50th Anniversary of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

71st Plenary Meeting
Hosted by France in Montpellier
on 6-7 December 2012
C O N T E N T S

The OECD’s core values 2
OECD in Brief 3
Statement from the Chair of the Plenary Meeting 5
Statement from France, Host Country 7
Statement from Kenya 9
OECD Library & Archives Historical Exhibit 11
OECD Explanatory brochures 12
OECD Peer Reviews 14
Meetings of Heads of National Inspection Services 15
OECD Guidelines 17
International Training Courses and Workshops 18
Further information 20
Acknowledgements 21
The OECD’s Core Values

**Objective:** Our analyses and recommendations are independent and evidence-based.

**Open:** We encourage debate and a shared understanding of critical global issues.

**Bold:** We dare to challenge conventional wisdom starting with our own.

**Pioneering:** We identify and address emerging and long term challenges.

**Ethical:** Our credibility is built on trust, integrity and transparency.
OECD In Brief

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1961, provides a multilateral forum to discuss, develop and reform economic and social policies. Today it has 34 member countries The OECD’s mission is to promote policies for sustainable economic growth and employment, a rising standard of living, and trade liberalisation. It is at the forefront of efforts to help governments understand and respond to new developments and concerns so that economic and social developments are not achieved at the expense of environmental degradation.

The OECD brings together its Member countries to discuss and develop domestic and international policies. It analyses issues, identifies good policy practices and recommends actions in a unique forum in which countries can compare their experiences, seek answers to common problems, and work to co-ordinate policies. It shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 100 countries worldwide and engages in dialogue with business, labour, and civil society organisations on topics of mutual interest. The OECD is the largest and most reliable source of comparable statistical data and information on economic, environmental and social developments in its Member countries.

The OECD’s work is overseen by several bodies. At the highest level is the OECD Council, made up of Ambassadors from all Member countries. The Council’s main role is to review and approve the OECD budget and Programme of Work. The specific policy and technical work is directed by specialist Committees, supported by Working Parties and ad hoc meetings, which bring together technical expertise from Member countries. The daily work of the OECD is coordinated and supported by its Secretariat in Paris, with 2 500 staff and a budget of over € 342 million.

1 OECD member countries in 2012: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States. The European Commission also participates in the work of the Organisation.
This brochure features articles by renowned guests from government, business, trade unions and civil society who join OECD experts to take stock of the crisis and explore the key questions that confront the world economy in the year ahead.

The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems.
# Statement from the Chair of the Plenary Meeting

For the **celebration in 2012 of the 50th Anniversary of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme**, **M. Istvan Ecsedi, Chair of the Plenary Meeting**, was invited by the Secretariat to provide his views.

**Istvan Ecsedi – Head of Department**  
National Food chain Safety Office, Department for Inspection of Plant Products - Hungary

## OECD Secretariat:

**Your country joined the F&V Scheme in 1996. Why did it decide to become Member at that time?**

In the early 90's, political integration into the international community and the work of international bodies was high priority for Hungary. Therefore, it became obvious that accessing the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme, where the most professional work on fruit and vegetables quality inspection system is taking place, is crucial. At that time the Hungarian fruit and vegetables sector was strongly export oriented and joining the work of the Scheme helped the inspection body to establish a good inspection system mutually recognised by the other members of the Scheme.

## Chair:

**Could you mention briefly some developments in the F&V Scheme in the years following your country’s membership?**

In the early years, Hungary, as a new member country, mainly observed the ongoing work. Later, when we had a good understanding of the aims and principles of the Scheme, Hungary started to get more and more involved in the activities, such as to develop explanatory brochures or to host meetings. The independent review of the Scheme in the mid 2000's meant a positive turning point in the Scheme’s work. Since then a substantial development has taken place. Besides the uniqueness of the OECD fruit and vegetables quality inspection system, the new activities, such as peer reviews, market analysis of fruit and vegetables products, the developments in the OECD brochure's layout and the e-brochures as well as the regular organization of the OECD Meetings of Heads of National Inspection Services, are such development that distinguish the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme from other international bodies.
OECD Secretariat:

The OECD F&V scheme is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. Now that 25 countries are members of the Scheme, what are the advantages offered today by the Scheme? (Particularly for new countries)

Chair:

For those countries where the fruit and vegetables sector is an important part of the economy, and they want to access international market; Membership in the Scheme facilitates this aim. The accumulated knowledge and expertise in the Scheme over 50 years and personal relationships greatly help new member countries to develop a good and effective quality inspection system. The membership also offers easy access to guidelines and explanatory materials which are essential tools for the inspectors.

