

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

TAD/CA/S/M(2018)3

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25 October 2018

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE

OECD Seed Schemes

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OECD SEED SCHEMES

28-29 June 2018, Paris, France

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| This draft summary record was developed by the OECD Secretariat. It is circulated to delegations for comments.  |

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2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OECD SEED SCHEMES

25-29 June 2018

OECD Headquarters, Paris, France

Chair: Mr Pedro Lavignolle (Argentina)

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| **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** **As it was approved under****Item 28 – Confirmation of decisions****1. Welcome*** The Annual Meeting had a moment of silence in memory of late Dr Karl-Hermann Freudenstein.

**2. Confirmation of officers*** The Annual Meeting confirmed the Bureau: Mr Pedro Lavignolle (Argentina, Chair), Ms Kristiina Digryte (Estonia, incoming Vice-Chair) and Mr Eddie Goldschagg (South Africa, outgoing Vice-Chair).
* The Annual Meeting thanked Dr Pier Giacomo Bianchi (Italy, stepping down from the Bureau) for his excellent contribution as a Bureau Member.

**3. Adoption of the Draft Agenda*** The draft agenda [[TAD/CA/S/A(2017)3/REV2](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/A%282017%293/REV2/en/pdf)] was approved.

**4. Adoption of Draft Summary Records*** The Annual Meeting approved the draft summary record of the 2017 Annual Meeting [[TAD/CA/S/M(2017)3/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/M%282017%293/REV1/en/pdf)].
* The Annual Meeting noted the draft summary records of Technical Working Group meetings held in June 2017 and January-February 2018 [[TAD/CA/S/M(2017)2/REV2](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/M%282017%292/REV2/en/pdf) and [TAD/CA/S/M(2018)1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/M%282018%291/en/pdf)].

**5. Report of the Bureau Meeting (25 June 2018)*** The Annual Meeting noted the report of the Bureau meeting held on 25 June 2018 including information on the latest developments with potential new countries, the activities of the World Seed Partnership notably in Myanmar, membership issues, forthcoming meetings and the management status in the Codes and Schemes Unit.
* The Annual Meeting confirmed the dates for the monitoring missions to Tanzania and Zambia in 2020 and 2021 respectively to allow both countries to provide three full cycles of data.
* The Annual Meeting agreed to fund one participant to the workshop to be held in Myanmar in September 2018 to help them develop their national seed sector.

**6. Secretariat's Activity and Budget Report*** The Annual Meeting noted the report on the Secretariat’s activity and budget with minor amendments in the activity section [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)20](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2920/en/pdf)] and particular attention to the information about countries being in arrears.
* The Annual Meeting noted that Zimbabwe paid the arrears.
* The Annual Meeting noted that the Secretariat started implementing the arrear policy by sending a letter to those countries being in arrears. Further action will be undertaken with Uganda in cooperation with ISF.
* The Secretariat will report to the 2019 Annual Meeting on technical options for extracting a PDF file from the online list of varieties.

**7. Participating countries, Observer countries and Observer organisations** * The Annual Meeting noted the document on the updated list of participating countries and Observer Organisations [[TAD/CA/S(2018)1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%291/en/pdf)].

**8. Report on the Technical Working Group Meeting held on 27 June 2017*** The Annual Meeting noted the report on the outcomes of the 27 June 2018 Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting by the Chair of the TWG.
* The Annual Meeting acknowledged the achievement of the AHWG on varietal mixtures for moving forward with proposals on varietal mixtures.
* The Annual Meeting confirmed the sunset clause of two years for the discussion on varietal mixtures.
* The proposal for a catalogue on label security methods [[TAD/CA/S(2018)3](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%293/en/pdf)] will remain at the TWG until the next Annual Meeting for further refinement on label material and fixing methods.
* OECD will continue collaborating with ISF on label security issues.
* OECD will continue working with UPOV, ISTA and AOSA on joint activities related to BMTs.
* The Secretariat will re-circulate a survey on BMT methods currently in use for varietal certification for completion stressing that all countries should reply. The outcome of the survey will be presented at the next AHWG and TWG meetings.
* The AHWG on BMTs will continue discussions on amending the Rules and Regulations and on guidelines [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)24](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2924/en/pdf) and TAD/C/S/RD(2016)6/REV3].
* The Annual Meeting noted ESA and ISF as new members of the AHWG on BMTs.
* The Secretariat will prepare a proposal to amend the OECD standards for hybrid barley on the basis of the EU standards.
* The Annual Meeting noted the recommendation by the TWG to merge the work on F1 hybrid *Lolium* and the work of the working group on novel seed production methods.
* The Annual Meeting received the recommendation by the AHWG on Intervention processes to revisit the role of OECD in seed testing and agreed this task would be considered as further work in due time at the Annual Meeting level.
* The Annual Meeting asked the TWG to advise on the AHWG recommendation to re-examine Rule 7.8 on blending.
* Hungary, US, EU and ESA joined the AHWG on Intervention processes.
* NDAs were encouraged to give feedback on the ongoing activities of the TWG for certification provision on hybrid varieties and OECD specimen label repository.

**9. Capacity building activities in the Seed Schemes*** The Annual Meeting approved Module 2 on Field Inspection (Maize) [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)8/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%298/REV1/en/pdf),[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)12/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2912/REV1/en/pdf), [TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)13/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2913/REV1/en/pdf),[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)14/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2914/REV1/en/pdf),
* [TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)15/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2915/REV1/en/pdf) and [TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)21](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2921/en/pdf)].
* The Annual Meeting noted the presentations by the delegates from South Africa and India on recent capacity building activities in Russia and India respectively.
* The Annual Meeting identified 5 new potential areas for training modules. The next work will be on “seed biology / breeding / protection”; and “traceability and information management”.
* The Annual Meeting requested an expert be hired to develop the modules.
* The Secretariat will explore options for developing an affordable e-learning system.
* New Zealand and UK will send contribution on information management and e-learning respectively.

**10. Varietal mixtures of the same species*** The Annual Meeting approved the three following proposals as amended at the TWG meeting:
	+ 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)]
	+ proposal to move the current 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 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)].
* The Annual Meeting referred the 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)] back to the AHWG for further discussion at the January 2019 meeting with a sunset clause of two years.

**11. Revised proposal to address label security issues in the Rules and Regulations of the OECD Seed Schemes*** The Annual Meeting approved the proposal to include a new rule on label security in the Common Rules and in the Vegetable Scheme [[TAD/CA/S(2018)8](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%298/en/pdf)].

**12. Implementation of the OECD Seed Schemes in participating countries - Zimbabwe*** The Annual Meeting noted the presentation by the delegate from Zimbabwe.

**13. New and revised Terms of References of Ad-Hoc Working Groups (AHWG)*** The Annual Meeting approved the draft revised Terms of Reference of the AHWG on Labelling with an amendment to include traceability issues [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)18](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2918/en/pdf)].
* ISTA volunteered to be a member of the AHWG on Labelling.
* The Annual Meeting approved the draft revised Terms of Reference of the AHWG on Biochemical and molecular techniques (BMTs) [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)5/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%295/REV1/en/pdf)].
* The Annual Meeting established an Ad-Hoc Working Group to develop guidelines on acceptance and control of new seed production techniques for hybrids or new seed production methods into certification, including F1 hybrid of *Lolium* [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)19](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2919/en/pdf) and [TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)16/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2916/REV1/en/pdf)]
* Bulgaria, Denmark, and the EU joined the new AHWG on hybrids composed of the current members from the two original working groups (Canada**,** France, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, UK, US, AOSA, ESA, ISF and the Coordinating Centre).
* US will chair the new AHWG on hybrids.
* India joined the AHWGs on BMTs and Labelling.

