

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE  
COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE

**Meeting of Representatives of the National Designated Authorities for the  
Implementation of the OECD Scheme for the Certification of Forest Reproductive  
Material Moving in International Trade**

**Draft Summary Record of the Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme**

**15-16 September 2008, Paris, France**

*This document incorporates all comments received from Delegations, National Designated Authorities and Observers. It is circulated for information with a view to its adoption at the 2009 Meeting.*

*The list of participants is attached as Annex I.*

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE OECD FOREST SEED AND PLANT  
SCHEME**

**15-16 SEPTEMBER 2008, PARIS, FRANCE**

**1. Opening statements by the Secretariat**

Mr. Wayne Jones, Head of Agro-Food Trade and Market Department and Mr. Michael Ryan, Head of the OECD Codes and Schemes Unit welcomed the delegates and opened the meeting.

**2. Election of officers**

Mr. Pierre Bouillon (France) was confirmed as Chair, Mrs. Lolona Ramamonjisoa (Madagascar) and Mr. Dale Simpson (Canada) were confirmed as Vice-Chairs (in their capacity as Chair-Elect and out-going Chair, respectively).

**3. Adoption of the Agenda [TAD/CA/F/A(2008)1/REV1]**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**4. Approval of the Draft Summary Record of the 2007 Annual Meeting  
[TAD/CA/F/M(2007)1]**

The Representative of EFNA (European Forest Nursery Association) recognized that a few corrections are necessary in item 12 of the Draft Summary Record, in the report of EFNA's activities. Subject to these corrections, Delegates approved the Summary Record of the 2007 Annual Meeting.

**5. Report on the Meeting of the Bureau**

Mr. Pierre Bouillon informed the delegations on the outcome of the Meeting of the Bureau held on 15 September 2008. The meeting focused on the preparation of the 2008 Annual Meeting and the Technical Working Group Meeting.

**6. Participating countries, other interested countries [TAD/CA/F/(2008)1]**

The OECD Secretariat informed Delegates that there were no changes in the number of participating countries over the last year. However, three applications were in the pipeline for 2008. In accordance with the OECD procedure, evaluation missions took place to Burkina Faso, Serbia and Croatia following their official request to join the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. The evaluation reports were prepared and are in the agenda for discussion and approval.

The Ugandan application has been suspended until Uganda expresses its interest in joining the Scheme. In this case, a new evaluation mission would be organized to the country.

The delegate from Bulgaria gave a short presentation of the certification system of forest reproduction material in Bulgaria. She expressed interest in joining the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme in the near future.

The delegate from Brazil gave a short overview of the Brazilian forest sector. The preparation of a new forestry policy is under preparation. Once it is finalized, they would be interested in joining the Scheme.

Korea also participated in the meeting as an observer country. The Delegate indicated that Korea needs more time to observe the activities of the Scheme before they would join the Scheme.

The representative of New Zealand informed the Meeting that more than 90% of the country's pine seeds originated from seed orchards, and that Europe is an important market. They are interested in joining the Scheme as they would like to maintain trade with European countries.

#### **7. Secretariat's activity report [TAD/CA/F/RD(2008)1]**

The OECD Secretariat informed delegates of the activities since the 2007 Meeting and of the budget and the programme of work of the Scheme.

The Secretariat was requested to contact Japan in order to invite this country to the next Annual Meeting as observers.

#### **8. Evaluation of Croatia's request for accession to the Forest Scheme [TAD/CA/F(2008)4]**

The Chair informed the Meeting that Mr. I. Bach (Hungary) and Mr. C. Gaspar (OECD) carried out the evaluation mission to Croatia. The Chair invited the Croatian delegation to present the key elements of the Croatian forestry sector to the Meeting.

Mr. Videc made a presentation on the forestry sector in Croatia. Croatia has National Legislation on Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) (2005) which complies with OECD rules. The Regulations implementing this Act are under adoption and the Croatian certification system will be in line with OECD rules by the second half of 2009. It was noted that Croatia has already delineated Regions of Provenance for 18 tree species. The National Register of Approved Basic Material is also under development.