Based on your knowledge what are the future challenges and developments in the changing environment?

Inspection bodies face nowadays multiple challenges. Less financial possibilities globalised commerce, and higher demands altogether require a new approach. Cost effective inspections, common capacity building workshops, distant learning tools, benefits offered by the e-network are such things that inspection cannot neglect. Most of these elements are already included into the next biennium programme of work of the Scheme.
Statement from France, Host Country

France is an Active Member of the Scheme since its establishment

In 2012 the OECD will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. As France is the host country of the OECD and also one of the longest-standing and most active members of the Scheme, it volunteered to host the 2012 plenary meeting and to organise the technical working group meetings, the technical visit and the plenary meeting in Montpellier, France in December 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OECD Secretariat:</th>
<th>France:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>France has been an active member of the Scheme since its creation in 1962.</em></td>
<td><em>Being a member of the Fruit and Vegetable Scheme in 2012 enables France to contribute towards the development of international trade by facilitating dialogue between member countries.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>What advantages does your country see in being part of the Scheme in 2012, 50 years after it was set up?</em></td>
<td><em>Taking part in the Scheme enables joint regulations to be established in terms of fruit and vegetable quality which encourages exchanges between countries. The information supplied by each member facilitates our understanding of fruit and vegetable practices.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In your opinion, what have been the Scheme's positive points over the past 50 years and what can it offer new members today?</td>
<td>Two strengths of the Scheme are the development of brochures and the peer reviews on fruit and vegetable quality inspection systems. Taking part in peer reviews is a very important source of information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These reviews are carried out in one country by the other Scheme member countries and enable real progress to be made in terms of the systems set up in each country. They ensure a very high level of technical expertise and objectivity and contribute towards harmonising inspection practices as well as towards productive exchanges about inspection methods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The explanatory brochures are also a key factor for harmonising the implementation and the interpretation of the trade standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promoting the brochures and their increased use helps to ensure the quality of products and creates a feeling of trust which is conducive to dialogue and to the development of fruit and vegetable trade.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OECD Secretariat:

The Scheme provides a framework for the inspection system for the quality of fruit and vegetables. It is dynamic and creative, it produces and updates brochures, implements peer reviews, organises meetings with the heads of national inspection services and puts together and publishes guidelines.

France:

It is important to continue drafting new explanatory brochures so that every product is covered.

The Scheme should contribute towards the development of tools enabling countries with a real need to increase trade to join.

The Scheme should also provide support to member countries in order to face new issues surrounding international trade by facilitating dialogue about commonalities.

What new tools or future projects might you consider, which would benefit France in particular, and the Scheme members in general?

In the years to come, it is important to consider paperless dissemination of the brochures in order to facilitate ease and efficiency of use for all the members.

What are the OECD fruit and vegetable Scheme's strengths and weaknesses and how do you see it developing over the next 10 years in France’s opinion?

The Scheme has very solid foundations and skills which, over the years, have enabled new countries to become members.

It needs to continue its efforts to adapt to the economic issues of the future. An increasing world population, managing natural resources and developing new technologies: all the factors affecting international trade should be part of the scheme's perspective in the years to come.

Developing and integrating sections about health, safety and hygiene within a single system should be part of the Scheme's objectives. Similarly, the Scheme's work should consistently take into account cooperation with the Codex Alimentarius and the EEC/UN.
Statement from Kenya

Kenya, African Country, is Official Member of the Scheme since 2009

For the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme in 2012, Kenya - as one of the youngest active Members of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme - has been invited by the Secretariat to provide their views on the Scheme.

**OECD Secretariat:**

Kenya officially joined the Scheme in 2009.

Kenya is an active African country in the Scheme. What are your general impressions on the Fruit and Vegetables (FV) Scheme in 2012, after three years of membership?

**Kenya:**

Kenya is a large exporter of horticultural products in the international market. 106,000 tons of fresh fruits and vegetables worth Euro 300 million were exported in 2011, most of it to the European Union. With such big exports; employment opportunities, foreign exchange earnings and hence livelihoods are at stake. Therefore being a member of the OECD FV scheme has given Kenya an extra edge in the market over other Africa countries for its fruits and vegetables as only Morocco and South Africa are OECD FV members.

