

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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30 October 2018

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE

OECD Seed Schemes

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING OF THE OECD SEED SCHEMES

[Subtitle]

27 June 2018, Paris, France

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| This document was developed by the OECD Secretariat. It is circulated to delegates for comments.  |

Contact: csaba.gaspar@oecd.org

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| Executive summary2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda* The TWG approved the draft agenda [[TAD/CA/S/A(2018)2/REV3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/A%282018%292/REV3/en/pdf)].

3. Summary record – TWG meeting 31 Jan – 1 Feb 2018 [[TAD/CA/S/M(2018)1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/M%282018%291/en/pdf)]* Delegates approved the Summary record of the January 2018 TWG meeting.

4. Varietal Mixtures of the Same Species* The Chair of the Ad-Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on varietal mixtures of the same species reported the outcomes of the AHWG meeting held on 26 June 2018.
* The AHWG and TWG clarified that
	+ the Schemes control the production of mixtures of certified seed lots for certain species
	+ OECD procedures govern the conduct of further operations i.e. the mixing and packaging processes but do not guarantee the performance of those mixtures
	+ OECD procedures provide minimum requirements to authorise the production of mixtures of certified seed of certain species.
* The Secretariat and the Chair of the AHWG will revisit the related appendices to harmonise their wording according to the above statement, for consistency and as a basis for discussions on the ongoing papers.
* The TWG supported the four following documents as amended by the AHWG, subject to the above requested changes, and forwarded them the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval:
	+ draft proposal to amend Common Rule 12 on Certification of Mixtures of Herbage Seed and Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Scheme on Minimum Requirements for the Certification of Mixtures of Herbage Seed [[TAD/CA/S(2018)6](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%296/en/pdf)]
	+ draft proposal to move the Minimum Requirements for Mixtures of Certified Herbage Seed from Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme to a new Appendix 7 of the Rules and Regulations of the OECD Seed Schemes [[TAD/CA/S(2018)11](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%2911/en/pdf)].
	+ proposal draft proposal to include the Maize Seed Scheme under the scope of Common Rule 12 on Mixtures of Certified Herbage Seed [[TAD/CA/S(2018)12](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%2912/en/pdf)].
	+ proposal on varietal mixtures of Maize (refuge in the bag) [[TAD/CA/S(2018)7](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%297/en/pdf)].
* On the last two proposals above the EU raised an issue of inconsistency for consideration at the Annual Meeting.
* The TWG had no time to address draft proposal on varietal mixtures of the same species [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2015)1/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282015%291/REV1/en/pdf)]
* The AHWG on varietal mixtures of the same species will continue based on these amendments.
* The TWG confirmed a sunset clause of two years for the discussion on the draft proposal on varietal mixtures of the same species [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2015)1/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282015%291/REV1/en/pdf)].

5. Seed Schemes Labelling* The Chair of the Ad-Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on labelling reported the outcomes of the AHWG meeting held on 26 June 2018.
* The TWG sent forward the Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Labelling as amended in January 2018 by the AHWG to the Annual Meeting for approval [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)18](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2918/en/pdf)].
* The TWG noted the ISF presentation of the ISF position paper on prevention of illegal seed practices [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)2/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%292/REV1/en/pdf)].
* The OECD will continue collaborating with ISF on identifying the means of detecting / preventing illegal practices related to the use of labels.
* The AHWG amended the draft catalogue on label security methods in participating countries [[TAD/CA/S(2018)3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%293/en/pdf)].
* The TWG asked the AHWG to provide more information on the material used for labels and on fixing methods -including illustrations- The secretariat will implement the updates and submit the revised version to the next TWG meeting in January 2019 with a view to approval at the 2019 Annual Meeting.
* The US volunteered to send photos of new stapling methods used in US. They will make a presentation on stapling methods used in US at the next January 2019 TWG.
* The TWG noted the document on the information on OECD labels currently in use [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2017)4/REV3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282017%294/REV3/en/pdf)]. The Secretariat will liaise with NDAs in order to complete and maintain the OECD specimen label repository.
* The TWG asked the AHWG to address the issues of possible inclusion of “weight of seed / number of seed” on the OECD label and possible exclusion of the number of containers from the OECD certificates (in line with ISTA orange certificates).
* Denmark will present the latter issue in more details at the AHWG meeting in January 2019.

6. How to deal with impurities vs. hybridity in the OECD Seed Schemes * The TWG supported the report by the Coordinating Centre on certification provisions on hybrid varieties [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2016)2/REV5](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282016%292/REV5/en/pdf)].
* The TWG supported the separation of the standards and handling of hybrid barley from the wider consideration of hybrid varieties.
* For hybrid barley, the TWG will consider OECD standards on the basis of the EU standards. The Secretariat will prepare a proposal to amend the relevant rules for discussion at the next AHWG and TWG meetings
* Draft Terms of reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on development of guidelines on acceptance and control of new seed production techniques for hybrids, including consideration of F1 hybrid of Ryegrass, were recommended for approval to the Annual Meeting [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)19](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2919/en/pdf)].
* Delegates will be encouraged to send information to the Coordinating Centre to continue developing the document on certification provisions on hybrid varieties.

7. Certification of F1 hybrid *Lolium spp*. under the OECD seed varietal certification system* The TWG noted the presentation by New Zealand of the document on Certification of F1 hybrid *Lolium spp* under the OECD Seeds Varietal Certification Schemes [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)16/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2916/REV1/en/pdf)].
* The TWG recommended the work on *Lolium* and on standards for hybrids be merged into a single AHWG (see item 6).

8. The role of biochemical and molecular techniques (BMTs) in describing / identifying varieties* The Chair of the Ad-Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques (BMT) reported on the outcomes of the AHWG meeting held on 26 June 2018.
* The AHWG noted the presentation by UPOV on current UPOV guidance and status on the use of biochemical and molecular markers in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) and the invitation to the meeting to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 10-13 September 2018. The OECD Seed Schemes will continue collaborating with UPOV on joint activities related to BMTs.
* The TWG Meeting confirmed that the Schemes currently consider the BMTs as supplementary methods to the traditional methods and that these methods can only be used when traditional methods leave doubt as to varietal identity.
* The AHWG and TWG amended the Terms of Reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group to redefine the objectives [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)5/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%295/REV1/en/pdf)]. The ToR as amended will be sent to the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval.
* The TWG put back the discussion on the revision of Part III of the Guidelines for Control Plot Tests and Field inspection of Seed Crops for discussion to the next AHWG and TWG meetings in January 2019 [[TAD/CA/S(2015)4/REV5](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282015%294/REV5/en/pdf)]
* The TWG acknowledged the value of the work delivered so far by the AHWG on BMTs, notably as regards the list of BMT methods in use in participating countries [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2016)6/REV3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282016%296/REV3/en/pdf)].
* The Secretariat will recirculate the survey on BMT methods currently in use for varietal certification for further completion stressing all countries should reply.
* The TWG put back the discussion on the draft proposal to amend the Rules and Regulations of the OECD Seed Schemes in relation of the status of BMT in the OECD seed varietal certification system to the next AHWG meeting in January 2019 [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)24](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2924/en/pdf)].
* ESA and ISF volunteered to be members of the AHWG on BMT.

9. Intervention processes after certification (Maintaining the certification integrity of coated seed lots)* The Chair of the AHWG on the intervention processes after certification reported on the outcomes of the AHWG meeting held on 26 June 2018.
* The AHWG will continue the discussion on further operations at the next January meeting.
* The TWG supported the AHWG recommendation to re-examine Rule 7.8 on blending and to revisit the role of OECD in seed testing when the schedule of work permits.
* The TWG confirmed the membership of the AHWG on intervention processes after certification: Austria, Canada (Chair), the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, UK and the Coordinating Centre.
* Hungary, the US, the EU and ESA volunteered to join the AHWG.

10a. Application for admission of *Bituminaria bituminosa* var. *albomarginata* and var. *crassiuscula* to the OECD Seed Schemes* Australia introduced the application for admission of species *Bituminaria bituminosa* var. *albomarginata* and var. *crassiuscula* to the OECD Seed Schemes [[TAD/CA/S(2018)4](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%294/en/pdf)] with further information on species *Bituminaria bituminosa* var. *albomarginata* and var. *crassiuscula* (in the format used within the OECD Seed Schemes for field inspections).
* The TWG recommended the revised application to the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval.
* Australia will apply to an international seed testing organisation for the species to have testing protocol agreed.