**14. Update on the nomenclature of species [**[**TAD/CA/S(2018)13**](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%2913/en/pdf)**]*** The Annual Meeting approved the draft proposal on the nomenclature of species eligible under the OECD Seed Schemes with a minor amendment.

**15. Draft Action Plan for the Delivery of the 2017 Strategic Plan [**[**TAD/CA/S(2018)9**](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%299/en/pdf)**]*** The Annual Meeting approved the draft action plan, noted the brochure on the 2017 Strategic Plan and closed the AHWG on the revision of the Strategic Plan.
* The Secretariat will update the Annual Meeting on the basis of the Action Plan indicators.
* The Secretariat will explore options for more flexibility in the organisation of the successive AHWG meetings in the dedicated day. AHWG are free to organise additional meetings after the regular meetings as well as video conferences in between.
* New Zealand confirmed its participation in the AHWG on Hybrids and Varietal Mixtures.
* Zambia and EU confirmed their participation in the AHWGs on Labelling and BMTs respectively.

**16. Possible collaboration with OECD Part I Programmes - Increasing Concentration in Seed Markets: Potential Effects and Policy Responses [**[**TAD/CA/APM/WP(2018)5**](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/APM/WP%282018%295/en/pdf) **and** [**TAD/CA/APM/WP(2018)11**](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/APM/WP%282018%2911/en/pdf)**]*** The Secretariat outlined ongoing work within OECD on the increasing concentration in seed markets - background on seed markets, literature review on effects of mergers, possible effects and policy options.
* The Annual Meeting welcomed this initiative designed to link the Schemes to the work of the Committee for Agriculture (CoAg).
* The Secretariat will circulate a revised version of the report to delegates and report on the progress of the work to the next TWG Meeting.

**17. Addressing critical issues in the OECD Seed Schemes - Evaluation of the issues of implementation of the Schemes concerning 2016 [**[**TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)4/REV1**](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%294/REV1/en/pdf)**]*** The Annual Meeting noted the outcome of the second survey on critical issues and fraud cases occurred in participating countries since the 2017 Annual Meeting.
* The Secretariat will share data on issues in implementation with ISTA for follow-up.
* The Annual Meeting agreed the notification process will continue on a trial basis initially for the next two years.
* The reporting process will be continuous.
* The Secretariat will put the notification form on Clearspace.

**18. 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 Annual Meeting noted that the draft catalogue on label security methods was referred back to the AHWG and TWG for further refining.

**19. Application for admission of new species to the OECD Seed Schemes*** The annual Meeting approved the admission of *Bromus parodii (Covas et Itria)* and of *Bituminaria bituminosa var. albomarginata* and *var. crassiuscula* to Grass and Legumes Seed Scheme [[TAD/CA/S(2018)10](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%2910/en/pdf) and [TAD/CA/S(2018)4](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%294/en/pdf) respectively].

**20. 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)**]*** The Annual Meeting approved the revised proposal.
* The document will be a living document in which species can be added or revised as the need arises.

**21. Overview on the updated statistics on the weight of seed certified and post control test results** * The Annual Meeting noted the report on the updated statistics of the weight of seed certified and post control test results [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)17](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2917/en/pdf)] and the presentation by the Secretariat of the latest developments in the transfer of the OECD seed database to the OECD Statistical system.
* The Annual Meeting accepted a guidance of 50% to discriminate between varietal purity and identity.

**22. Report from the Co-ordinating Centre*** The annual Meeting noted the report from the Co-ordinating Centre on the OECD list of varieties [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)22](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2922/en/pdf)].

**23. Update by member countries on key changes in seed certification** * The Annual Meeting noted the key changes in seed certification in Argentina and cooperation between Canada and Chile.

**24. Summary Action Sheet*** The Annual Meeting noted the report of the Secretariat on the Summary Action Sheet [[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)23](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2923/en/pdf)].
* The Secretariat will re-structure the Action Sheet in the light of the newly adopted Action Plan.

**25. Statements by the European Union and International Organisations on recent developments*** The Annual Meeting noted the information on seed related developments in the EU and international organisations (ASTA, AOSA, AOSCA, ESA, ISF, ISTA and UPOV).

**26. Date and place of 2019-20 Meetings of the OECD Seed Schemes** * 28 January - 1 February 2019: AHWG and TWG meetings (including a one-day field trip), Buenos Aires, Argentina
* 10-14 June 2019: Annual Meeting, TWG and AHWG meetings, Vienna, Austria
* 27-30 January 2020: AHWG and TWG meetings. Italy volunteered to host the meeting. The Annual Meeting approved Italy’s offer.
* 1-5 June 2020: Annual Meeting, TWG and AHWG meetings, provisionally at OECD Headquarters, Paris. Volunteers are welcome.
* The Annual Meeting noted the presentations by Argentina of a video on Argentina and a dedicated website for the TWG meeting and by Austria of a video on Vienna.

**27. Other business*** There was no other business.

**28. Confirmation of decisions*** Delegates confirmed the decisions made.
* The Chair adjourned the Annual Meeting of the 60th anniversary of the OECD Seed Schemes.
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DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OECD SEED SCHEMES

# Opening remarks by the OECD Secretariat and the Chair of the Annual Meeting

1. Before the opening of the meeting Delegates observed a moment of silence in memory of late Dr Karl-Hermann Freudenstein, German delegate, who passed away a week before the annual meeting.
2. Jonathan Brooks and Csaba Gaspar from the OECD Secretariat opened the meeting. They welcomed delegates and congratulated Zambia becoming a member of the OECD Seed Schemes on 23rd December 2017. The Secretariat also recalled that the programme celebrates its 60th Anniversary in 2018 and wished delegates the continuation of the good work for the future.

# Confirmation of officers

1. The Annual Meeting confirmed the current Bureau Members: Mr Pedro Lavignolle (Argentina - Chair), Ms Kristiina Dygryte (Estonia - Incoming Vice-Chair), and Mr Eddie Goldschagg (South Africa - Outgoing Vice-Chair).The Secretariat informed delegates that Mr Pier Giacomo Bianchi stepped down from the Bureau after six years of service. The Secretariat and delegates thanked him the excellent work and the progress made during this six years.

# Adoption of the Draft Agenda

[TAD/CA/S/A(2018)3/REV2](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/A%282018%293/REV2/en/pdf)

1. The Annual Meeting adopted the draft agenda of the 2018 Annual Meeting with few changes in the schedule.

# Summary Records

## 2017 Annual Meeting (29-30 June 2017)

[TAD/CA/S/M(2017)3/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/M%282017%293/REV1/en/pdf)

1. The Annual Meeting approved the summary record of the 2017 Annual Meeting without any changes.

## Technical Working Group Meeting (28 June 2017) and

[TAD/CA/S/M(2017)2/REV2](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/M%282017%292/REV2/en/pdf)

## 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 Annual Meeting noted the summary records of the TWG meetings held on 28 June 2017 and on 31 January- 1 February 2018. The Secretariat recalled that this is a new procedure, which was approved at the 2017 Annual Meeting. According to this new rule, the TWG approves the summary records of its meetings.