The evaluation team reported that they had carried out the examination of the Croatian certification system of FRM. The system is well developed and is governed by the Act of FRM and National Regulations. There is very good cooperation between the authorities responsible for the certification of FRM. It was noted that Croatia should consider the list of species that could be certified under the OECD rules and some elements of the National Register and the summary list of approved basic material should be modified.

Following some further clarifications and discussions among the delegations, delegates were invited to decide on Croatia's request to join the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme.

**Delegates at the Annual Meeting unanimously agreed to Croatia's request for accession to the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme.**

Mr. Videc thanked all the delegates at the meeting for agreeing to admit Croatia to the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme and thanked both Mr. Bach and Mr. Gaspar for carrying out the evaluation.

#### **9. Evaluation of Burkina Faso's request for accession to the Forest Scheme [TAD/CA/F(2008)5]**

Mr. P. Bouillon (France) informed the Meeting that he and Mr. S. Iglesias (Spain) carried out the evaluation mission to Burkina Faso. The Chair invited the Burkina Faso delegation to present the key elements of Burkina Faso's forestry sector to the Meeting.

Mr. Honadia made a presentation on the forestry sector in Burkina Faso. The National Legislation and Regulations on FRM are under adoption. Burkina Faso has chosen 4 economically important tree species (*Acacia Senegal*, *Anacardium occidentale*, *Khaya senegalensis*, *Parkia biglobosa*) and delineated Regions of Provenances for these species. Burkina Faso also established the National Catalogue of Basic Materials.

The evaluation team reported that they had carried out the examination of Burkina Faso's certification system of FRM. The cooperation is satisfactory and exchange of information effective between the head office of the National Centre for Forest Seeds and the two sub-divisions which conduct the field and sample inspection of seed lots for certification. It was noted that some improvements remain to be done but in summary the certification system is well developed and fulfils the requirements of the Scheme.

Following some further clarifications and discussions among the delegations, delegates were invited to decide on Burkina Faso's request to join the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme.

**Delegates at the Annual Meeting unanimously agreed to Burkina Faso's request for accession to the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme.**

Mr Honadia thanked all the delegates at the meeting for agreeing to admit Burkina Faso to the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme and thanked both Mr. Bouillon and Mr. Iglesias for carrying out the evaluation.

#### **10. Evaluation of Serbia's request for accession to the Forest Scheme [TAD/CA/F(2008)6]**

The Chair informed the Annual Meeting that Mrs. I. Strohschneider (Austria) and Mr. Cs. Gaspar (OECD) carried out the evaluation mission to Serbia. The Chair invited the Serbian delegation to present the key elements of the Serbian forestry sector to the Meeting.

Mr. Orlovic and Mrs. Sovilj made a presentation on the forestry sector in Serbia. Serbia has a Forest Law (2008) and Law on FRM (2004) both are in line with the OECD rules. The country has already delineated Regions of Provenance for 2 tree species, and a further 5 are in progress. The National Register of Approved Basic Material is in line with OECD rules.

The evaluation team reported that they had carried out the examination of the Serbian certification system of FRM. The cooperation is good and the information flow is effective between the Ministry of Agriculture – Directorate of Forestry and the three appointed Institutions in charge of physical inspection. The method of certification of FRM is under control of the authorities and ensures the trueness of FRM to name. It was noted that some modification should be done in the National Legislation but in summary the certification system is well developed and fulfils the rules of the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme.

Following some further clarifications and discussions among the delegations, delegates were invited to decide on Serbia's request to join the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme.

**Delegates at the Annual Meeting unanimously agreed to Serbia's request for accession to the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme.**

Mr. Orlovic thanked all the delegates at the meeting for agreeing to admit Serbia to the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme and thanked both Mrs. Strohschneider and Mr. Gaspar for carrying out the evaluation.