11. Draft proposal for updating varietal purity characters to be used for control plots and field inspection * The TWG recommended the revised draft proposal to the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval [[TAD/CA/S(2018)5](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%295/en/pdf)].
* The document will be a living document in which species can be added or revised as the need arises.

12. Other business* There was no other business.

13. Confirmation of outcomes* The Technical Working Group approved the short summary of the outcomes of the Technical Working Group meeting.
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REVISED SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING OF THE OECD SEED SCHEMES

27 June 2018, Paris, France

Chair: Ms Kristiina Digryte

# Opening remarks by the OECD Secretariat and the Chair of the Technical Working Group

1. The OECD Secretariat and the Chair of the Technical Working Group (TWG) welcomed delegates and opened the meeting. The Secretariat introduced Ms Kristiina Digryte, Estonia, new Chair of the TWG meeting, who was elected as in-coming Vice-Chair at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

# Adoption of the Draft Agenda

[TAD/CA/S/A(2018)2/REV3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/A%282018%292/REV3/en/pdf)

1. The Technical Working Group approved the draft agenda of the meeting.

# Draft summary record of the Technical Working Group Meeting (31 January - 1 February 2018)

[TAD/CA/S/M(2018)1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/M%282018%291/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat recalled that according to the new procedure, the Technical Working Group approves the draft summary records of its meetings and the Annual Meeting will note them.
2. The Technical Working Group approved the draft summary record of the January 2018 Technical Working Group meeting with no further amendment.

# Varietal Mixtures of the Same Species

1. Mr Eddie Goldschagg (South Africa), Chair of the Ad-Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on Varietal Mixtures of the Same Species reported the outcome of the AHWG meeting held on 26 June 2018. He explained that the AHWG followed a step-by-step approach in the discussion of the different draft proposals in order to facilitate the process and as the document were built on each other’s. The first draft proposal clarifies the role of the OECD Seed Schemes in the production of herbage mixtures in Common Rule 12 on mixtures of herbage seed and Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legumes Seed Scheme and suggest changes in the wording of the rule setting clear basis for the other documents. The second draft proposal builds on the first draft proposal and proposes to move the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme’s Appendix 4 on mixtures of herbage seed into a new Common Appendix 7 to the Rules to reflect that the scope of these rules is broader than the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme. The third document proposes to include Maize under the scope of Common Rule 12 on Mixtures of Certified Herbage Seed. He informed the TWG that based on the AHWG went through the documents and after additional amendments in session the group recommended all documents for approval.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting discussed the submitted papers taking into account the clarifications and amendments proposed by the AHWG.

## Draft proposal to amend Common Rule 12 on Certification of Mixtures of Herbage Seed and Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Scheme on Minimum Requirements for the Certification of Mixtures of Herbage Seed

[TAD/CA/S(2018)6](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%296/en/pdf)

1. Mr Eddie Goldschagg presented in further details the first proposal to amend Common Rule 12 currently on “*Certification of Mixtures* of Herbage Seed*”* and Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Scheme on “Minimum Requirements for the *Certification of Mixtures”*. He explained that the AHWG reworded the titles and contents of the concerned sections to clarify i) that the OECD procedures provide minimum requirements to “authorise the production” of “mixtures of certified seed” of certain species; and ii) that OECD procedures govern the conduct of “further operations” i.e. the mixing and packaging processes but do not guarantee the performance of those mixtures. It is important to emphasize that herbage mixtures are produced from already certified seed. He asked the TWG for agreement on the principle of the draft proposal in order to move forward on the other submitted papers.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting discussed the draft revised proposal. The EU raised a concern that the concerned appendices still needed to be fully harmonised for consistency. However all delegates including EU agreed on the principle of the proposed changes. They confirmed the revised title of Rule 12 on “Controls *for the production* of Mixtures of certified herbage seed”. They asked the Secretariat to revisit the related appendices to harmonise their wording according to the above statement, for consistency and as a basis for discussions on the ongoing papers. On this basis they recommended the first proposal to the Annual Meeting for approval.

## Draft Proposal to move the Minimum Requirements for Mixtures of Certified Herbage Seed from Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme to a new Appendix 7 of the Rules and Regulations of the OECD Seed Schemes

[TAD/CA/S(2018)11](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%2911/en/pdf)

1. The Chair of the AHWG recalled the purpose of the draft proposal and the amendments proposed by the AHWG. During the TWG meeting held in January 2018 several delegates suggested to detach Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme on mixtures of herbage seed and move it to a new Common Appendix 7 in order to reflect on the fact that the scope of these rules is broader than the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme. The AHWG amended the title of the proposed new Common Appendix 7 for consistency with the changes made to Rule 12 on “Controls for the *production* of Mixtures of certified herbage seed”. Appendix 7 would cover “Minimum Requirements to *authorise the production* of Mixtures of Certified Herbage Seed Moving in International Trade”. The Chair of the AHWG invited the TWG to support the revised proposal.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting discussed the draft proposal. They agreed on the principle as well as on aligning the wording with the supported previous proposal (item 4a). Delegates recommended the approval of the thedraft proposal as amended by the AHWG to the 2018 Annual Meeting.

## Draft proposal to include the Maize Seed Scheme under the scope of Common Rule 12 on Mixtures of Certified Herbage Seed

[TAD/CA/S(2018)12](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%2912/en/pdf)

1. Delegates at the TWG meeting discussed the draft proposal to include the Maize Seed Scheme under the scope of Common Rule 12 on Mixtures of Certified Herbage Seed. The Chair of the AHWG recalled that it proposes the inclusion of Maize into under the scope of Common Rule 12 on Mixtures of Certified Herbage Seed and under the new Common appendix 7 on minimum requirements for producing such mixtures. In this respect the proposal was aligned with the wordings agreed in the two previous proposals. The Chair of the AHWG asked the TWG to support the proposal as amended.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting discussed the proposal. The EU raised concern that there may be some inconsistencies still remaining as regards the alignment of the wording. Delegates agreed to continue checking the inconsistencies at the Annual Meeting and supported the draft proposal as amended by the AHWG, subject to this final check.

## Draft proposal for the amendment of the OECD Maize Seed Scheme to make provision of certification of maize seed lots consisting of varietal mixtures

[TAD/CA/S(2018)7](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%297/en/pdf)

1. The Chair of the AHWG recalled that the draft proposal was submitted to the TWG meeting for final verification before its submission to the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval. As requested by the TWG meeting in January 2018 the wording in this draft proposal was harmonised with the newly proposed wording of Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme, i.e. that the OECD Seed Schemes do not “certify” these mixtures, but “ensure the proper mixing operation of already certified seed”. The Chair of the AHWG recalled that the AHWG reviewed the proposal to make it consistent with the other ongoing proposals i.e. to reflect that the OECD procedures provide minimum requirements to “authorise the production” of “mixtures of certified seed” of certain species. He invited delegates to support the proposal bearing in mind that it would be a voluntary scheme which Participating Countries can implement according to their specific needs e.g. for refuge in the bag.
2. Delegates the TWG meeting discussed the proposal for the amendment of the OECD Maize Seed Scheme to make provision for permission of varietal mixtures of certified maize. EU pointed out one typo and asked for further and final check of the document to ensure full consistency with the other supported proposals. Delegates agreed to harmonize the wording of the draft proposals before the 2018 Annual Meeting. Subject to this final check the TWG supported the proposal as amended.

## Draft proposal for the amendment of the OECD Seed Schemes to make provision for the certification of seed lots consisting of varietal mixtures of the same species

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2015)1/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282015%291/REV1/en/pdf)

1. This item was not addressed due to lack of time. Upon request by Canada the TWG confirmed the sunset clause of two years for the discussion on this draft proposal.
2. To conclude on Item 4 the TWG discussed the mandate of the AHWG on varietal mixtures of the same species. The work of the AHWG highlighted some inconsistencies in the rules related to varietal mixtures. Delegates pointed out that similar rules and appendices such as rules on varietal associations would need to be revised in the light of the work already done for varietal mixtures by the AHWG. They agreed to ask the Annual Meeting to revise the Terms of References of the AHWG on varietal mixtures of the same species with a view to include this new task.