# Report of the Bureau Meeting (25 June 2018)

1. The Secretariat reported on the outcomes of the Bureau Meeting held on 25 June 2018. All Bureau Members, the Coordinating Centre and the Secretariat participated in the meeting The Bureau meeting reviewed the documents for the Ad-Hoc Working Group, the Technical Working Group and the Annual meetings and addressed membership issues, the current developments of the World Seed Partnership, and upcoming meetings.
2. As regards membership issues, the Secretariat informed the Meeting that Paraguay is the only official candidate country now. The Secretariat is continuously in touch with the officials in Paraguay. They still need to submit all the necessary information, particularly the three years post control test results to the Secretariat. One week before the annual meeting, Paraguay informed the Secretariat that they will set up a new government and they will continue the accession process once it is established. The expected date of the evaluation mission is the second half of 2018 but it may be postponed depending on the above-mentioned issues. The other interested country is Bosnia-Hercegovina. They expressed interest to join the Seed Schemes at the 2017 Annual Meeting. The Secretariat will inform the Annual Meeting once an official application letter is received. Delegates also discussed how to approach to China. The Secretariat regularly receives questions from Chinese seed companies on how could they produce OECD certified seed. The Secretariat is in contact with the OECD Global Relation Unit and inform the Chinese Government when these questions arrive to the Secretariat. As for follow up, Mr Goldschagg will participate in a meeting in China and will promote the OECD Seed Schemes. The Secretariat plan to organise a mission to China in April 2019 where they could also promote the programme.
3. As regards the World Seed Partnership (WSP), the Secretariat informed the Annual Meeting that the World Farmer’s Organisation (WFO) is working closely now with the World Seed Partnership as advisory partner. It is a trial period with the possibility that WFO will become a full member. The participation of the representatives of the framers in the work would help to fulfil the goals of the WSP. The WSP also met with the new Secretary General of WFO to introduce the WSP and each of the partner organisations and to discuss future cooperation. WFO is motivated to participate in the work of the WSP, as access to quality seed and modern variates for farmers is important for WFO. The Secretariat will inform delegates once this decision has to be made. All partner organisations in the WSP need to approve WFO as full member. The Secretariat also informed delegates that the WSP is planning a mission to Myanmar on the invitation of its Government. They want to develop their seed sector and the WSP could help them to do it following international standards and procedures. The mission will take place on the last week of September. Two persons would participate from OECD: one from the Secretariat and one expert from a participating country. Naktuinbouw, Netherlands would cover the cost of one mission. The other one would be covered by the regular budget of the Seed Schemes. The Secretariat sought the approval of this mission from the Annual Meeting. During the discussion, several delegates asked more information about the aims of the mission and the cost. The Secretariat answered these questions. The aim of the mission is to have a first contact with the Government and the representatives of the private seed sector of Myanmar and inform them on the OECD Seed Schemes; what would be the advantages for them to apply and later join this OECD programme. It will also be a good opportunity to discuss future capacity-building activities if Myanmar decides to move forward. There are sufficient resources in the Scheme’s budget to cover the costs of the mission, but the Secretariat needed support from the Annual Meeting. After a comprehensive discussion, delegates approved the mission with the above-mentioned conditions.
4. The Secretariat also informed delegates on the upcoming meetings of the seed schemes in 2019. Argentina volunteered to host the 2019 January TWG meeting and Austria to organise the 2019 Annual Meeting in Vienna. Both delegations made a short presentation on the venue and the draft programme of these meetings. The venues and the dates were approved during the annual meeting under item 26.

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| **Conclusion**: Delegates noted the report of the Secretariat on the outcomes of the Bureau meeting. They approved the mission to Myanmar for two persons. One mission cost will fully be covered by the Scheme’s budget according to OECD rules. **Action:** The Secretariat will organise the mission to Myanmar jointly with WSP and the Netherlands. |

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# Secretariat's Activity and Budget Report

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)20](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2920/en/pdf)

## Activities

1. The Secretariat informed delegates on the activities since the 2017 Annual Meeting. The list of missions were completed by the second capacity building event in India and the mission to participate in the meeting of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture where Mr Eddie Goldschagg (bureau member, South Africa) represented the OECD Seed Schemes at the meeting and a side event organised by WSP.
2. The Secretariat informed delegates the website of the Seed Schemes will be modernised as part of a general revision of OECD websites. Delegates asked some questions on the online OECD list of varieties particularly how it is maintained and on the procedure how to withdraw a variety from the list. The Coordinating Centre informed delegates that the addition or removal of a variety from the online list is done upon request of NDAs and the changes appears on the list within couple of days from the time when the Coordinating Centre receives the request. The delegate from New Zealand explained that the seed trade has the expectation that their request appear on the List of Varieties within couple of days. It would be useful to develop a one-page document on the maintenance of the list of varieties so the process would be transparent for the breeders and seed companies. The delegate from Slovakia thanked the Coordinating Centre for the excellent and efficient work they do on the list of varieties.

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| **Conclusion:** Delegates noted the activity report. Action: The Coordinating Centre and the Secretariat will develop a one-page document on the procedures for updating the List of Varieties.  |

## Schemes' budget

1. The Secretariat informed delegates on the updates on the budget since the 2016 Annual Meeting including the contributions of the participating countries and the expenditures in various breakdowns.

## Arrears

1. The Secretariat reported in detail on the status of arrears. According to the decision of the 2017 Annual Meeting the Secretariat started the strict implementation of the arrear policies from January 2018. According to this rule the six countries in arrears were informed about the measures if they do not arrange their arrears in time, i.e. that as a first step they cannot register new varieties. They received an official letter and the deadline for payment is the beginning of July 2018. The Secretariat and delegates encouraged countries in arrear to pay the annual fee. There was a discussion on Uganda as the country is in 4 years arrears and they do not react on any communication. The Secretariat cooperates with ISF involving the private sector to raise awareness of the government to this problem. The Secretariat will inform the next annual meeting on the developments.
2. The Secretariat and delegates welcomed the positive developments in Zimbabwe. They arranged 5 years arrears in 2018 following the joint effort of the Secretariat and ISF. They made a presentation on their national seed sector and implementation of the OECD Seed Schemes during the annual meeting.

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| **Conclusion:** The Annual Meeting noted the Secretariat’s report on arrears**.** **Action**: The Secretariat will continue to follow up with countries in arrears especially with Uganda. The Secretariat will inform the 2019 Annual Meeting on the developments. |

## Update on the 2019/20 Programme of Work and Budget

1. The Secretariat informed delegates that the Annual Meeting approved the 2019/20 Programme and Work (PWB) under the written procedure. The Committee for Agriculture was informed on the document. As next step, the Budget Committee will discuss the document and prepare a recommendation to the Council. The PWB will be submitted to the Council for approval at the end of 2018.