Being a member of the OECD FV also has given Kenya the advantage of interacting with European and other countries and to know well in advance new market requirements that are being proposed – allowing Kenya the chance to prepare early for such new requirements; brochures of produce standards from OECD FV scheme have been used to train government staff and stakeholders; also the brochures assist in the implementation of market standards.

Since accession, Kenya has already hosted three OECD Workshops on application of commercial quality standards for fruit and vegetables at KEPHIS Headquarters in Nairobi in 2010, 2011 and 2012, to the full satisfaction of participants.

According to your country, what is the added value of these OECD Workshops in Africa?

Africa has more than 50 countries, yet only 3 are members of OECD Fruits and Vegetables. This is only 6% of the continent. African economies are primarily agricultural based and therefore participating in activities of bodies like OECD FV has enormous advantages. This ensures:

a) Regional trading like for the East African bloc are guided by internationally recognized standards that are easy to relate with.

b) Being exporters of fruits and vegetables, Africa has the chance to sell using recognized standards.

c) Such standards if adopted assist in harmonization of trading practices and avoid disputes over produce quality.
OECD Secretariat:

What new tools or projects in the Fruit and Vegetable Scheme would you consider in the future as beneficial to Kenya, and also to possible new African Members that would plan to join the Scheme?

Kenya:

Kenya being a new member of the scheme would like to see crops that Africa exports like passion fruit having an OECD standards brochure; support projects in areas like:

a) Human capacity building i.e. Training of growers/Producers on Quality Standards; Training of Retailers and Supper markets; Follow-up Trainings for Staff & Stake-holders; Follow-up meetings with Stake-holders & Regulators on harmonization of Inspection procedures & Standard Implementation; Annual participation in Standards Trainings & representation in OECD Scheme meetings.

b) Instrumentation and equipment.

c) Documentation used in quality checks i.e. development of more reference material for Trainings and Information dissemination.

To conclude, it is important to mention that Kenya – represented by KEPHIS - has been Member of the OECD Seed Schemes since 1973 and is about to join the OECD Forest and Plant Scheme.

What linkages would you see between these three OECD Schemes and what would be their common benefit for you and for African countries in general?

Kenya already a member of the OECD Seed Schemes and OECD Fruits and Vegetables; and about to join the OECD Forest and Plant Scheme – participation in this three schemes for Kenya; offers an extra bargaining chip in the international market for our forest and agricultural products.

Being a member of these Schemes, the common benefit may be to help increase in trade in agricultural commodities by reaping the benefits of globalization through penetration of international markets from exporting of e.g. horticultural products to the European Union.

Operating in an business environment where seed merchants and regulators are governed by OECD seed scheme standards has meant seed for planting of vegetables is of high quality and therefore high production and export is seen in the fruits and vegetable sectors.
OECD Library & Archives Historical Exhibit

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme, a Historical Exhibit is displayed during the Plenary Meeting in Montpellier, and also at the OECD Headquarters during the month of December 2012.

Annual meeting of OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables
Paris, 17-19 September 1962
Réunion annuelle du Régime de l’OCDE pour l’Application de Normes Internationales aux Fruits et Légumes

Right to left: T. Klotzcher (Germany), unknown, Dr. Krosner (Austria), Mr. Basco (Belgium), J.P.L.L. Burg (Netherlands), Mr. Klamer (Netherlands), E. Try (Netherlands), unknown, Mr. Schmidt, unknown.

Right to left:
Mr. Defaye (France)
Mr. Gross (France)
Mr. Lotte (France)
Mr. Bureau (France)
Mr. Zantis (Greece)

Right to left:
Dr. Krosner (Austria)
Mr. Becco (Belgium)
J.P.L.L. Burg (Netherlands)
Mr. Klemm (Netherlands)
K. Tora (Netherlands)
OECD Explanatory Brochures

The OECD explanatory brochures comprise explanatory notes and illustrations to facilitate the common interpretation of the standards. They are valuable tool for the inspection authorities, professional bodies and traders interested in the international trade of fruit and vegetables. The newest publications also include a USB key with the high quality electronic version of the brochures. Currently the OECD explanatory brochures are available for 22 products in hard copies as well as in electronic versions.
OECD Peer Reviews

The Peer Review is a systematic examination and assessment of performance of national fruit and vegetables quality inspection systems by experts from other countries under the umbrella of the OECD. The ultimate goal of the peer review is to help improve policy making, adopt best practices and comply with established international standards and principles.
Meetings of Heads of National Inspection Services

The OECD Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services facilitates discussions between inspection services on major problems, developments and challenges in the fruit and vegetables sector and quality inspection system. It provides an update on the latest developments in inspection techniques and tools. The Meeting is open to all Members of the Scheme, and any other country and organizations invited by the OECD Secretariat and/or Host Country.