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| **Conclusions:*** The AHWG and TWG clarified that:
	+ the Schemes control the production of mixtures of certified seed lots for certain species
	+ OECD procedures govern the conduct of further operations i.e. the mixing and packaging processes but do not guarantee the performance of those mixtures
	+ OECD procedures provide minimum requirements to authorise the production of mixtures of certified seed of certain species.
* The TWG supported the four following documents as amended by the AHWG, subject to the above requested changes, and forwarded them the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval:
	+ draft proposal to amend Common Rule 12 on Certification of Mixtures of Herbage Seed and Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Scheme on Minimum Requirements for the Certification of Mixtures of Herbage Seed [[TAD/CA/S(2018)6](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%296/en/pdf)]
	+ draft proposal to move the Minimum Requirements for Mixtures of Certified Herbage Seed from Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme to a new Appendix 7 of the Rules and Regulations of the OECD Seed Schemes [[TAD/CA/S(2018)11](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%2911/en/pdf)].
	+ proposal draft proposal to include the Maize Seed Scheme under the scope of Common Rule 12 on Mixtures of Certified Herbage Seed [[TAD/CA/S(2018)12](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%2912/en/pdf)].
	+ proposal on varietal mixtures of Maize (refuge in the bag) [[TAD/CA/S(2018)7](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%297/en/pdf)].
* On the last two proposals above the EU raised an issue of inconsistency for consideration at the Annual Meeting.
* The TWG had no time to address draft proposal on varietal mixtures of the same species [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2015)1/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282015%291/REV1/en/pdf)] and confirmed a sunset clause of two years for the discussion on this draft proposal.

**Actions:*** The Secretariat and the Chair of the AHWG will revisit the related appendices to harmonise their wording according to the above statement, for consistency and as a basis for discussions on the ongoing papers.
* The AHWG on varietal mixtures of the same species will continue based on these amendments.
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# Seed Schemes labelling

Oral report

1. Ms Jolanta Wyszatkiewicz (Poland), Chair of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Labelling, reported on the outcome of the AHWG meeting held on 26 June 2018.
* The AHWG agreed that the presentation of ISF document and the discussion on the role of the OECD Seed Schemes in prevention of illegal seed practices would take place at the TWG meeting [see item 5b and [TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)2](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%292/en/pdf))/REV1].
* The AHWG welcomed the updated catalogue on label security methods in participating countries and recommended it be submitted to the 2018 Annual Meeting for information only as more time was needed for the finalisation of the document [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%293/en/pdf)]. The AHWG agreed to include in table C.5 on *Fixation of the label on the container* a new method reported by the US on stapling. The US agreed to present the stapling methods in use in the US at the next AHWG meeting. The AHWG also agreed to make some small changes in table C2 on *material used for the labelling* to clarify the description of tear-proof versus tear-resistant material.
* The AHWG welcomed the updated document on specimen label repository prepared by the Secretariat as a document very useful for all participating countries [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2017)4/REV3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282017%294/REV3/en/pdf)].
* The AHWG suggested the revision of the terms of reference of the AHWG as these changes give the possibility to work much more on sealing, fixation and labelling methods of seed lots [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)18](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2918/en/pdf)].

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| **Conclusion**: the TWG noted the report by the Chair of the Ad-Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on labelling on the outcomes of the AHWG meeting held on 26 June 2018. |

## Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Labelling

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)18](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2918/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat introduced the revised terms of reference for the AHWG on Labelling. Delegates at the January 2018 TWG meeting agreed that the AHWG on Labelling should examine the current OECD label fixation rules and develop sealing and labelling guidelines. The aim would be to reach mutual understanding on their interpretation or suggest rule modifications if necessary. Thus it was suggested to extend the current Terms of Reference of the AHWG on Labelling so that the group can be able to address these issues. The proposed revision to the current terms of reference reflects on these requests. The AHWG on the 26th of June welcomed the proposed new provisions in the terms of references. The Secretariat asked the TWG to for further comments with a view to its submission to the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting discussed the revised terms of references. The Secretariat clarified that one objective would be to develop separated guidelines on sealing and labelling methods including a register of recommended label fixation methods and relevant illustrations. Delegates agreed with the TWG that the new provisions were clear enough and would give the possibility to work much more on sealing, fixation and labelling methods of seed material. Therefore they supported the proposal with no further amendment.

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| **Conclusion:** the TWG sent forward the Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Labelling as amended in January 2018 by the AHWG to the Annual Meeting for approval [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)18](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2918/en/pdf)]. |

## Discussion on the roles of the OECD Seed Schemes in prevention of illegal seed practices

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)2](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%292/en/pdf)

1. The delegate from ISF made a PowerPoint presentation on illegal seed practices – A threat to farmers livelihood, food, security and sustainable agriculture. ISF engaged in 2016 into a process that involved a survey on illegal seed practices in 2017. The results lead them to approve an ISF position paper on illegal seed practices at their General Assembly in Brisbane in June 2018. ISF made a strong commitment on this matter, calling on all stakeholders in the seed value chain, from plant breeders to seed producers, processors, traders and distributors, to operate in line with the applicable laws to deliver legal seed. The delegate from ISF also explained the next step of their process, which notably include focusing on key countries, cooperating with partners and putting the effort on education of the farmers.
2. Delegates thanked ISF for the very interesting presentation and discussed further cooperation of OECD with international organisations on illegal seed practices (ISF). Poland thanked ISF for the letter sent to the Ministry of Agriculture to raise awareness on seed fraud. It helps to get support for the development of a more efficient and effective control system. New Zealand suggested the discussion on fraud should also involve ISTA as their certificate are also subject to forgery. ISTA explained that they recently increased the security level of their Certificates by using barcode, watermark and holographic logo. ISTA offered to work together with OECD and ISF.
3. The TWG will continue the discussions on the possible roles of the OECD Seed Schemes in prevention of illegal seed practices, particularly the cooperation with ISF.

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| **Conclusion:** the TWG noted the ISF presentation of the ISF position paper on prevention of illegal seed practices [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)2/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%292/REV1/en/pdf)]. **Action:** the OECD will continue collaborating with ISF on identifying the means of detecting / preventing illegal practices related to the use of labels. |

## Draft catalogue on label security methods in participating countries

[TAD/CA/S(2018)3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%293/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat introduced the changes to the catalogue on label security methods in participating countries. Delegates at January 2018 TWG meeting could not find consensus on the section on staples and asked the Secretariat to collect more information on the methods and in particular on advantages and disadvantages of the “stapling” methods. The revised catalogue takes on board comments made by Lithuania and the US to the latest survey on label circulated after the January meeting. The changes relate to Tables C2 on *Material used for the label* and C5 on *Fixation of the label on the container*. The document provides the clarification from Lithuania on the EU position on staples as well as the rationale of the US on the reasons why they use staples for label fixation. The Secretariat asked the TWG to advise on the way forward for this document.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting discussed the revised draft catalogue on label security methods in participating countries. Canada welcomed the draft catalogue and explained that to their opinion it was complete and ready for approval. However the EU suggested the catalogue could be substantially improved with illustrations notably of the heavy duty stapling methods used by e.g. the US. The US repeated their offer to make a presentation on stapling methods they use and to send photos for illustrating the catalogue. Delegates welcomed the offer by the US. Delegates also supported the suggestion by the AHWG to make some small changes in Table C2 on material used for the labelling to better clarify the description of tear-proof versus tear-resistant material. Delegates asked the Secretariat to follow-up on the requested changes with the concerned countries and postponed the discussions to the next AHWG and TWG meetings in January 2019 with a view to its approval at the 2019 Annual Meeting.
3. Delegates at the TWG meeting also discussed the mode of transmission of the catalogue on label security methods to the Annual Meeting. Some countries had suggested at the AHWG that the catalogue should be transmitted to the Annual Meeting for information only. The Secretariat clarified that the catalogue is not a list of “approved” methods but is a collection of information and feedback related to label security methods in use in participating countries and aims at informing interested countries. As such the catalogue can be submitted for approval (which will be considered once it is completed).

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| **Conclusions:** * The AHWG amended the draft catalogue on label security methods in participating countries [[TAD/CA/S(2018)3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%293/en/pdf)].
* The TWG asked the AHWG to provide more information on the material used for labels and on fixing methods -including illustrations.