**11. Update on the work of the Technical Working Group [TAD/CA/F(2008)2; TAD/CA/F(2008)3]**

Mrs. Lolona Ramamonjisoa, as Chair of the Technical Working Group (TWG), informed the Meeting on the work of the TWG. This was the first meeting of the group after its establishment in 2007. Sub-working groups were created to examine the development of a database, common definition and, on how to deal with the two advanced categories. The sub-groups discussed these issues by exchange of emails and then at the Meeting. The TWG also discussed Mr. Muhs' proposal on how to adopt the Scheme for conditions in tropical countries.

Delegates discussed the outcome of the first TWG meeting and agreed on the following:

Development of a relevant and up-to-date database:

- The objectives and contents of the OECD database have to be defined.
- The data collection strategy has to be defined.
- The OECD database needs to be linked to country' databases for more detailed information.
- Other databases (e.g. European Commission) could be used as models for the OECD database
- The electronic discussion will continue during 2008/09 and the sub-working group will draft a new proposal for the TWG in 2009.

Development of common definitions:

- The terms used on commercial documents of forest seeds should be defined.
- A draft document should be developed in several languages
- The terms will be circulated to all Member states for comment and for approval. The decision will be taken at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

The two advanced categories:

- There was no substantial development in this area of work. The Representative of the US should participate in the discussion and in the development of a proposal on this issue.
- The two advanced categories "Qualified" and "Tested" should be discussed and treated separately.
- The TWG should work on the possible integration of the "Qualified" category and draft a proposal for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

### Adaptation of the Scheme for conditions in tropical countries

- Optional and additional amendments were proposed by the consultant.
- The elements of the adaptation have to be simple and compatible with the rules of the present Scheme.
- The diversity between humid and dry areas of the tropical zone should be taken into account.
- All Member states are asked to comment on the document before a revised and consolidated report will be drafted for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

The draft Terms of Reference of the TWG [TAD/CA/F(2008)3] was adopted after the modification of ANNEX I (“List of discussion items”). According to this decision, the TWG will work on the following items in 2009:

1. Develop a relevant and more up-to-date database.
2. Develop common definitions (for instance for forest functions).
3. Adaptation of the Scheme for conditions in tropical countries.
4. Short rotation plantations for Bioenergy and agroforestry and shrub species.
5. Proposal on how to deal with the category “Qualified”.

Taking into account the number of subjects for discussion, it was decided that the next meeting of the Technical Working Group will last one day.

### **12. Follow-up on the Strategic Review of the Programme [TAD/CA/F/RD(2008)2]**

The OECD Secretariat introduced the Draft Strategic Plan of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. This document incorporated the outcome of the discussions on the Strategic Review of the Programme at the 2007 Meeting. Chapter III “*Strategic areas for future improvements*” of the paper has also drawn on material developed during the development of the Draft Strategic Plan for the OECD Seed Schemes.

Some delegates felt that a strategic plan should be a shorter document, maximum 3 pages and it should only contain the goals, aims and methods. For effective implementation, an action plan document must be established.

It was also mentioned that the Scheme should not create a new concept as “provisional membership” as regards new applicants. The OECD has “ad-hoc observers, observers, full participants, members” as forms of involvement in the work of this Organization. The process on the “inclusion of new participating countries” should be redefined within the existing rules and procedures of the OECD.

It was decided that Member countries should send their comments on this document by **3 November 2008** to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will incorporate all comments in a new proposal, which will be discussed at the 2009 Annual Meeting for final approval.

### **13. Update on implementation of the new Scheme in the countries**

Delegations informed the Meeting on the latest development in the implementation of the OECD Scheme in their countries. It was reported by many countries that the number of seed orchards and trade of qualified seeds are increasing.

#### **14. Update of statistics on the Forest Scheme**

The OECD Secretariat informed Delegates that following a consultation with the Bureau, the collection of data on the international trade of forest seeds and on approved basic material for all the four categories will be continued, despite that the two advanced categories, “qualified” and “tested” are not defined in the rules of the current OECD Forest Scheme [C(2007)69]. This may allow Member Countries to evaluate the importance of these two categories in the international forest seed trade.