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| **Conclusion:** The Annual Meeting noted the update on the 2019/20 PWB.  |

# Participating countries, Observer countries and Observer Organisations

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

##  Updated list of participating countries and Observer Organisations

1. The Secretariat informed delegates of the relevant changes in the list of Council/Committee for Agriculture’ Decisions related to Codes & Schemes. Zambia joined the OECD Seed Schemes on 23 December 2017. With Zambia, 61 countries are participating in the OECD Seed Schemes.

## Observer countries

1. There was no presentation under this item.

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| **Conclusion:** The Annual Meeting noted the document on the updated list of participating countries and Observer organisations  |

# Report of the Technical Working Group Meetings held on 27 June 2018

1. Ms Kristiina Dygryte, Chair of the TWG presented the outcomes of the TWG meeting held on 27 June 2018. The Ad-Hoc Working Group on Varietal Mixtures and the TWG meeting made a good progress on the proposals related to the revision of the current rules related to herbage mixtures and the development of new rules on varietal mixtures of maize. Delegates recommended the approval of the draft proposals and submitted to the 2018 Annual Meeting (item 10). During the discussions, the annual meeting noted the achievements and confirmed the sunset clause of 2 years for these proposals.
2. The Ad-Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on Labelling also made good progress. The Technical Working Group discussed these achievements. As regards the catalogue for label security method, the AHWG still need to clarify several parts of the document particularly the section on the material of the label and the label fixing method. In the latter case, more discussion is needed on stapling methods and the US agreed to present the heavy-duty staplers at the next AHWG meeting in January 2019. In relation to label security and combatting fraud, the ISF made a comprehensive presentation on their study related to this subject. The TWG confirmed the continuation of cooperation with ISF as label security, traceability and combatting fraud is equally important to both organisations.
3. As regards the work on biochemical and molecular techniques (BMT), the AHWG and the TWG continued the discussion on the future focus of this work. The outcomes of these discussions are reflected in the revised Terms of Reference of the AHWG, which was submitted to the 2018 Annual Meeting for discussion and approval. Delegates re-confirmed the importance of cooperation with other organisations such as UPOV, ISTA and AOSA, which should be continued in the future. The survey on the BMT methods in use in participating countries will be circulated again to delegation and all countries should reply in order to finalise this work in 2019. The BMT will further discuss the possible amendments to the rules and regulations and the Guidelines on post control and field inspection in 2019. ESA and ISF joined the AHWG on BMT.
4. The TWG will continue the discussion on the temporary OECD standards on hybrids of barley. The decision on these issues should be done before the end of 2020. In order to move forward the Secretariat will prepare a draft proposal based on the relevant EU standards and submit it to the next TWG meeting for discussion.
5. The TWG agreed to develop guidelines on how to accommodate new seed production techniques in the Seed Schemes and to work on the development of certification rules for hybrid Lolium sp. A new AHWG group will undertake these works in condition that the 2018 Annual meeting agrees on its establishment and its terms of reference (item 13c.)
6. The discussions on intervention processes will continue in the specific AHWG level. This Ad-Hoc Group made a good progress and discussed all aspects of this issue and they are in a good track to develop a draft proposal in 2019. During this work, the AHWG recognised that the current rule 7.8 on blending should be revised. The Annual Meeting agreed with this suggestion. The AHWG and TWG also suggested revisiting the role of the OECD Seed Schemes in seed testing. The annual meeting agreed that this is a fundamental issue which needs deep analysis and agreed that this task will be considered as future work in due time at the Annual Meeting level. Hungary, US, EU and ESA joined the AHWG on Intervention processes.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting noted the report on the outcomes of the 27 June 2018 Technical Working Group meeting.The Annual Meeting acknowledged the achievement of the AHWG on varietal mixtures for moving forward with proposals on varietal mixtures and confirmed the sunset clause of two years for the discussion on varietal mixtures.The Annual Meeting noted ESA and ISF as new members of the AHWG on BMTs.The Annual Meeting noted the recommendation by the TWG to merge the work on F1 hybrid *Lolium* and the work of the working group on novel seed production methods.The Annual Meeting asked the TWG to advise on the AHWG recommendation to re-examine Rule 7.8 on blending. Hungary, US, EU and ESA joined the AHWG on Intervention processes.**Actions:** OECD will continue collaborating with ISF on label security issues and with UPOV, ISTA and AOSA on joint activities related to BMTs.The Secretariat will re-circulate a survey on BMT methods currently in use for varietal certification for completion stressing that all countries should reply. The outcome of the survey will be presented at the next AHWG and TWG meetings.The Secretariat will prepare a proposal to amend the OECD standards for hybrid barley based on the EU standards.The Annual Meeting agreed that the revision of the role of OECD in seed testing would be considered as further work in due time at the Annual Meeting level.NDAs are encouraged to give feedback on the ongoing activities of the TWG for certification provision on hybrid varieties and OECD specimen label repository. |

# Capacity building activities

## Capacity Building Guidelines - Draft Training Module on Field Inspection (Maize)

### Training Programme (3 days)

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)8/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%298/REV1/en/pdf)

### Questionnaire, Zero Assessment

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)12/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2912/REV1/en/pdf)

### General Presentation on Field Inspection (long version)

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)13/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2913/REV1/en/pdf)

### General Presentation on Field Inspection (short version)

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)14/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2914/REV1/en/pdf)

### Specific Presentation on Field Inspection - Maize

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)15/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2915/REV1/en/pdf)

### Management and organisation of field inspection

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)21](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2921/en/pdf)

1. Mr Max Soepboer, OECD expert, presented the draft training module on field inspection for approval. In his presentation, he explained that these documents and PowerPoint presentations were presented at the 2018 January TWG meeting where delegates recommended their approval to the annual meeting. Only the document on management and organisation of field inspection was new as it was recognised after the TWG meeting that this was missing. Delegates at the TWG meeting made some comments how the module could be improved particularly delegates who already tried the draft module in practice during OECD capacity building workshops. Mr Soepboer took into account these comments and revised the documents accordingly.
2. During the discussions, delegates thanked the good work of Mr Soepboer and supported the documents. The delegate from UK and South Africa explained that they tried this module during the capacity building trainings in India and it worked well.
3. Delegates also discussed which training modules should be developed next. They identified five topics as follows:
4. How to organise an NDA
5. Traceability
6. Information management
7. Acceptance of a variety
8. Basic seed biology
9. After a comprehensive discussion delegates agreed to start working on the modules on a) basic seed biology and b) traceability & information management. The latter module would merge the two issues, as information system and traceability are closely related subjects. The Secretariat will find an expert who could undertake these works. Delegates should help the expert selection process by sending names of persons who have right expertise to undertake the work. The delegate from New Zealand volunteered to provide input on traceability issues.
10. Delegates also discussed the possibility of the development of a distance-learning tool in the OECD Seed Schemes. The Secretariat reminded delegates that last year there was a presentation on this issue and the estimated cost is very high if the Seed Schemes want to build up a system similar to UPOV’s. Delegates suggested that a more simple system could be enough using the PowerPoint presentations from the training module. The delegate of UK informed the meeting that SASA developed a simple e-learning system. He offered to send information on this system to the Secretariat.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting approved the training module on field inspection. Delegates also agreed to start working on two modules: seed biology and traceability & information management**Actions:** The PowerPoint presentations and documents will be available from ClearSpace so all NDAs can use them when doing capacity building. The Secretariat will hire an expert who will develop the new training modules. NDAs will send the contact details of persons who have the right expertise to undertake this work.The Secretariat will further explore the possibility to develop a distance-learning module and will report to the 2019 Annual Meeting. New Zealand and UK will send contribution on information management and e learning respectively. |