**Actions:*** The Secretariat will implement the updates and submit the revised version to the next TWG meeting in January 2019 with a view to approval at the 2019 Annual Meeting.
* The US will send photos of new stapling methods used in US. They will make a presentation on stapling methods used in US at the next January 2019 TWG.
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## Update on the OECD Specimen label repository

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2017)4/REV3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282017%294/REV3/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat made a brief progress report on the follow-up on the OECD Specimen label repository since the last January 2018 TWG meeting. A model of any label or any printed information must always be submitted to the Secretariat for approval prior their use. The Secretariat asked delegates to continue sending updated samples of the labels currently in use.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting discussed the format of the repository. EU suggested it could be worth investigating the feasibility and the cost of the creation of a database of OECD labels currently in use in participating countries. EU explained it could be useful for NDAs to access the archived OECD specimen labels themselves in addition the tables of the label repository. New Zealand expressed concern that such a database might open room for fraud. This discussion may continue at the next AHWG meeting.
3. Delegates also discussed the possible inclusion of prescribed information on weight of seed on the OECD label. New Zealand suggested including the weight of seed as a prescribed piece of information in Common Appendix 3 on specifications for the OECD label or marking of seed containers. Argentina, South Africa, ASTA and ISF shared their experiences on this matter. Notably ISF informed delegates that they observe more and more the use of the “number of seed” on the labels. ASTA confirmed that they do not always mention the weight of seed in all tags. South Africa explained that for big containers the seed lot maximum size is limited by either a number of seed or a weight of seed which might induces discrepancies. The delegate of Argentina shared that they indicate the weight of seed for “pure” seed only. He raised the attention of the TWG on the biases induced by the information on weight of seed when coated seed is concerned. Canada suggested the AHWG on labelling could further investigate the possible inclusion of prescribed information on weight and/or number of seed on the OECD label. Delegates agreed with Canada.
4. Delegates also discussed a suggestion by Denmark to remove the mention of the number of containers from the OECD certificates. Denmark explained this would align OECD certificates with the ISTA orange certificates. Denmark offered to further elaborate on this suggestion at the next TWG meeting in January 2019. Delegates welcomed this offer.

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| **Conclusion:** the TWG noted the document on the information on OECD labels currently in use [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2017)4/REV3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282017%294/REV3/en/pdf)]. **Actions:*** The AHWG will address the issues of possible inclusion of “weight of seed / number of seed” on the OECD label and possible exclusion of the number of containers from the OECD certificates (in line with ISTA orange certificates).
* Denmark will present the latter issue in more details at the AHWG meeting in January 2019.
* The Secretariat will liaise with NDAs in order to complete and maintain the OECD specimen label repository.
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# How to deal with impurities vs. hybridity in the OECD Seed Schemes

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2016)2/REV5](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282016%292/REV5/en/pdf)

1. The Coordinating Centre introduced the draft revised document on certification provision for hybrid varieties [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2016)2/REV5](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282016%292/REV5/en/pdf)]. As recommended by the January 2018 TWG meeting the document clearly distinguishes two distinct areas in separate sections: 1) the consideration of the standards and handling of hybrid barley; and 2) the wider consideration of hybrid varieties, new seed production methods and their handling within certification. The first section on hybrid barley was initially set up in response to the issues raised by the use of technical mixtures of barley parental lines (where the lines are physically mixed before sowing). It was continuously consolidated thanks to input from Germany and the UK. The current data suggests that an 85% standard for all non-hybrid content with a “true impurity” limit of 2% appears to be feasible with the changes to isolation introduced in the 2016 Rules and Regulations. Section 1 also compares the OECD and EU standards for hybrids of barley. EU isolation distances are larger the OECD isolation distances. On this basis the document recommends the Annual Meeting should revise the current standard or revert it to its pre-2016 levels before its sunset clause (end 2020). The second section of the document opens the discussion on whether setting other rules to adapt the Schemes to evolving techniques for hybrid varieties production.
2. Delegates at the TWG discussed the way forward to further consolidate the document. The Coordinating Centre reiterated his invitation to countries growing hybrid crops to provide more data the control of hybrid varieties. The delegate from New Zealand explained that they grow different hybrids and will be happy to provide data on other hybrids than barley. He explained that they do not have seed multiplication agreement with European countries on hybrid barley,. The delegate from the Netherlands explained that they are involved in basic and pre-basic seed production of hybrid barley and will share data covering the last three years. The delegate from France explained that they do not have data yet but they will be available soon. He offered to share data on methods used by inspectors during post-control tests. The delegate from the EU explained that it would be worth considering mixed production system for barley. The Coordinating Centre highlighted that he is also interested in data of failed post control test results
3. Delegates discussed the way forward for the standard on hybrid barley. They supported progressing barley separately from the other hybrid varieties in order to come to an agreement before the sunset clause. EU requested the development of a detailed proposal on how to deal with the temporary OECD standards introduced for hybrid barley for the next TWG meeting. As the EU isolation distances are superior to the OECD distances, and based on the evidence consolidated in section 1 of the document on certifications for barley, delegates agreed to consider the alignment of the current OECD standard for barley with the EU specifications.

##  Draft Terms of reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on development of guidelines on acceptance and control of new seed production techniques for hybrids

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)19](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2919/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat introduced the draft terms of reference and recalled that during the January 2018 TWG meeting it was agreed to establish a new AHWG which will be responsible for the development of guidelines on acceptance and control of new seed production techniques for hybrids including consideration of F1 hybrid of Ryegrass. Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, AOSA, ESA, ISF and the Coordinating Centre volunteered to be members. Canada, New Zealand, the US and the Coordinating Centre developed a draft terms of reference for this sub-working group.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting agreed the draft terms of reference covered well the concerned issues and recommended them for approval to the 2018 Annual Meeting.

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| **Conclusions:*** The TWG supported the report by the Coordinating Centre on certification provisions on hybrid varieties [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2016)2/REV5](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282016%292/REV5/en/pdf)].
* The TWG supported the separation of the standards and handling of hybrid barley from the wider consideration of hybrid varieties.
* For hybrid barley, the TWG will consider OECD standards on the basis of the EU standards. The Secretariat will prepare a proposal to amend the relevant rules for discussion at the next AHWG and TWG meetings
* Draft Terms of reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on development of guidelines on acceptance and control of new seed production techniques for hybrids, including consideration of F1 hybrid of Ryegrass, were recommended for approval to the Annual Meeting [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)19](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2919/en/pdf)].

**Action:** delegates will be encouraged to send information to the Coordinating Centre to continue developing the document on certification provisions on hybrid varieties. |

# Certification of F1 hybrid *Lolium* spp. under the OECD seed varietal certification system

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)16/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2916/REV1/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat recalled the background of the proposal. At the January 2018 TWG meeting New Zealand presented a brief document on certification of F1 hybrid ryegrass spp. Delegates at the January 2018 TWG meeting agreed that New Zealand would prepare a more detailed document based on which the June TWG meeting would consider the establishment of an AHWG to deal with this issue. The Secretariat also recalled the suggestion made at the June 2018 TWG meeting under previous item 6 on hybrids to consider merging the potential new AHWG on *Lolium* with the existing one on Hybrids.
2. The delegate from New Zealand introduced the draft proposal on certification of F1 hybrid *Lolium spp.* under the OECD seed varietal certification system. He presented the technical challenges the seed sector is facing. Technologies on the genetics of *Lolium* species are evolving fast. The OECD Seed Schemes should investigate the extent of the work further required in this field and address the needs of the seed sector. He went through the document that further explains the benefits of F1 hybrids and the added-value of a dedicated certification of F1 hybrids and suggests a preliminary methodology for the certification of F1hybrid *Poaceae*. He asked the OECD Seed Schemes to establish an AHWG to address this issue properly.
3. Delegates at the TWG discussed the draft proposal. The delegate of South Africa requested further details on the production of these F1 hybrids and on the *Lolium* varieties concerned. Germany enquired about the current advancement of New Zealand hybrid production. The delegate of New Zealand clarified that they had not registered any yet but that hybrids were in line (production under progress). Delegates agreed that further investigation on F1 hybrid *Lolium* species was needed and recommended the new AHWG on hybrids should address this issue.

