
About the OECD Seed Schemes

Source:

http://www.oecd.org/document/33/0,3343,en_2649_33905_39575585_1_1_1_37401,00.html

Since 1958, the **OECD Seed Schemes** are open to OECD countries as well as other U.N. Members. [57 countries](#) participate. The OECD certification is applied to varieties satisfying Distinction, Uniformity and Stability conditions, having an agronomic value, and published in official lists. [The annual List of Varieties eligible for OECD Certification](#) includes about 43 000 varieties from 200 species.

The Schemes deal with the following groups of species: **Grasses and Legumes, Crucifers and other Oil or Fibre species, Cereals, Maize and Sorghum, Beet, Subterranean clover, Vegetables**. The technical requirements are comprised in the [Rules and Directions](#). All Schemes aim at seed certification (the Vegetable Scheme provides also for "Standard Seed" which are not certified but only controlled).

The Schemes ensure the **varietal identity and purity of the seed** through appropriate requirements and controls throughout the cropping, seed processing and labelling operations. Ex: Generation control (Pre-basic, Basic and Certified seed), isolation distances, purity standards, field inspections, lot sampling, post-control plots, compulsory official laboratory analysis for each certified seed lot.

The OECD certification provides for official recognition of **"quality-guaranteed"** seed, thus facilitating international trade and contributing to the removal of technical trade barriers.

In 2006/2007, 523 500 tonnes of OECD Certified Seed were traded and used by farmers. Similar principles and technical requirements are also widely used for national seed certification.

Participating Countries

Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.