## List of trainers

1. The Secretariat informed the meeting on the status of the List of OECD Trainers. He explained that the 2017 Annual Meeting made the decision on the establishment of this list. Currently four countries nominated experts. The Secretariat invited other participating countries to nominate further experts as it is important to have a pool of trainers with different expertise and experiences in order to able to select the right ones when a training request arrives.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting noted the report on the status of the list of trainers. **Actions:** The Secretariat will circulate again the application form to all NDAs.  |

## Update on recent capacity building activities

1. Mr Eddie Goldschagg provided information on the OECD capacity-building event held in the Russian Federation in July 2017. He and an expert from Poland led the trainings on field inspection and post control of maize and sunflower. The meeting was financed by the Russian Federation.
2. The Delegate from India informed the annual meeting on the two capacity building workshops took place in Hyderabad, Telangana State, India with the participation of Mr Gerry Hall (UK) and Mr Eddie Goldschagg. The Workshop focused on DUS and VCU testing, registration of varieties, authorisation of inspectors and seed samplers, field inspection, post control, labelling, records and data maintenance. The training also included theoretical and practical sessions on seed sampling. There were five participants from state seed certification agencies, the state and national seed corporations, research institutes and from the private seed industry. The second workshop took place on 3-7 April 2018 and this event focused on field inspection and post control.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting noted the report on the OECD capacity building workshops. **Actions:** The presentations will be available from ClearSpace.  |

# Varietal Mixtures of the Same Species

1. Mr Eddie Goldschagg as chair of the Ad-Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on Varietal Mixtures summarised the outcomes of the discussions at the AHWG and TWG meetings since the 2017 Annual Meeting and presented four draft proposals for approval according to the outcomes of the TWG meeting held on 25 June 2018. He emphasized that the three proposals related to herbage mixtures are closely related and suggested a step-by-step approach to delegates in the approval of these documents (item 10.a;b, c).
	1. **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. Following the request of the 2017 Annual Meeting the first proposal suggested clarifications to the terminology used and the role of the OECD Seed Schemes in the certification of herbage mixtures. The draft proposal clarified that he Seed Schemes control the production of herbage mixtures from already certified seed. The current wording “certified herbage mixture” is misleading and it should read “mixture of certified herbage seed”. These editorial changes should be applied in all relevant rules such as Rule 12 on Certification of Mixtures of Herbage Seed and Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme on Minimum Requirements for the Certification of Mixtures of Herbage Seed.
2. Delegates discussed and agreed with all the editorial amendments to Rule 12 and Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legumes Seed Scheme.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting approved the editorial amendments to Common Rule 12 and Appendix IV of the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme.**Actions:** The Secretariat will submit these technical amendments to the Committee for Agriculture for approval.  |

* 1. **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. In 2017, there were some discussions on the right place of Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme on the Minimum Requirements for the Certification of Mixtures of Herbage Seed. Several delegations explained that the scope of this appendix is wider than the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme and theoretically, if a country which is not a member of this Scheme cannot produce herbage seed mixtures even if they are member of other schemes, which are under the scope of this Appendix 4. Therefore, the OECD Secretariat in cooperation with the Coordinating Centre and the Chair of the AHWG prepared a draft proposal to move this Appendix 4 from the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme to a Common Appendix 7 in order to reflect on this issue. The AHWG and the TWG meetings reviewed this draft proposal and recommended its approval to the Annual Meeting.
2. After a comprehensive discussion, delegates agreed with the rationale of the proposal and approved the document.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting approved the draft proposal to move Appendix 4 of the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme to a new common Appendix 7 of the Rules and Regulation..**Actions:** The Secretariat will submit this technical amendment to the Committee for Agriculture for approval.  |

* 1. **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. In 2017, delegates agreed to explore the feasibility of the inclusion of the Maize Seed Scheme into the list of Schemes where mixtures of certified herbage seed are permitted. This was proposed to address the desire of some countries to certify mixtures of Maize while allowing the broader discussions to allow certification of varietal mixtures of Maize continue. To follow up on this request Canada and New Zealand submitted a draft proposal to the TWG meeting held in January 2018. Delegates discussed this document but could not reach consensus, as more information was needed on the justification of this proposal. Several delegations also requested the clarification of the wording of the current rules related to herbage mixtures as regards the role of the Seed Schemes in the process (see item 10a) in order to be able to evaluate all aspects of the inclusion of maize into herbage mixtures. As the wording of these rules were clarified delegates were invited to approve this proposal.
2. During the discussions, the EU and France expressed their concerns about the draft proposal. They did not see clearly the rationale of this proposal. There is no real need to mix maize seed with seed of other herbage species and if a country would like to mix two or more maize varieties for herbage, they could use the new rules on maize mixtures to be inserted into the Maize Seed Scheme (see item 4d). The Secretariat suggested the addition of a sentence to the draft proposal, which would refer to these specific rules in the Maize Seed Schemes in case of herbage mixtures of seed of maize varieties. However, EU and France requested more time and the draft proposal was not approved.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting did not approve the draft proposal on the inclusion of the Maize Seed Scheme under the scope of herbage mixtures.**Actions:** The Ad-Hoc Working Group will discuss again this draft proposal at its meeting in January 2019. The sunset clause of two years for the finalisation of this discussion will be ended at the 2019 Annual Meeting.  |

## 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 Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting informed delegates that this draft proposal is under discussion since 2015 and in order to ensure efficiency the 2017 Annual Meeting set up a 2 years sunset clause, which will end in 2019. In this light, the TWG meeting discussed a revised version of the draft proposal and changed the wording on the scope of the proposed new Appendix 5 of the Maize Seed Scheme allowing mixtures of certified maize seed lot which may include a variety that makes the mixture effective against the propagation of harmful organism. The TWG also recommends some other changes, mainly the alignment of the text with the revised wording of the rules related to herbage mixtures (see item 10a). With these changes the June 2018 TWG meeting recommended the approval of this draft proposal to the Annual Meeting.
2. Delegates approved the proposals and thanked the work of the Chair and members of the AHWG for their work and that they managed to find a compromised solution for the wording of the proposal.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting approved the draft proposal on varietal mixtures of maize.**Actions:** The Secretariat will submit these technical amendments to the Committee for Agriculture for approval.  |

# Revised draft proposal to address label security issues in the Rules and Regulations of the OECD Seed Schemes

[TAD/CA/S(2018)8](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%298/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat introduced the draft proposal and explained the background of the document. The first draft proposal on how to address label security issues in the Rules and Regulations of the OECD Seed Schemes was submitted to the Annual Meeting for approval under the written procedure in September 2017. Although all delegations agreed on the content of a new rule on label security, there was no consensus on where to insert the new rule into the Rules and Regulations. Thus, the TWG in January 2018 discussed the draft proposal again and agreed to recommend to the 2018 Annual Meeting the insertion of this new rule into the Common Rules and Regulations as well as into the Vegetable Scheme as new Rule 10.5 respectively.
2. Delegates discussed and approved the draft proposal without any changes.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting approved the draft proposal on how to address label security issues in the Rules and Regulations.**Actions:** The Secretariat will submit these technical amendments to the Committee for Agriculture for approval.  |