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| **Conclusions:** * The TWG noted the presentation by New Zealand of the document on Certification of F1 hybrid *Lolium spp* under the OECD Seeds Varietal Certification Schemes [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)16/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2916/REV1/en/pdf)].
* The TWG recommended the work on *Lolium* and on standards for hybrids be merged into a single AHWG (see item 6).
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# The role of biochemical and molecular techniques in describing / identifying varieties

1. Mr Gerry Hall, UK, Chair of the Ad-Hoc Working Group, reported on the outcome of the AHWG on BMT held on 26 June 2018. Prior to any discussion the AHWG listened to a presentation by the delegate of UPOV of the UPOV guidance on the use of BMTs. The delegate of UPOV made a presentation on current UPOV guidance and status on the use of biochemical and molecular markers in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS). He recalled the importance of a harmonized approach for DUS examination to enable cooperation among members, exchange of test reports and internationally recognized variety descriptions. He reported that three documents compiled UPOV guidance on the use of biochemical and molecular markers (available at: http://www.upov.int/upov\_collection/en/):
* document UPOV/INF/17 “Guidelines for DNA Profiling: Molecular Marker Selection and Database Construction (‘BMT Guidelines’)” provided guidance for developing harmonized methodologies with the aim of generating high quality molecular data for a range of applications and the construction of databases containing molecular profiles of plant varieties;
* document UPOV/INF/18 “Possible Use of Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS)” provided information on possible application models for the use of biochemical and molecular markers in the examination of DUS;
* document UPOV/TGP/15 “Guidance on the Use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS)” provided guidance on the use of biochemical and molecular markers in DUS examination on the basis of the models in document UPOV/INF/18 that have received a positive assessment and for which accepted examples had been provided.
1. The delegate of UPOV also reported that two “approaches” on using biochemical and molecular markers in DUS examination were currently accepted (see: http://www.upov.int/edocs/tgpdocs/en/tgp\_15.pdf):
* “Approach 1:” Molecular markers can be used as a method of examining DUS characteristics on the basis of the verification of the reliability of the link between the marker and the characteristic; and that the test for the marker is conducted on the same number of individual plants, with the same criteria for DUS as for the examination of the characteristic by a bioassay (e.g. gene-specific marker for herbicide tolerance);
* ‒“Approach 2:” Combining phenotypic and molecular distances in the management of variety collections to eliminate varieties of common knowledge that would not require direct comparison in the growing trial (e.g. parent lines in maize).
1. The delegate of UPOV reported that during the 16th session of the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA-Profiling in Particular (UPOV/BMT), held on 6-7 October 2017 in La Rochelle, France, there had been discussions on refining “Approach 2” on the basis of recent experiences and on the use of molecular distances for the selection of similar varieties for side-by-side comparison in the first growing cycle of DUS examination. He also recalled that since 1992 the UPOV/BMT provided an open forum for DUS experts, biochemical and molecular specialists and plant breeders to review general developments and applications of BMTs. He invited NDAs to attend the next session of the UPOV/BMT to be held on 10-13 September 2018 in Montevideo, Uruguay.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting thanked again UPOV for their valuable input, valued the collaboration with UPOV and recommended OECD and UPOV should continue collaborating on this matter.

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| **Action:**  |

## Terms of Reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)5/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%295/REV1/en/pdf)

1. Mr Gerry Hall introduced the revised terms of reference of the AHWG on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques (BMTs) and reported on the outcome of the discussion at the AHWG meeting on this matter. He recalled that delegates at the 2018 TWG meeting could not reach consensus. To move forward they asked the Secretariat to contact Australia with the Chair of the AHWG on BMT to discuss concerns and outstanding issues. The revised terms of reference take account of the input from Australia. He reported that while discussing the terms of reference, the AHWG confirmed that the Schemes currently consider the BMTs as *supplementary methods to the traditional methods* and that these methods can only be *used when traditional methods leave doubt as to varietal identity*. He explained that the AWHG amended the draft terms of reference to reflect that the BMT definitions should be aligned with the UPOV definitions.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting discussed the draft terms of reference and addressed first the way forward for progressing with the review of the BMTs applied within the Schemes. They acknowledged that the current list of BMT methods in use within the Schemes is not consistent, as it gathers “old” biochemical methods and molecular or DNA-based methods. The “old” methods recorded in the list include some techniques that are still used and some that tend to disappear or to be replaced, while DNA techniques (also called “genotyping” methods) are continuously evolving are not yet all identified within the Schemes. Delegates agreed to distinguish the DNA techniques from the “old” BMT methods and to progress them. They agreed that the list of “old” biochemical methods is now well documented and provides a comprehensive overview of the practices within the Schemes. They asked the Secretariat to circulate it, i.e. only the “old” BMT methods list, to NDAs for further completion and stressed all countries should answer. They proposed to include the list of biochemical methods -once completed- in the forthcoming guidelines. They amended provision 5 and added a new provision (number 10) to the terms of reference to reflect these orientations of the work of the AHWG.
3. Delegates continued discussing the terms of reference and addressed the status of BMT methods in the “genotyping methods” acceptance. They confirmed the above statement by the AHWG (recalled by the Chair of the AHWG in his report and highlighted in italics), which led them to revise the new provision 11 (formerly 10). The EU delegate suggested to remove the strong statement in former provision 10 about BMTs replacing field inspection and control plots and to clarify that BMTs will play a significant role in seed certification in the future. France, Hungary and the US supported EU. The US informed delegates that they already use genotyping methods in their certification process for wheat. With these amendments delegates agreed to recommend the revised terms of reference to the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval.
4. ESA and ISF volunteered to join the AHWG on BMTs, and delegates welcomed them.

## Revised draft proposal for the revision of Part III of the Guidelines for Control Plot Tests and Field inspection of Seed Crops

[TAD/CA/S(2015)4/REV5](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282015%294/REV5/en/pdf)

1. The Chair of the AHWG informed delegates that the AHWG had not addressed this item.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting agreed that the document needed to be revisited to take account of the modifications of the terms of reference. They referred it back to the next January 2019 AHWG and TWG meetings for further discussion.

## Draft list of BMT methods in use by participating countries and validation of BMT methods

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2016)6/REV3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282016%296/REV3/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat introduced the outcome of the survey on the frequency of use of the methods listed in the document as supplementary methods to traditional methods by NDAs. After discussing with Australia the Secretariat and the Chair of the AHWG refined the questions of the survey on BMTs to get precise input on the purpose and extent of the use of these “supplementary” methods in seed certification. The revised document provides the updated answers. The secretariat also updated delegates with the feedback from five countries that could not be included in the document.
2. Delegates show interest in this further refinement of the survey. They asked the Secretariat to circulate again the survey for further completion and to present the updated results analysis to the next AHWG and TWG meetings in January 2019. Delegates insisted that all participating countries should answer the survey.

## Draft proposal to amend the Rules and Regulations of the OECD Seed Schemes in relation of the status of biochemical and molecular techniques in the OECD seed varietal certification system

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)24](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2924/en/pdf)

1. The Chair of the AHWG recalled that during earlier discussions on the terms of reference of the AHWG on BMTs it had been suggested that rule modifications should be necessary in order to clarify further the status and role of biochemical and molecular techniques in the OECD seed varietal certification system. He reported that the AHWG started to amend the draft proposal and that discussion was still ongoing at the AHWG level: a paragraph 7.4.5.1 was added in order to keep a track of the discussion for the next time. Therefore he asked the TWG for permission to continue the discussion at the next AHWG meeting. Delegates at the TWG agreed to let the AHWG continue the discussion on the draft proposal to amend Rule 7.4.5.

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| **Conclusions:** * The TWG noted the report by the Chair of the Ad-Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques (BMT) on the outcomes of the AHWG meeting held on 26 June 2018.
* The AHWG and TWG amended the Terms of Reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group to redefine the objectives [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)5/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%295/REV1/en/pdf)]. The ToR as amended will be sent to the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval.
* The TWG Meeting confirmed that the Schemes currently consider the BMTs as supplementary methods to the traditional methods and that these methods can only be used when traditional methods leave doubt as to varietal identity.
* The AHWG noted the presentation by UPOV on current UPOV guidance and status on the use of biochemical and molecular markers in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) and the invitation to the meeting to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 10-13 September 2018.
* The TWG put back the discussion on the revision of Part III of the Guidelines for Control Plot Tests and Field inspection of Seed Crops for discussion to the next AHWG and TWG meetings in January 2019 [[TAD/CA/S(2015)4/REV5](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282015%294/REV5/en/pdf)].
* The TWG acknowledged the value of the work delivered so far by the AHWG on BMTs, notably as regards the list of BMT methods in use in participating countries [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2016)6/REV3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282016%296/REV3/en/pdf)].
* The TWG put back the discussion on the draft proposal to amend the Rules and Regulations of the OECD Seed Schemes in relation of the status of BMT in the OECD seed varietal certification system to the next AHWG meeting in January 2019 [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)24](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2924/en/pdf)].
* ESA and ISF volunteered to be members of the AHWG on BMT.