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme organised the 15th OECD Meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services in Budapest, 8-10 March 2011, on the invitation of the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development.

This publication summarizes the outcome of the 14th OECD Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services (held in Finland in June 2009), including all presentations made during this event.
Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services
Turkey - 2008

Family picture
OECD Guidelines

The OECD guidelines provide tools for the inspection services as well as to the private sector as regards the implementation of a quality inspection system, such as inspection methods for internal quality, notification of nonconformity.
International Training Courses and Workshops

The Scheme organizes International Training Courses and workshops upon request and subject to available funds. These training courses are focused on the interpretation of international standards by the OECD explanatory tools, the introduction of inspection authorities and latest developments and challenges in the quality inspection. The OECD Secretariat and the FAO Secretariat are discussing the possibility for joint workshops and capacity building activities in developing countries.

3rd OECD Workshop and Training on Fruit and Vegetables Market Requirements in Kenya

The annual Workshop on the application of Commercial Quality Standards for Fruits and Vegetables in Eastern Africa was held from 23rd to 27th April, 2012 at KEPHIS Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop shed light on the consumption trends for fruits and vegetables in Kenya in the last one year (2011/2012). It increased knowledge of fruits and vegetables quality standards and stressed the importance of strengthening the institutional and technical infrastructure for their implementation and use, and of establishing related systems of conformity assessment. The event also gave participants opportunities to strengthen networks of national and international counterparts involved in the development and implementation of commercial agricultural quality standards.

OECD Workshop on Fruit and Vegetables Quality and Inspection in Montenegro

The International OECD Workshop on Fruit and Vegetables Quality and Inspection was held on 19-21 June 2012 in Podgorica, Montenegro. This was the first time when the Scheme organized such an event in South Eastern Europe. The objective of this Workshop was to provide information on the OECD fruit and vegetables quality inspection system and how it could be used as a model in the development of national inspection systems. The further objective was to introduce OECD standard interpretations of the most important fruit and vegetables in the region based on the OECD explanatory materials. The Workshop also aimed to introduce the work of other International Organizations involved in fruit and vegetables standardisation such as CODEX and UNECE.
International Training Courses and Workshops

(Continued)

2011 International Training Course in Slovakia

This International Training Course, supported by the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme, is organized in the Slovak Republic on a yearly basis. The programme of this training course focuses on quality standard interpretations and their application in practice, the introduction of inspection services as well as on the newest challenges in the fruit and vegetables sector and quality inspection. This event is also a good opportunity to exchange information with representatives of inspection services from different countries.
Further information

The following OECD web pages can be consulted for additional information on the four programmes, (latest publications, news and events, rules and list of participating countries).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agriculture (general):</th>
<th><a href="http://www.oecd.org/tad">www.oecd.org/tad</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OECD Directorate for Trade and Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, rue André – Pascal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75775 Paris, Cedex 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Codes and Schemes (general):</th>
<th><a href="http://www.oecd.org/tad/code">www.oecd.org/tad/code</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fruit and Vegetables:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oecd.org/tad/fv">www.oecd.org/tad/fv</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact:

Michael Ryan
Chef, Codes & Schemes
Courriel : Michael.Ryan@oecd.org
Fax : +33 1 44 30 61 17
Acknowledgements

The OECD Secretariat would like to thank France for hosting the 2012 Plenary Meeting in Montpellier in the context of the 50th Anniversary of the Scheme. Thanks also to the Chair, France and Kenya for their written contribution to this brochure, and thanks to photographers and staff of the OECD Library & Archives Service.

The OECD Secretariat would also like to thank all Delegates who have contributed to developing and strengthening the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme since its establishment.
50th Anniversary of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

71st Plenary Meeting
Hosted by France in Montpellier on 6-7 December 2012