# Implementation of the OECD Seed Schemes in participating countries - Zimbabwe

1. The delegate from Zimbabwe provided an overview on the national implementation of the OECD seed varietal certification system and the national seed sector. The reason of this invitation was to rebuild trust in Zimbabwe’s seed certification system. They were in arrears for 5 years and have not participated in the work of the Schemes. The arrears were arranged in 2018.
2. During the presentation, the delegate of Zimbabwe explained that the seed sector is vibrant in the country with 39 registered seed company. The principle crops are maize, soybean, cowpea, wheat, potato and cotton. Certified maize seed production is far the most important for Zimbabwe. The presentation detailed the different steps of the certification process of seed production.
3. Delegates thanked Zimbabwe for the comprehensive presentation

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting noted the presentation on Zimbabwe’s seed certification system. **Actions:** The presentation will be available from ClearSpace.  |

# New and revised Terms of References of Ad-Hoc Working Groups (AHWG)

## Draft revised 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. Ms Jolanta Wyszatkiewicz presented the revised draft Terms of Reference (ToR) of the AHWG on Labelling. She explained that the changes are referring to the new tasks of which the group needs to deal with. These new tasks relates to the development of guidelines on sealing and labelling methods including a register of recommended label fixation methods and modifications of the current rules related to sealing and fixation of labels on seed containers.
2. Delegates discussed the draft ToR of the AHWG on Labelling. New Zealand suggested further extending the ToR of the group to be able to discuss and prepare recommendation on how to improve traceability of the labels and seed lots. Delegates agreed with the revised ToR of the AHWG on Labelling as suggested by the Chair of the Group and the delegate from New Zealand.
3. ISTA informed delegates that there are some overlapping in the activities of this OECD AHWG and ISTA’s work, thus they would like to participate in the work of the group as a member. India also expressed interest to join this group. Delegates noted these requests.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting approved the revised Terms of Reference of the AHWG on Labelling as modified in session. ISTA and India joined the AHWG on Labelling. |

## Draft revised Terms of Reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Biochemical and molecular techniques (BMT)

[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, Chair of the AHWG on Biochemical and molecular techniques presented the proposal of the TWG on the revision of the ToR of the group. He explained that since the 2017 Annual Meeting there were intensive discussions in the AHWG and the TWG meetings on the future scopes of the group. The presented proposal summarises the outcome of these discussions. In summary, the group would like to finish the ongoing activities, which included the traditional biochemical methods as well as new molecular techniques, and in future, they would focus on the latter group, i.e. genotyping techniques. The Chair stressed that cooperation with other international organisations such as UPOV, ISTA and AOSA will be particularly important in the future.
2. Delegates discussed the draft ToR of the BMT AHWG and agreed with the document as the chair presented it. India expressed interest to join this ad-hoc working group

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting approved the revised Terms of Reference of the AHWG on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques. India joined the AHWG on BMT. |

## Establishment and the 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)

**and**

## Establishment and the Draft Terms of Reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on certification of F1 Lolium spp.

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

1. The Secretariat, the Coordinating Centre and New Zealand summarised the discussions related to this topic at the 2018 June TWG meeting. The TWG agreed to recommend the establishment of a new Ad-Hoc Working Group, which would deal with the development of guidelines on acceptance and control of new seed production techniques including F1 hybrid of Lolium spp. This merge of the two works is well justified as they are related topics and the new draft guidelines could be tested when developing rules for OECD certified seed production of F1 Lolium species.
2. The Annual Meeting agreed on the proposal of the TWG, established the new AHWG, and discussed its membership. Some countries have already volunteered to participate at least one of the merged projects and they automatically became a member of the new AHWG. These countries are: Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, UK, US, AOSA, ESA, ISF and the Coordinating Centre. In addition, the following delegations joined the group: Bulgaria, Denmark and EU. The US agreed to chair the AHWG.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting established a new Ad-Hoc Working Group on guidelines for new seed production techniques and approved its Terms of Reference.The members of the group are: US (chair), Bulgaria. Canada**,** Denmark, France, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, UK, US, EU, AOSA, ESA, ISF and the Coordinating Centre. |

# Update on nomenclature of species eligible under the OECD Seed Schemes

[TAD/CA/S(2018)13](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%2913/en/pdf)

1. The Co-ordinating Centre presented the draft proposal. In January 2018, the TWG agreed to recommend updating the nomenclature of species eligible under the OECD Seed Schemes. The Coordinating Centre explained that the updated list of species reflects the changes in GRIN and harmonised with other international organisations such as ISTA and UPOV as much as possible. However, the list is not fully in line with the similar list of other organisations.
2. During the discussions, the representative of EU explained that its member countries could approve the document but in the future, they want to see more cooperation between the international organisations to harmonise the nomenclature of species. The ISTA Secretariat explained that they currently discuss the use of UPOV nomenclature but the discussion has not been finalised. They revise the ISTA list every three years. The Coordinating Centre clarified that the lists of the three organisations (OECD, UPOV, and ISTA) may not be fully harmonised as they have different purposes. However all the three organisations uses GRIN database as a reference, which is already a great achievement. He also explained that, similar to ISTA, the OECD is also using UPOV codes in the database of the name of the varieties but it is not visible. After these clarifications the Annual Meeting approved the draft proposal.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting approved the updated list of nomenclature of species with minor modification. **Action:** The new nomenclature will appear in the 2019 Rules and Regulations and the list of varieties eligible for OECD certification will be updated accordingly.  |

# Draft Action Plan for the Delivery of the 2017 Strategic Plan

[TAD/CA/S(2018)9](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%299/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat as chair of the AHWG on the Strategic Plan introduced the draft Action Plan for the delivery of the 2017 Strategic Plan. The Secretariat explained that the Ad-Hoc Working Group worked intensively at physical meetings held in conjunction with the TWG meeting in January and agreed on the presented format and content of the action plan. The aim was to prepare a well-structured, easy to read format and to contain all necessary information on each of the actions: its brief description, priority, budget impact, timeframe and how to measure the progress. The draft action plan was sent out to all delegations after the meetings and the comments from all delegations were took into account in the presented paper. The Secretariat explained that once the action plan is approved it will serve as a basis of reporting and the current format of the Summary Action Sheet will be revised accordingly.
2. During the discussion, delegates supported the layout and the content of the action plan. Delegates emphasised that the draft plan reflects on the core activities of the Seed Schemes and identify the new areas that are necessary for the delivery of the 2017 Strategic Plan. Several delegates stated that it is an ambitious plan and now the countries, together with the Secretariat, need to work on the implementation. The Annual Meeting congratulated the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the good work and approved the Action Plan.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting approved the Action Plan for the Delivery of the 2017 Strategic Plan.**Action:** The Secretariat will provide a regular report on the status of the Actions at the annual meeting based on the layout of the Action Plan. |

# Possible collaboration with OECD Part I Programmes - Increasing Concentration in Seed Markets: Potential Effects and Policy Responses

