

**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 AGENDA OF THE OF THE 6th TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON
VARIETAL IDENTITY AND VARIETAL PURITY**

To be held at the International Energy Agency (IEA/AIE), 9, rue de la Fédération, 75015 Paris, France

Wednesday 28 January 2009 (9:00 - 18:00)

The Technical Working Group is invited to discuss issues identified at the 2008 Annual Meeting [TAD/CA/S/M(2008)4/REV1] and the 5th TWG Meeting [TAD/CA/S/M(2008)3/REV1], in preparation for the 2009 Annual Meeting. The present Draft Agenda is circulated to Delegations, National Designated Authorities and Observers participating in the EAG meeting, and to all delegates for information.

JT03255034

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GENERAL

1. Opening statement

By the OECD Secretariat and Mr Peter Johnston, Chair of the TWG on Varietal Identity and Varietal Purity.

2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda

[TAD/CA/S/A(2009)2]

3. Draft Summary Record of the 5th Meeting of the Technical Working Group

[TAD/CA/S/M(2008)3/REV1]

For recommendation

The 5th TWG Meeting took place in Chicago, USA, on 30 June 2008. The draft Summary Record, prepared by the Co-ordinating Centre and the Secretariat, was made available on Odisnext on 2 October 2008 and includes comments made by Member countries.

OUTCOMES FROM THE 5TH TWG MEETING

4. TWG proposals approved at the 2008 Annual Meeting

For information

The 5th TWG Meeting presented proposals that were approved at the 2008 Annual Meeting. Subsequently, the following two documents have been adopted by the Committee for Agriculture and the Council: *Proposal for adding the Definitions of Varietal Identity and Varietal Purity* [TAD/CA/S(2008)2/REV1] and *Proposal amending two provisions of the Post-control Rules* [TAD/CA/S(2008)3/REV1].

5. REVISION OF POST-CONTROL AND FIELD INSPECTION GUIDELINES

It was agreed to develop the following documents which, pending approval by the TWG, would be submitted to the 2009 Annual Meeting.

5.1 Draft revised Guidelines, General Parts I, II, III

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2008)3/REV2]

*For discussion
and recommendation*

The draft paper revising the OECD Guidelines contains the following general sections:

- Part I -Control Plot Tests;
- Part II - Field Inspection of Seed Crops; and a
- Part III - Additional Testing Methods for Varietal Identity and Varietal Purity.

At the 5th TWG Meeting, the texts of Parts II and III of the Guidelines have been agreed by technical experts. Further work was required on Part I, with regard to the section on Reject Numbers.

The Co-ordinating Centre prepared a revised document taking into account the changes agreed at the 5th TWG Meeting and the received written comments of the experts and observers on the Section dealing with Reject Numbers.

Action: Recommendation for the 2009 Annual meeting.

5.2 Draft revised Guidelines, Species description sheets

- *Updating description sheets for other species,
Plan for Action* [TAD/CA/S/RD(2008)13/REV1]
*For discussion
and recommendation*

At the 5th TWG Meeting, 17 “new “species, and further 12 agricultural species for which certification is taking place under the Schemes, have been identified for preparation and /or updating of characters.

The Co-ordinating Centre developed characters for assessing varietal purity for the 29 species, made a review of the lists of characters and produced a paper for discussion.

Action: Recommendation for the 2009 Annual meeting.

OTHER TECHNICAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 6. Harmonisation of Post-Control Procedures and Standards** [TAD/CA/S/RD(2008)9/REV1]
*For discussion
and recommendation*

A questionnaire on post-control procedures and standards used domestically by NDAs was discussed extensively at the 5th TWG Meeting. Further 10 questions were added by Canada to the questionnaire and circulated to all members of the TWG.

The Co-ordinating Centre developed a discussion paper drafted from the responses received [TAD/CA/S/RD(2008)9/REV1]. Responses have been received from several countries and incorporated into the document.

If agreed by all delegates, the recommendations developed from the discussion paper could be submitted to the 2009 Annual Meeting for approval.

Action: Recommendation for the 2009 Annual meeting.

**7. Eligibility of Varieties for OECD Listing
and Seed Certification**

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2008)10/REV1]
*For discussion
and recommendation*

At the 5th TWG Meeting, Canada presented a new discussion paper on variety eligibility (containing 7 questions to be answered) that was circulated to all members of the TWG.

The Co-ordinating Centre developed a discussion paper drafted from the responses received [TAD/CA/S/RD(2008)10/REV1]. Responses have been received from several countries and incorporated into the document.

If agreed by all delegates, the recommendations developed from the discussion paper could be submitted to the 2009 Annual Meeting for approval.

Action: Recommendation for the 2009 Annual meeting.

8. Amendment of a provision of the post-control Rules

[TAD/CA/S(2008)?]
*For discussion
and recommendation*

Discussion on the Draft proposal related to the introduction of a new rule 7.1.2 in all Schemes making the use of Reject Numbers at a risk probability of 95% mandatory in post control plot tests.

If agreed by all delegates, the proposal could be submitted to the 2009 Annual Meeting for approval.

Action: Recommendation for the 2009 Annual meeting.

9. Draft Amendment to the Rules for Acceptance of Varieties

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2008)14]
*For discussion
and recommendation*

At the 5th TWG Meeting, France prepared a proposal which sought to give more coherence between the Rules and the Guidelines for Control Plots and Field Inspection regarding the registration of varieties; the proposal includes changes made to the Rule 2.2.

If agreed by all delegates, the proposal could be submitted to the 2009 Annual Meeting for approval.

Action: Recommendation for the 2009 Annual meeting.

10. Topics for future discussion

*For discussion
and priority setting*

The list of topics for future discussions within the TWG and their associated timeframe, as agreed at the 5th WG Meeting and reproduced in the draft summary record TAD/CA/S/M(2008)1- section 10, will be completed.

11. Next Meeting of the TWG

The 7th Meeting of the TWG is scheduled on 10 June 2009 and will take place at the OECD in Paris, France, back-to-back with the next Annual Meeting.

12. Other Business

Please note that in the spirit of paper economy and for environmental purposes, delegates are invited to bring their own copy of the above-mentioned documents; no extra copies will be made available during the WG meeting.