**Actions:** * The Secretariat will recirculate the survey on BMT methods currently in use for varietal certification for further completion stressing all countries should reply.
* The OECD Seed Schemes will continue collaborating with UPOV on joint activities related to BMTs.
* The PowerPoint presentation by UPOV is available on Clearspace.
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# Intervention processes after certification (Maintaining the certification integrity of coated seed lots)

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2017)8/REV3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282017%298/REV3/en/pdf)

1. Ms Wilhelmina Drost, Canada, Chair of the AHWG on the intervention processes after certification, reported on the outcome of the AHWG meeting held on 26 June 2018 and introduced the draft revised document on amending Common Rule 11 on re-packaging and relabelling in another country. She recalled the members of the AHWG: Austria, Canada (Chair), the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, UK and the Coordinating Centre. The initial purpose of the AHWG was to fill the lack of OECD certification rules for cases of further processing, repackaging and relabelling of finally certified seed lots by developing a general rule addressing integrity of seed lots. As a follow-up on the discussions held at the January 2018 TWG meeting the AHWG started to amend the existing Common Rule 11 based on Rule 11 of the Vegetable Seed Scheme on Breaking bulks, re-processing, re-labelling and re-fastening. Ms Drost explained that the AHWG members had already progressed the draft proposal by email since the January meeting. She reported that the AHWG on the 26th June further amended the draft proposal to address “further operations” and be wider than only “repacking”, and made several recommendations for considerations at the TWG. The AHWG recommended the discussion on Common Rule 11 be continued at the next AHWG meeting in January 2019. After a comprehensive discussion on the current draft proposal and based on experiences gained during the work, the AHWG suggested to go back to the original Rule 11 and make only minimum modifications to it. . During the discussions the AHWG also identified the need to review Common Rule 7.8 on Blending of lots of the same varietyas well as the review of the role of the OECD in seed sampling and testing whenever possible.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting endorsed the recommendations by the AHWG on the intervention processes after certification. Hungary, the US, the EU and ESA volunteered to join the AHWG.

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| **Conclusions:*** The TWG noted the report by the Chair of the AHWG on the intervention processes after certification on the outcomes of the AHWG meeting held on 26 June 2018.
* The TWG supported the AHWG recommendation to re-examine Rule 7.8 on blending and to revisit the role of OECD in seed testing when the schedule of work permits.
* The TWG confirmed the membership of the AHWG on intervention processes after certification: Austria, Canada (Chair), the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, UK and the Coordinating Centre.
* Hungary, the US, the EU and ESA volunteered to join the AHWG.

**Actions:*** The AHWG will continue the discussion on further operations at the next January meeting.
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# Addition of new species to the OECD Seed Schemes

## Application for admission of species *Bituminaria bituminosa* var*. albomarginata and* var. *crassiuscula* to the OECD Seed Schemes

[TAD/CA/S(2018)4](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%294/en/pdf)

1. The delegate of Australia introduced the application for admission of species *Bituminaria bituminosa* var. *albomarginata* and var. *crassiuscula* to the OECD Seed Schemes on behalf of Australia as Australia could not attend the meeting. Both *B. bituminosa* var. would be eligible for certification under the Grass and Legumes Seed Scheme as *Fabaceae*. Following up on the recommendation by the January 2018 TWG meeting the new proposal included further information on species *Bituminaria bituminosa* var. *albomarginata* and var. *crassiuscula* (in the format used within the OECD Seed Schemes for field inspections).
2. During the discussion the Secretariat clarified that no submission has been prepared for inclusion in the ISTA rules because insufficient numbers of samples have yet to be tested. The delegate of South Africa expressed concern that so far there is no internationally validated testing method for this species, which prevents comparison of the test results. The delegates from the EU and ISTA invited Australia to submit a request to ISTA to develop a testing procedure for the species. The delegate from the EU supported the draft proposal as submitted. Delegates agreed and recommended the revised application for approval at the Annual meeting.

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| **Conclusions:*** Australia introduced the application for admission of species *Bituminaria bituminosa* var. *albomarginata* and var. *crassiuscula* to the OECD Seed Schemes [[TAD/CA/S(2018)4](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%294/en/pdf)] with further information on species *Bituminaria bituminosa* var. *albomarginata* and var. *crassiuscula* (in the format used within the OECD Seed Schemes for field inspections).
* The TWG recommended the revised application to the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval.

**Action:** Australia will apply to an international seed testing organisation for the species to have testing protocol agreed. |

# Draft proposal for updating variety purity characters to be used for control plots and field inspection

[TAD/CA/S(2018)5](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%295/en/pdf)

1. The Coordinating Centre gave a progress report on the status of work on the updates to the varietal purity characters to be used for control plots and field inspection since the previous Technical Working Group meeting held in January 2018. The paper contains the results of revisions for the varietal purity characters received in time for inclusion for the June 2018 meeting. The Coordinating Centre clarified that approval of this paper would not preclude any further changes. With this clarification he asked for recommendation to the Annual Meeting.
2. Delegates at the TWG meeting supported the draft proposal and recommended it to the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval.

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| **Conclusion:** the TWG recommended the revised draft proposal to the 2018 Annual Meeting for approval [[TAD/CA/S(2018)5](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%295/en/pdf)].**Action:** the document will be a living document in which species can be added or revised as the need arises. |

# Other business

1. There was no other business.

# Confirmation of outcomes

1. The TWG approved the short summary of the outcome of the Technical Working Group meeting (please see the executive summary of this document).

List of participants

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING OF THE OECD SEED SCHEMES

27 June 2018, Paris, France

**Participants List**

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| **Afrique du Sud/****South Africa** | Mr. Eddie GOLDSCHAGGTechnical Manager: SANSORNational Designated Authority for Seed CertificationSouth African National Seed Organisation (SANSOR)5 Glenwood Road, Lynnwood GlenLynnwood Ridge0040 PretoriaSouth AfricaTel: +27 82 787 1593Fax: +27.86.759.4189Email: seedcert@sansor.co.za |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Allemagne/Germany** | Ms. Friedhilde TRAUTWEINReferat P 1 Federal Plant Variety Office (Bundessortenamt)Osterfelddamm 80 - Postfach 61044030627 HannoverGermanyTel: +49(0)511 9566 5630Fax: +49(0)511 9566 9600Email: friedhilde.trautwein@bundessortenamt.de |

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| --- | --- |
| **Argentine/Argentina** | Mr. Pedro LAVIGNOLLEDirector - Seed Certification and Commerce Control DirectorateINASE - National Institute of SeedsVenezuela 1621095 Buenos AiresArgentinaTel: +541132205419Email: plavig@inase.gov.ar |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Australie/Australia** | Dr. Lindsay COOKChief Executive OfficerAustralian Seeds Authority LimitedP.O. Box 187Lindfield NSW 2070AustraliaTel: +61.2.96.59.39.26Fax: +61.2.96.59.39.06Email: lcook@aseeds.org.au |

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| **Autriche/Austria** | Ms. Charlotte LEONHARDTHead of the Division for Food Security AGES - Austrian Agency for Health and Food SafetySpargelfeldstrasse 1911220 ViennaAustriaTel: +43 505 55 348 00Email: charlotte.leonhardt@ages.at |

|  |  |
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| **Brésil/Brazil** | Ms. Virginia ARANTES FERREIRA CARPIFederal Agricultural Inspector Auditor – Coordinator of Seeds and SeedlingsCoordination of Seeds and Seedlings (CSM)Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e AbastecimentoEsplanada dos Ministérios,Bloco D, Anexo A, 3º Andar, Sala 338CEP: 70.043-900 BrasiliaBrazilTel: +55 (61) 3218 2163Fax: +55 (61) 3224 5647Email: virginia.carpi@agricultura.gov.br |