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

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

1. Mr Koen Deconinck from the OECD Secretariat introduced the status of the study on increasing concentration in seed markets: potential effects and policy responses. He thanked delegates and representatives of international organisations who participated in the advisory group of this study and helped the Secretariat during drafting the paper. The purposes of the study were to understand the concentration in seed markets, evaluate the possible effects on prices and innovation and develop policy options to stimulate competition and innovation. He introduced the key findings of the study. The statistical analysis showed that there is no clear effect of market concentration on seed prices. The data for the EU also shows no clear effect of concentration on innovation. He explained that the effects of mergers depend on whether they are horizontal or non-horizontal. As regards complementary policy options to stimulate innovation and competition the study suggests avoiding unnecessary regulatory barriers to entry, facilitating access to intellectual property and genetic resources and stimulating both public and private R&D. He also explained that the study would be declassified in November after its approval.
2. During the discussion, delegates thanked Mr Deconinck for the clear presentation and for putting this study together. They also supported the document as it well summarise the situation on the seed market. It collected the data and analysed well, which is a good basis for developing complementary policies. Several delegates noted that the vegetables seed sector is not covered as well as some agricultural crops. The EU also explained that they send written comments.
3. In the answer, the Secretariat explained that the resources and available data were limited and this explains that only several crops were used to model the effects of concentration. The Secretariat also noted that in the next 2019/20 programme of work many projects are planned on food chain e.g. further examine competition in the food chain and there will be more possibility to involve the Seed Schemes to these studies. The Secretariat will keep inform delegates on future projects.
4. The Secretariat explained that the study will be updated in the autumn and the revised version will be circulated to delegates. The Secretariat will provide a progress report at the next TWG meeting to be held in January 2019.

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| **Conclusions:** The Annual Meeting noted the presentation of the Secretariat. |

# Addressing critical issues in the OECD Seed Schemes - Evaluation of the issues of implementation of the Schemes since the 2017 Annual Meeting

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)4/REV1](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%294/REV1/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat provided an update on critical issues and fraud cases occurred in participating countries since the 2017 Annual Meeting. Two participating countries reported issues of implementation in the referred period. One case related to the misuse of OECD labels and six cases were related to seed analysis result. Nineteen countries reported that they did not experienced any cases in the referred period.
2. During the discussion delegates noted that the six cases related to seed testing are more ISTA business than OECD’s. The OECD will pass the information to the ISTA Secretariat to investigate the cases. Delegates confirmed to continue the data collection for another two years with the view to analyse the extent of non-critical issues and develop a voluntary process to address these cases accordingly.

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| **Conclusions:** The Secretariat will continue the collection of information on critical issues. The notification form will be available from ClearSpace.**Action:** The OECD Secretariat will pass the information to ISTA as regards the problems with seed analysis report for investigation. |

# 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 informed delegates that the 2018 June TWG meeting could not finalise the draft Catalogue as more discussion and clarification were requested on the material of the label and on label fixing method particularly on the use of heavy duty-staplers. Therefore, the document will be further discussed at the 2019 January TWG meeting and the meeting of the AHWG on labelling with the view to prepare a recommendation to the 2019 Annual Meeting.

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| **Conclusions:** Delegates noted that the draft catalogue on label security methods was referred back to the Ad-Hoc Working Group and the Technical Working Group for further refining.  |

# Addition of new species to the OECD Seed Schemes

## Application for admission of species *Bromus parodii* (Covas *et* Itria) to the OECD Seed Schemes

[TAD/CA/S(2018)10](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S%282018%2910/en/pdf)

1. Argentina presented their request to add a new species *Bromus parodii (Covas et Itria)* to the list of species eligible for OECD Certification. The representative of Argentina explained that this species would be included in the Grass and Legumes Seed Scheme. It is a salt tolerant species and thus important to Argentina. The seed of this species is exported to US, Uruguay and important in the domestic market. He also explained that the Technical Working Group discussed this application at the 2018 January Meeting and delegates recommended its approval.
2. Delegates thanked Argentina for the overview of the species and the detailed explanation in the background document. The Annual Meeting approved the proposals

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| **Conclusions:** The annual Meeting approved the admission of *Bromus parodii (Covas et Itria)* to the Grass and Legumes Seed Scheme.**Action**: This technical amendment to the rules and regulations will be forwarded to the Committee for Agriculture for approval.  |

## 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 representative of Australia introduced the draft proposal to add *Bituminaria bituminosa var. albomarginata and var. crassiuscula* to the OECD Seed Schemes under the Grass and Legumes Seed Scheme. He briefly summarised the key characteristics of the species. They are draught tolerant grasses and thus they are important for Australia. He apologised that Australia could not participate in the Technical Working Group Meeting held in January 2018 and he could not clarify some questions from delegates. However, these requests for clarification were submitted to Australia and the document, which was submitted to the 2018 Annual Meeting, clarified these issues. He also informed delegates that he presented the document to the 2018 June Technical Working Group Meeting where delegates discussed the application request in details, particularly seed testing methods, and recommended the approval of the paper.
2. Delegates thanked Australia for the clarification and approved the proposal.

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| **Conclusions:** The annual Meeting approved the admission of *Bituminaria bituminosa var. albomarginata and var. crassiuscula* to the Grass and Legumes Seed Scheme.**Action**: This technical amendment to the rules and regulations will be forwarded to the Committee for Agriculture for approval.  |

# 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 OECD Coordinating Centre introduced the draft proposal on updating variety purity characters to be used for control plots and field inspection. He explained that the draft proposal contains the results of the revisions for varietal purity characters received in time for inclusion for the Annual Meeting. The list intended to include those characteristics mist suited for the use during certification processes, in particular for practical use during crop inspection or plot recording and is not limited to the content of UOV Guidelines. The species were no description exist have been removed from the list and species which now have an individual UPOV guideline now have a specific entry. If the paper is approved the descriptive characters will replace the four files currently available on the OECD website. The document is suggested to be a living document in which the species can be added or revised as need arises.
2. During the discussion, the delegate from New Zealand noticed that the variety purity characteristic information was not updated in the paper for *Ornithopus compressu*s and *Ornithopus sativus x O. compressus.* However, one was reviewed by New Zealand and the other one by New Zealand and Australia. The Coordinating Centre noted the comment from New Zealand and he will update the document with this information. Countries were also invited to send updates to the document if they wish to revise or update the variety characteristic information for a species in the document. The Coordinating Centre also explained that the reviewing process is changed. In the past, it was always a second country, which validated the variety purity characteristics of a species. However sometimes it was difficult to find a country that volunteered to do this work. In the proposed new procedure, the reviewing country will submit the information to the Secretariat and the Coordinating Centre, which will first inform the Technical Working Group on the proposed changes and will decide if a review is needed. The Annual Meeting will be informed before the change appears on in the list so NDAs can keep track on the modifications to the document. In addition, the year of the modification will be mentioned in the document.

