# The OECD Codes and Schemes in Asia

## Information Brochure

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[OECD Logo]({% if site.base_dir %}docs{% else %}/.%){% if site.base_dir %}/images/oecd.png{% else %}/assets/oecd.png{% endif %}
The OECD Codes and Schemes in Asia

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 seven countries in Asia actively participate in 2018 in the OECD Codes and Schemes.

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<th>Date of accession to the Codes and Schemes</th>
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<td>OECD Seed Schemes</td>
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The OECD's Relations with its Key Partners from Asia

Key partners from Asia contribute to the OECD's work in a sustained and comprehensive manner. A central element of the programme is the promotion of direct and active participation of these countries in the work of substantive bodies of the Organisation. Each country participates in OECD work through a programme containing a mix of several elements, notably:

- participation in OECD committees,
- regular economic surveys,
- adherence to OECD instruments,
- integration into OECD statistical reporting and information systems,
- sector-specific peer reviews.
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, 26 countries, i.e. 22 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 organised 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. This country hosted the 19th Biennial Test Engineers’Conference in Saitama in October 2017.

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.

OECD Active with...

“... The OECD takes pride in its co-operation with China. Today, with China’s increasing importance as a dynamic engine for the world economy, this partnership is more relevant than ever...”

Brochure available on the public website www.oecd.org

The Tractor Codes Brochure is available in Chinese

The OECD Secretary-General visited Seoul, Korea in October 2016 to participate in the Seminar on the 20th Anniversary of Korea’s Membership to the OECD, hosted by the Government of Korea. During the mission, the Secretary-General also met with high-level government officials.
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.

Since 2017 Japan is incoming Vice chair of the Bureau of the Tractor Codes Meeting.
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.

**Malaysia** has the official status of Observer in the OECD Tractor Codes. A delegate from the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) took part in the 2017 Annual Meeting of the OECD Tractor Codes held in Paris.

**Malaysia** was also represented at the 19th Test Engineers' Conference held in Japan in October 2017.

During the field trip the group visited a factory of small machinery equipment and it witnessed a demonstration of power tillers in rice fields.

The OECD Secretariat participated in the 4th Annual Meeting of the **ANTAM** (Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery) held in Manila, Philippines in November 2017. The OECD, as a member of the Advisory Panel of ANTAM, was asked to present the certification system for tractors. The meeting was attended by 16 ESCAP member countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Federation of Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey), Philippines' government representatives, OECD, ENAMA and the Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers’ Association (AMMA-India).

The ANTAM is a regional network of national agricultural machinery testing stations, research and extension institutes and collaborates with manufacturers’ associations and farmers’ organisations across the Asia-Pacific. It was formally established in 2013 and is composed of 17 participating countries. The ANTAM Secretariat is hosted by CSAM. The five overarching objectives of ANTAM are: i) to forge a common definition of minimum standards for sustainable agriculture; ii) to promote mutual recognition of testing results through development and adoption of harmonized region-wide testing codes and procedures; iii) to improve existing facilities of participations countries through capacity building programmes, seminars and site visits; iv) to reduce the social cost of production; and v) to facilitate intraregional trade.

During the field trip the group visited a factory of small machinery equipment and it witnessed a demonstration of power tillers in rice fields.
India joined the OECD Tractor Codes in 1988. Among other countries, India is a key partner of OECD, together with Indonesia and People’s Republic of China as Asian countries.

**OECD Active with…**

“... The OECD is proud to have India as a key partner and is working closely with the Indian Authorities to advance socioeconomic development and well-being...”

“Brochure available on the public website
www.oecd.org
OECD Seed Schemes

Among the 61 Member countries, five from Asia (India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kyrgyzstan) 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.

Whenever possible OECD participates in the Asian Seed Congresses. The 2018 APSA Annual Congress will be held in Manila, Philippines.

The Islamic Republic of Iran (I.R. Iran) joined the OECD Seed Schemes in 1995. The country is currently a member of the Sugar Beet and Fodder Beet Seed Scheme. The I.R. Iran notified the OECD Secretariat of its wish to extend its participation in the OECD Cereal Seed Scheme and the Maize and Sorghum Seed Scheme. The extension of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s participation in the Seed Schemes to include the Cereals and Maize and Sorghum Seed Schemes was approved at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

The Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA) was established in 1994, through the cooperation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and DANIDA, with the aim of promoting quality seed production and marketing in the Asia and Pacific Region. Today, APSA is the largest regional seed association in the world. It has strong links with international organizations such as FAO, CGIAR institutions, ISF, ISTA, UPOV, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Trade Organization, among others. APSA members include national seed associations, government agencies, public and private seed companies, and associate members.
During the ISF (International Seed Federation) Annual Congress held in Uruguay in May 2016, the OECD Secretariat had a bilateral meeting with the Chinese Seed Trade Association as a follow up to the letter sent by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture to the OECD Secretary-General. They were informed about the advantages of membership in the Seed Schemes (market access, development of the national seed sector, multiplication abroad).

The OECD Secretariat also met with the representatives of the Seed Trade Association of Pakistan during the ISF Congress, and informed them about the different tools of the OECD Seed Schemes.

The 2018 version of the **OECD Seed Schemes Rules and Regulations** exists as a paper brochure and is available online at: [www.oecd.org/tad/seed](http://www.oecd.org/tad/seed)

The **World Seed Partnership** is a joint initiative between the OECD Seed Schemes, UPOV, ISTA, FAO and the ISF for establishing a "one-stop-shop" information platform for countries which wish to develop their formal seed sector, as well as for developing joint activities e.g. **capacity building** on demand.

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.

Fruit should be handled with care in order to minimize scuffing or cracking (a strong bump may cause the fruit to split open).

Postharvest handling of pomegranate is similar to that of apple. After harvest, fruit are transported to a sorting facility in a timely manner. It is not necessary to pre-cool fruit after harvest, but fruit will benefit from being placed into cold storage as soon as possible after harvest.

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

In March 2017, the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development volunteered for a Peer Review of their fruit and vegetables quality inspection system. The Israeli inspectors of the Plant Protection and Inspection Services (PPIS) organised a series of inspection demonstrations and field trip visits that included the harvest, packing and export of citrus fruit, tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, fresh herbs, flowers, avocados and peppers.
Israel and the Evaluation Team presented the draft Peer Review Report on Israel's Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System at the 2017 Plenary Meeting of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. The report was approved by the member countries.

The OECD Secretariat participated in the ESCAP-OECD joint workshop on fruit and vegetables in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2017. The organisers were OECD and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

The OECD and ESCAP organised a joint workshop on "international trade of fresh fruit and vegetables -the role of standards and quality inspection systems". The aim of the workshop was threefold: i) to contribute to capacity building and raise awareness of OECD work amongst fruit and vegetables producers around the world; ii) to attract potential new member countries to join the Scheme; and iii) to increase collaboration of OECD with other international organisations.

The workshop attracted 41 participants from 12 countries (Cambodia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Slovak Republic, Sri Lanka and Thailand), from academic, institutional and private sectors.

The participants expressed interest in the OECD explanatory brochures. The Secretariat will follow up with these countries for further collaboration.
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.

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](http://www.oecd.org/tad/forest)

Indonesia and Korea are interested in the Forest Scheme and participated as Observers in some Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. They informed the Meeting on the Forest Reproductive Material Certification System in their country.

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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[www.oecd.org/tad/codes](http://www.oecd.org/tad/codes)