|  |  |
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|  | Mr. André Felipe CARRAPATOSO PERALTA DA SILVADirector of Agricultural Inputs Inspection DeptMinistry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food SupplyEsplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco D, Anexo A, Sala 338CEP 70043-900 BrasiliaBrazilTel: +55 61 3218 27 28Fax: +55 61 3224 5647Email: andre.peralta@agricultura.gov.br |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Canada** | Ms. Wilhelmina (Willy) DROSTSenior Specialist, Seed StandardsSeed Section, Plant Health and Biosecurity DirectorateCanadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)59 Camelot DriveK1A 0Y9 Ottawa, ONCanadaTel: +1 (613) 773- 7161Fax: +1 (613) 773 7261Email: wilhelmina.drost@canada.ca |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Mr. Michael SCHEFFELManaging Director, Policy and Standards Canadian Seed Growers' AssociationP.O. Box 8455Ottawa, ON K1G 3T1CanadaTel: +1 613 236 0497, ext. 223Email: mscheffel@seedgrowers.ca |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Chili/Chile** | Ms. Angela TORTORA URRUTIAHead of Department Seed Certification Seed DivisionMinistry of AgricultureAv. Presidente Bulnes 140 - Piso 2SantiagoChileTel: +56 22 345 15 66Email: angela.tortora@sag.gob.cl |

|  |  |
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| **Danemark/Denmark** | Ms. Merete BUUSSenior AdvisOrThe Danish Agricultural AgencyMinistry of Environment and Food of DenmarkNyropsgade 301780 Kobenhavn VDenmarkTel: +45 45 26 37 20Email: meb@lbst.dk |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Estonie/Estonia** | Ms. Kristiina DIGRYTEAdviser on Plant Reproductive MaterialPlant Health DepartmentMinistry of Rural Affairs39/41 Lai Street15056 TallinnEstoniaTel: +372.62.56.275Email: kristiina.digryte@agri.ee |

|  |  |
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|  | Ms. Anu NEMVALTSHead of Organic Farming and Seed Dept.Organic Farming and Seed DepartmentAgricultural Board2, Teaduse Street75501 SakuEstoniaTel: +372 53 471 565Fax: +372 67 12 630Email: anu.nemvalts@pma.agri.ee |

|  |  |
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| **États-Unis/United States** | Dr. Stephen MALONEUS OECD Seed Schemes Program ManagerU.S. Department of AgricultureUSDA-AMS-LPS-SRTD801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite C28054 Gastonia, North CarolinaUnited StatesTel: +1 704 810 8888Fax: +1 704 852 4189Email: stephen.malone@ams.usda.gov |

|  |  |
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| **Finlande/Finland** | Ms. Ritva VALLIVAARA-PASTOSenior officerSeed CertificationFinnish Food Safety Authority, EviraTampereentie 5132200 LOIMAAFinlandTel: +358 408332482Email: ritva.vallivaara-pasto@evira.fi |

|  |  |
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| **Finlande/Finland***(Continued)* | Mr. Kimmo NÄRHINENCounsellor (Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OECD1 Place de Finlande75007 ParisFranceTel: +33 6 32 63 39 45Email: kimmo.narhinen@formin.fi |

|  |  |
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| **France** | Ms. Anne-Laure FONDEURHead of the Official Service for Control and Certification of Seeds plantsService Officiel de Contrôle et de CertificationGNIS-SOC44 rue du Louvre75001 ParisFranceTel: +33.1.42.33.76.93Fax: +33.1.40.28.40.16Email: anne-laure.fondeur@gnis.fr |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | M. Régis BOISSEAUNational inspector for maize and sorghum seedsService Officiel de Contrôle et de CertificationGroupement National Interprofessional des Semences et Plantes (GNIS)44, RUE DU LOUVRE75001 ParisFranceTel: + 33 1 42 33 75 67Email: regis.boisseau@gnis.fr |

|  |  |
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| **Hongrie/Hungary** | Ms. Katalin FURSTSenior InspectorNational Food Chain Safety Office ( Nébih)Seed Certification DirectorateKeleti K.u. 241024 BudapestHungaryTel: +36 1 336 93 47Email: furstk@nebih.gov.hu |

|  |  |
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| **Inde/India** | Mr. Keshavulu KUNUSOTHDesignated Authority and DirectorTelangana State Seed & Organic Certification AuthorityFirst Floor HACA BhavanOpp: Public Gardens500 004 Hyderabad, TSIndiaTel: +91 9849402488Email: keshava\_72@yahoo.com |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Dr. Dilip .Kr. SRIVASTAVAAsstt. Comm. (QC)Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers WelfareSeed Division, Room No.211, F-Wing,IInd Floor, Shastri BhawanNew- Delhi-110001 IndiaTel: +011-23386236Fax: +011-23387661Email: dilipsrivastava2011@gmail.com |

|  |  |
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| **Italie/Italy** | Dr. Pier Giacomo BIANCHIScientific coordinator for Seed CertificationCREA-DCCouncil for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA)Via Giacomo Venezian, 22MilanItalyTel: +39 02 69 01 20 26Fax: +39 02 69 01 20 49Email: piergiacomo.bianchi@crea.gov.it |

|  |  |
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| **Lettonie/Latvia** | Ms. Ineta JEKABSONEDeputy Head of Agriculture Resource Division Agriculture DepartmentMinistry of Agriculture (AGR)REPUBLIKAS LAUKUMS 2LV - 1981 RigaLatviaTel: +371 67027177Email: Ineta.Jekabsone@zm.gov.lv |

|  |  |
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| **Maroc/Morocco** | M. Abdelaziz BENSAJJAYChef de Division de contrôle des semences et plantsOffice National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits AlimentairesRue Sidi Elhafiane Cherkaoui-Guich, Rabat Institut, B.P. 1308RabatMoroccoTel: +212.673.99.78.32Email: bensajjay.aziz@gmail.com |

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| **Nouvelle-Zélande/****New Zealand** | Mr. Peter JOHNSTONPrincipal Adviser AssuranceRegulation & AssuranceMinistry for Primary IndustriesPastoral House 25 The TerraceP.O. Box 2526Wellington 6011New ZealandTel: +64.4.894.0519Fax: +64.4.894.0733Email: peter.johnston@mpi.govt.nz |

|  |  |
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| **Pays-Bas/Netherlands** | Mr. Ad TOUSSAINTDutch General Inspection Service for Agricultural Seeds and Seed Potatoes (NAK)Seed Policy Dept Randweg 148300 BC EmmeloordNetherlandsTel: +31.527.635.400Fax: +31.527.635.411Email: a.toussaint@nak.nl |

|  |  |
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| **Pologne/Poland** | Ms. Jolanta WYSZATKIEWICZChief ExpertDepartment of Plant Breeding and Plant ProtectionMinistry of Agriculture and Rural Developmentul. Wspolna 3000-930 WarsawPolandTel: +48.22.623.27.75Fax: +48.22.623.17.81Email: jolanta.wyszatkiewicz@minrol.gov.pl |

|  |  |
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| **République tchèque/****Czech Republic** | Ms. Monika RUBESOVAHead of Coordination Controls and Certification Department Seeds and Planting Materials DivisionCentral Institute for Supervising and Testing in AgricultureZa Opravnou 4150 06 Prague 5 - MotolCzech RepublicTel: + 420 257 294 299Fax: + 420 257 211 748Email: monika.rubesova@ukzuz.cz |

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| **Royaume-Uni/****United Kingdom** | Mr. Gerry HALLSeeds Policy Advisor – The Scottish GovernmentScience and Advice for Scottish AgricultureSASARoddinglaw RoadEdinburgh EH12 9FJ, ScotlandUnited KingdomTel: + 44 (0) 131 244 8856Fax: + 44 (0) 131 244 8966Email: gerry.hall@sasa.gsi.gov.uk |

|  |  |
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| **Russie/Russia** | Dr. Aleksander MALKODirector, Russian Agricultural CentreChairman of the Board of the National Association of Plant Breeders and Seed ProducersRussian Agricultural Centre1/11, Orlikov per.MoskowRussian FederationTel: +7.495.733.98.35Fax: +7.495.733.98.35Email: alexmalko@mail.ru |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Ms. Olesia ANDROSOVAHead of Seed Services Department Russian Agricultural CentreOrlikov pereulok 1/11107139 MoscowRussian FederationTel: +7 495 661-09-91Email: rscsemena@mail.ru |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Russie/Russia***(Continued)* | Ms. Marina MELNIKOVALeading agronomist of Seed Services Department Russian Agricultural CentreOrlikov pereulok 1/11107139 MoscowRussian FederationTel: +7 495 661-09-91Email: rsckartofel@mail.ru |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Mr. Vladimir SALAMATINBranch ManagerRussian Agricultural CentreSovetskaya str.44 G/2Rostov-on-DonRussian FederationTel: +79381153222Email: rsc61@mail.ru |

|  |  |
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| **Suède/Sweden** | Ms. Ingrid KARLSSONAdministratorPlant Regulations UnitSwedish Board of AgricultureSwedish Board of Agriculture55182 JönköpingSwedenTel: +46 36 15 50 63Email: ingrid.karlsson@jordbruksverket.se |

|  |  |
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| **Suisse/Switzerland** | Dr. Paul MEWESSeed certification agencyFederal Office for Agriculture (FOAG)Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER)Schwarzenburgstrasse 1653003 BernSwitzerlandTel: +41 58 46 05351Email: paul.mewes@blw.admin.ch |

|  |  |
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| **République-Unie de Tanzanie/United Republic of Tanzania** | Mr. Patrick NGWEDIAGIDirector GeneralTanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI)P.O. Box 1056MorogoroUnited Republic of TanzaniaTel: +255 23 2640034Email: dg@tosci.go.tz; info@tosci.go.tz; ngwedi@yahoo.com |