The Secretariat informed the meeting that there are five countries (Denmark, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the United States) which have not sent statistics on the weight of seeds certified for 2005/06 and 2006/07 yet. The complete statistics will be available on OLIS when all information from these countries is received.

#### **15. Statement by international organizations on the recent developments**

##### *European Commission*

The Representative of the European Commission informed delegates that according to the new draft EC regulation, the OECD certification system for forest reproductive materials will be equivalent to the system used by the European Union. The Member countries of the Scheme would only get recognition for the two approved OECD categories “source-identified” and “selected”. According to this legislation, imports of FRM from Member countries of the Scheme to EU Member States will not require bilateral agreement between the country and the EC. The regulation will come into force by 1 January 2009.

##### *FAO – UN Food and Agricultural Organization*

The Representative of the FAO Secretariat sent apologizes that he could not participate in the Meeting. However, a written report on the latest development in the FAO activities, especially the work on the World’s Forest Genetic Resources was distributed.

##### *ISF – International Seed Federation*

The representative of ISF informed the meeting on the latest developments in ISF activities. He believes that the use of a harmonized database is important in order to facilitate trade in FRM. The OECD Forest Scheme is a key player in development of a more standardized database. It is also important to complete the new Scheme with the two advanced categories in the near future.

##### *EFNA – European Forest Nursery Association*

The Representative of EFNA reported that with the exception of Ireland and the UK, where the profitability of the nurseries dramatically dropped in 2007, nurseries in the EU were again trading profitably after several difficult years. However, they are now faced with new problems due to the possible restriction on pesticide use and a disease (*Chalara fraxinea*) causing widespread death of the European Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Also the Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) which is endemic in Europe has been reported in the UK and, therefore, there will be a ban in trade of oak reproductive material into the UK from 2009.

*ISTA – International Seed Testing Association*

The Representative of ISTA informed the Meeting that there are nearly 100 accredited laboratories and among them more than 20 are accredited for forestry species. ISTA is organized in 16 Technical Committees and one of them is deal with Forestry tree and shrub species. Due to the big biodiversity of the tropical countries, ISTA is really interested in its presence in Africa, Asia and Latin America. For this reason, the ISTA laboratory, which is accredited especially for forestry species, located in the Northern Italy, near Verona, is offering the opportunity to host stages for people coming from developing countries.

*IUFRO – International Union of Forestry Research Organizations*

The representative of IUFRO informed the Meeting that they are the largest and oldest research organization. Actually they are working on a study on genetically modified tree species in cooperation with the FAO.

**16. Nomination of officers**

Mr. Dale Simpson (Canada) stepped down from the Bureau. Delegates agreed to nominate Mr. Rwihaniza Jean Gapusi (Rwanda) as incoming Vice-Chair and Chair of the Technical Working Group. Delegates thanked M. Pierre Bouillon (France) for his excellent chairing of the Annual Meeting and the development of the Programme of Work. M Bouillon will remain vice-chair of the Annual Meeting for a further 2 year period. In 2009, Mme Lolona Ramamonjisoa (Madagascar) will take over as Chair.

**17. Date and place of 2009 meeting of the OECD Forest Scheme**

Rwanda volunteered to host the 2009 Meeting. Mr. Gapusi gave an interesting presentation on Rwandan preparation for the Annual Meeting. The delegates welcomed the proposal and agreed that the Annual Meeting will be held in **Rwanda in October 2009**. The exact date will be determined later. There will be one day Technical Working Group Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting,

**18. Other business**

There was no discussion under other business.

ANNEX I

**List of Participants**  
**2008 Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Scheme**  
**Réunion annuelle 2008 sur le Système forestier de l'OCDE**

**OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris – France**

**15-16 September 2008**

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**Pays observateurs devant être évalués en vue de leur adhésion au Système forestier**

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