Engineers' Conference in Suwon** in 2009.



Test Engineers' Conferences permit a correct and coherent interpretation of testing procedures and their development. Their primary purpose is the observation, review and discussion of testing practices by Test Engineers. They facilitate the verification of test reports carried out by the Co-ordinating Centre, which liaises between the National Testing Stations and the OECD for technical matters.



The three **Asian countries** that have hosted an OECD Test Engineers Conference demonstrated the relevance of the programme in the region. Over the last years, **China** has been one of the three countries with the highest amount of test reports sent to the OECD for approval.

The OECD Secretariat took part in July 2011 in an Expert Working Group (EGM): **Development of a sustainable agricultural machinery and farm implements testing network in the Asia-Pacific Region.**

The EGM was organised by **UNESCAP** in Bangkok, Thailand.



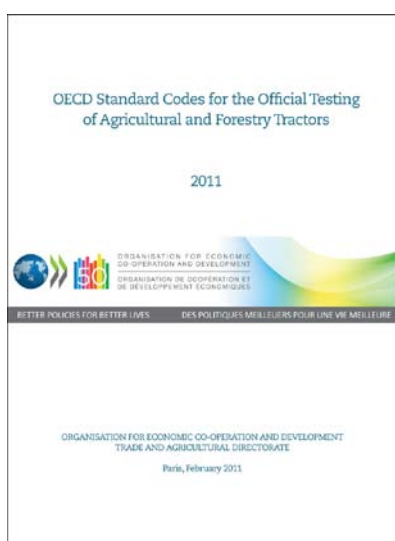
14 countries from the region participated in the Meeting, including five countries that are

members of the OECD Tractor Codes; **Korea, China, India, Russia and Japan.**



The focus of the discussions was to identify the modalities in **developing an Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery** and to establish a taskforce to develop and operationalise an Asia Pacific Network to oversee the implementation of operator and environmental safety standards. **Malaysia** expressed interest to participate in the 2011 Test Engineers Conference organised in Germany in September, and to participate as an Observer Country in the 2012 OECD Annual Meeting to be held in Paris on 23-24 February 2012.

The full text of the **OECD Tractor Codes** is available in the form of a paper brochure and can be found online at the following address: www.oecd.org/tad/tractor



OECD Seed Schemes

Among the 58 Member countries, **four from Asia currently participate in the OECD Seed Schemes.**

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 seven agricultural Seed Schemes. They aim at encouraging 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.

Iran is an active participant in the OECD Seed Schemes (Beet). A member since 1995, Iran provides statistical data concerning Varieties, Weights of certified seed and Post Control testing, related to international trade in Seed.



India officially joined the OECD Seed Schemes in 2008 and participates in five of the seven OECD Seed Schemes.



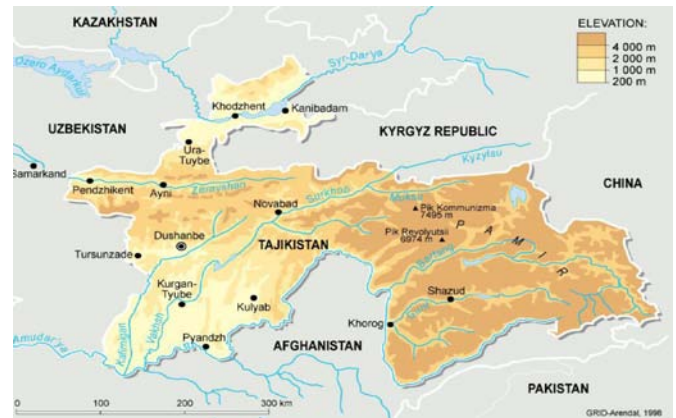
A **Workshop on seed certification and the seed trade in Asia** was organized during the 2010 OECD Annual Seed Schemes Meeting held in New Zealand.

The purpose of the Workshop was to develop a better understanding of the different systems for seed certification and trade in seed in Asian countries. Japan, India, the Asia Pacific Seed Association (APSA), Indonesia and Korea made a presentation on Seed Certification in their countries.

Kyrgyzstan joined two of the OECD Seed Schemes in December 2005, the Cereal Scheme and the Beet Scheme. The country extended its participation to the Grass and Legume Scheme in 2008.

Tajikistan has expressed interest in joining the Seed Schemes and was invited as an Observer Country to the 2010 and 2011

Annual Meetings of the OECD Seed Schemes to give a presentation on Seed production in Tajikistan.



Indonesia was invited as an Observer country, and gave an informative and interesting presentation on the certification of seed in the country during the Annual Seed Schemes Meeting held in Turkey in May 2011. Indonesia informed the 2011 Annual Meeting that they wish to join the OECD Seed Schemes soon.



The 2011 version of the OECD Seed Schemes Rules and Regulations exists as a paper brochure and is available online at: www.oecd.org/tad/seed



The Fruit and Vegetables Scheme also organises Peer Reviews with the goal of helping the reviewed country improve its quality inspection system.

OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

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

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.

OECD Forest Seed And Plant Scheme

The *OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme* is a certification scheme to facilitate international trade in forest seed and plants.

The Scheme aims at encouraging 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.

Many countries, especially from the tropical areas, have expressed their interest in the OECD Forest Seed & Plant Scheme.



**United Nations
International Year of Forests, 2011
Celebrating Forests for People**

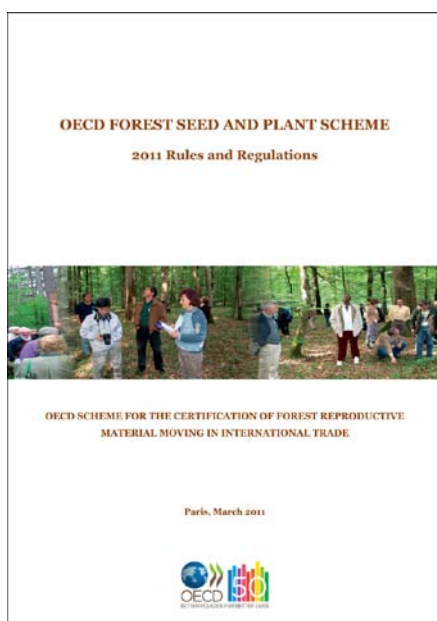


Indonesia and **Korea** are interested in the Forest Scheme and participated as Observers in the 2010 Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. They informed the Meeting on the Forest Reproductive Material certification system in their countries.

The Rules of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme are available in the form of a paper brochure, they include the list of participating countries, and the National Designated Authorities. The database on approved basic material as well as other information are available online at: www.oecd.org/tad/forest

“The International Year of Forests 2011 (Forests 2011) logo is designed to convey the theme of “Forests for People” celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world’s forests. The iconographic elements in the design depict some of the multiple values of forests and the need for a 360-degree perspective: forests provide shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; are a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment. All of these elements taken together reinforce the message that forests are vital to the survival and well being of people everywhere, all 7 billion of us.”

<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011>



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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