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| **Turquie/Turkey** | Mr. Ahmet DALLIDeputy DirectorMinistry Of Food Agriculture And Livestock TurkeyEmail: ahmet.dalli@tarim.gov.tr |

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|  | Ms. Hava AYDOGMUSDeputy Chief of Seed CertificationVariety Registration and Seed Certification CenterGayret Mahallesi Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bulvari No:6206172 Yenimahalle/ANKARATurkeyTel: +90 312 315 46 05Email: hava.aydogmus@tarim.gov.tr |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Zambie/Zambia** | Dr. Francisco MITIChief Seeds Officer - Variety Testing Registration and ProtectionSeed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI)P.O. Box 350199ChilangaZambiaTel: +260 211 278 236Email: franciscomiti@hotmail.com |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Dr. Nathan PHIRIChief Seeds OfficerSeed Control and Certification InstituteMinistry of AgricultureSeed Control and Certification InstituteChilangaZambiaTel: +260.211.278.236Email: nathpzm@yahoo.co.uk |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Zimbabwe** | Mr. Edmore MTETWAChief Seed Technologist Inspectorate SectionDept of Research and ExtensionSeed ServicesP.O. Box CY550CausewayHarareZimbabweTel: +263.4.720.370Fax: +263.4.791.223Email: mtetwae@gmail.com |

|  |  |
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|  | Mr. John MACROBERTTechnical Chair PersonZimbabwe Seed Trade Association (ZSTA)P.O. Box MP 287, Mt. PleasantHarareZimbabweTel: +263 776 404 044Email: j.macrobert@gmail.com |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Ms. Bellah MPOFUPolicy Development SpecialistSouthern Africa Seed Trade Project / DAIFeed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade ProjectThe Gallery Office Park, 4015 Lagos Road, Rhodes ParkLusakaZambiaTel: +260 960 708 612Email: bmpofu@ftf-seedtrade.org |

|  |  |
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| **UE/EU** | Dr. Päivi MANNERKORPITeam LeaderEuropean CommissionHealth and Food Safety Directorate GeneralPlant Health UnitRue Froissart 101, 06/84B-1040 BruxellesBelgiumTel: +32 2 299 37 24Fax: +32 2 296 09 51Email: paivi.mannerkorpi@ec.europa.eu |

|  |  |
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| **UE/EU Presidency****Bulgarie/Bulgaria** | Ms. Bistra PAVLOVSKAExecutive Director of EAVTFISCExecutive Agency for Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed Control125 Tsarigradsko Shosse Blvd. Block 11113 SofiaBulgariaTel: 00 359 2 870 0375Fax: 00 359 2 870 6507Email: iasas@iasas.government.bg |

|  |  |
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| **EU** **Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)** | Mr. Dirk THEOBALDSenior AdviserCommunity Plant Variety Office (CPVO)3 boulevard Maréchal Foch CS 1012149101 Angers Cedex 2FranceTel: +33.2.41.25.64.42Fax: +33.2.41.25.64.10Email: theobald@cpvo.europa.eu |

**International Organisations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)** | Mr. Alan GALBRETHUS Industry RepresentativeAmerican Seed Trade Association1701 Duke Street, Suite 275, AlexandriaVA 22314 AlexandriaUnited StatesTel: +1 765 523 2535Email: galbreth@indianacrop.org |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Association des analystes de Semences (AOSA)/ Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA)** | Mr. Dan CURRYAOSA Past PresidentDirector of Seed ServicesAssociation of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA)Oregon State University351B Crop Science BldgOregon 97331 CorvallisUnited StatesTel: +1-541 737-5094Fax: +1.541.737.1589Email: Daniel.Curry@oregonstate.edu |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Association européenne des semences (ESA)/European Seed Association (ESA)** | Mr. Christophe ROUILLARDTechnical Manager Plant Health and Seed TradeEuropean Seed Association (ESA)Avenue des Arts 521000 BrusselsBelgiumTel: +32 2 743 28 60Email: christopherouillard@euroseeds.eu |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Association européenne des semences (ESA)/European Seed Association (ESA)** | Mr. Jim DUNCUMBEAME Cereals Seeds Registration ManagerdelegateEuropean Seed Association (ESA)Syngenta UK LtdMarket Stainton,LN8 5LJ Market RasenUnited KingdomTel: +44 (0)7733 121441Fax: +44 (0)1507 343526Email: jim.duncumb@syngenta.com |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Association européenne des semences (ESA)/European Seed Association (ESA)** | Mr. Philippe LESIGNEEMEA Seed Regulatory Affairs LeadEuropean Seed Association (ESA)Avenue de Tervuren 2701150 BrusselsBelgiumTel: +32 493 51 00 18Email: philippe.lesigne@monsanto.com |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Fédération internationale des semences (ISF) /International Seed Federation (ISF)** | Mr. Michael KELLERISF Secretary GeneralInternational Seed Federation (ISF)Reposoir 5-71260 NyonSwitzerlandTel: +41 22 365 44 20Fax: +41-22 365 44 21Email: m.keller@worldseed.org |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Fédération internationale des semences (ISF) /International Seed Federation (ISF)** | Dr. Szabolcs RUTHNERRegulatory Affairs ManagerInternational Seed Federation (ISF)Reposoir 71260 NyonSwitzerlandTel: +41 22 365 44 20Fax: +41 22 365 44 21Email: s.ruthner@worldseed.org |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Association internationale d'essais de semences (ISTA)/International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)** | Dr. Andreas WAISISTA Secretary GeneralInternational Seed Testing Association (ISTA)Zürichstrasse 508303 BassersdorfTel: +41 44 838 60 05Fax: +41 44 838 60 01Email: andreas.wais@ista.ch |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO)/****UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)** | Mr. Daniele MANZELLATechnical OfficerInternational Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and AgricultureUnited Nations - Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)Via delle Terme di Caracalla00153 RomeItalyTel: +39 0657056180Email: daniele.manzella@fao.org |

|  |  |
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| **International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)** | Mr. Tomochika MOTOMURATechnical/Regional Officer (Asia)International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)34, chemin des Colombettes1211 GenevaSwitzerlandTel: +41 22 338 74 42Email: tomochika.motomura@upov.int |

**OECD Secretariat**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **OCDE/OECD** | Mr. Jonathan BROOKSHead of DivisionTAD/ATMOECDMarshall Building 51132 rue André-Pascal75016 ParisFranceTel: +(33-1) 45 24 17 02Email: Jonathan.BROOKS@oecd.org |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Mr. Csaba GASPARProgramme ManagerTAD/CODOECDMarshall Building 50872 rue André-Pascal75016 ParisFranceTel: +(33-1) 45 24 95 53Email: Csaba.GASPAR@oecd.org |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Mme Marie RUSSELSenior Programme OfficerTAD/CODOECDMarshall Building 50632 rue André-Pascal75016 ParisFranceTel: +(33-1) 45 24 85 09Email: Marie.RUSSEL@oecd.org |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Mme Isabelle BRAUDAssistantTAD/CODOCDEMarshall Building 50692 rue André-Pascal75016 ParisFranceTel: +(33-1) 45 24 95 13Email: Isabelle.BRAUD@oecd.org |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **OECD Co-ordinating Centre** | Mr. Stephen FLACKSenior Technical OfficerNIAB - OECD Co-ordinating CentreHuntingdon RoadCambridge CB3 OLEUnited KingdomTel: +44(1)223 342 238Fax: +44(1)223 277 707Email: stephen.flack@niab.com |