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| **Conclusions:** The annual Meeting approved the document.**Action**: The Coordinating Centre will update the paper with the new information on two species as requested by New Zealand. The updated document will be uploaded to the official website of the OECD Seed Schemes.  |

# Overview of the statistics on the weight of seed certified and post control test results

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)17](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2917/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat provided an updated overview on the statistics of the weight of seed certified under the OECD Seed Schemes for the period of 2015/16 and on the post control test results for 2016 comparing them with data collected from participating countries over the last 10 years. In the period of 2015/16, 1.6 billion kg seed was certified under the OECD Seed Schemes. The leading species are wheat (Triticum aestivum) and maize (Zea mays). In 2016, participating countries implemented post-control tests on 37 638 seed samples. The most controlled species were wheat and maize. The total failure rate was of 3.2%. The average failure rate due to purity was 2.8% while the average failure rate due to identity amounted 0.5%.
2. This year the response rates were the best ones since 2006 for weight and 2005 for plot. A complete database is crucial for an accurate analysis. The response rate for the questionnaires circulated on the period 2015/16 was 88% (for weight and post-control).
3. During the discussion, the Coordinating Centre suggested to clarify what the countries mean under failure by identity and failure by purity. It was suggested that went the off-types are more than 50% in the control plot then it would be regarded as varietal identity problem. If it is less than it would be a purity issues. For the consideration of the national designated authorities, it was suggested that when the failure rate goes up then the post control rate should go up too. Some of the delegates felt that 50% off-type is too high and it should be lowered to 20-30%. Germany explained that in their experience there are two cases in the practice. The first one is when there are only few off-types in the plot and the second case is when the entire plot is not in conformity with the variety description. After an extensive discussion delegates agreed to accept the guidance of 50% as a borderline between identity and purity problems. This will help the analysis of the results from different countries, as the data will be comparable.

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| **Conclusions:** The annual Meeting noted the statistical report.**Action**: NDAs will apply the guidance of 50% off-type in the control plot as a borderline between purity (below 50%) and identity problem (above 50%) |

## Information on the latest developments in the transfer of the OECD seed database to the OECD Statistical system

1. The Secretariat provided an update on the status of the ongoing work on the transfer of the OECD seed database to the OECD unified data environment, which integrate the data cycle. The collection will be done via an excel file in line with the current practice. The data management system will be StatWork, the metadata management system will be MetaStore and the dissemination of the data will be via the OECD.stat website. This website will be available for participating countries will be able to carry out search in the data. Moreover, it will also be possible to give access to the data for the wider public.
2. The delegate from New Zealand informed the meeting and the Secretariat that they are working on a new information management system and asked the question if it will be possible to send the metadata from their database to the OECD. The Secretariat answered that normally it is possible but the IT experts will need to check and set up the system.
3. The EU noted that it is important to have a budget line for IT development and set up a system, which is secure, more effective and easily searchable. It would be a useful development if online questionnaire for collection of date would be available.

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| **Conclusion:** The annual Meeting noted the presentation of the Secretariat on the transfer of the seed database to the OECD unified data environment. **Actions:** The Secretariat will provide a progress report at the TWG meeting in January 2019 and at the 2019 Annual Meeting. The Secretariat will also explore the possibility of development of an online questionnaire within the framework of the OECD unified data management system.  |

# Report from the OECD Co-ordinating Centre

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)22](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2922/en/pdf)

1. The Co-ordinating Centre gave a report on its activities since the last Annual Meeting, particularly on the OECD List of Varieties. The variety list this year shows a decline of around 4,000 in variety numbers whilst the numbers deleted remains similar to last year and the numbers added has risen. This anomaly is caused by a single country with a large number of varieties needing to amend all maintainers, their addresses and the varieties listed. To achieve this it was necessary to remove completely variety records from the list.
2. The screens have been extensively used during the year with the number of searches almost double last year’s figure.

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| **Conclusion:** The annual Meeting noted the report of the Coordinating Centre.  |

# Update by member countries on key changes in seed certification

1. Participating countries gave a brief update on any significant changes to seed certification in their respective countries. Canada informed delegates that upon the request of Chile, Canada advises them on hybrid canola seed production. Argentina informed the Meeting that the seed certificates would be available through their website, which will improve transparency, and efficiency of the control. The OECD Certification will be a part of the system. New Zealand exploring the possibility to organise capacity-building activities particularly on ISTA and OECD businesses. He was informed that ISTA trainings have a fee. These trainings are available for everyone as the cost is covered by the registration fee. In case of OECD, the cost is covered by the government of the organising country or a sponsor and they can decide who can attend in the event.

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| **Conclusion:** The annual Meeting noted the updates from Canada, Argentina and New Zealand.  |

# Summary Action Sheet

[TAD/CA/S/RD(2018)23](https://one.oecd.org/document/TAD/CA/S/RD%282018%2923/en/pdf)

1. The Secretariat introduced the document informing delegates on the status of ongoing activities. The Secretariat explained that as a follow-up of the approval of the Action Plan for the delivery of the Strategic Plan the format of the summary action sheet would change. It will follow the table format of the action plan and will use the progress indicators to measure the developments in each of the actions.

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| **Conclusion:** The annual Meeting noted the summary Action Sheet.Action: The Secretariat will re-structure the Action Sheet in light of the newly adopted action plan.  |

# Statements by the European Union and Observer organisations

Oral reports

European Union

1. The representative of the European Union informed the meeting that the Commission is undertaking two EU equivalency procedures on the request of Moldova and Brazil for oil seed rape. The process for Brazil will be finalilsed by 2018 autumn. She also informed delegates that the new Plant Health Regulation will be applied from mid-December 2019. She explained that the marketing directive on seed does not regulate quarantine pests. The thresholds will be under the plant health regulation and the implementation will be the responsibility of the seed authorities. The representative of EU also explained that the new regulation for organic production would be applicable from the end of 2020. It will lay down a new concept of organic varieties.

UPOV

1. The representative of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) provided an update on the status of their different activities. UPOV currently has 75 members, covering 94 States. As regards Plant Variety Protection Statistics, the number of applications for plant variety protection in 2016 was 16 455 of which 12 550 were applications filed by residents. 117 427 plant variety protection titles were in force in 2016 represented a 4.6% increase on figures for 2015 (112 215). As regards Test Guidelines, in 2017, five new Guidelines for the Conduct of Tests for Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (Test Guidelines) were adopted as well as 9 revised Test Guidelines and 4 partially revised Test Guidelines. UPOV has now developed 321 Test Guidelines, all of which are freely available on the UPOV website (<http://www.upov.int/test_guidelines/en/>). The number of plant genera and species for which members of the Union had indicated their practical experience in the examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability (DUS) was 3 324 in 2016.
2. In March 2017, the Office of the Union received a request from the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission (DG SANTE) to create UPOV codes for 191 forest tree species eligible for certification under the OECD Forest Scheme. It was requested in the context of the extension of the European Commission Forest Reproductive Material Information System (FOREMATIS) to include data of the OECD Forest database. The requested UPOV codes were introduced in GENIE in September 2017. DG SANTE has proposed the establishment of an administrative arrangement between the Office of the Union and the European Commission to cover collaboration in scientific names of plant species present in each other’s databases and, in particular, regarding the attribution of UPOV codes to plant species in FOREMATIS.
3. UPOV released the UPOV PRISMA, Version 2 of the PBR Application Tool (formerly known as EAF) on February 9, 2018:
* Online application tool to submit application data to participating PVP Offices in required format
* Easy access to PVP application forms, which can be displayed in a range of languages
* Much of the information provided in the Technical Questionnaire will be automatically translated
* Relevant data can be re-used in subsequent applications
* Different user roles can be specified (e.g. drafter, signatory, translator, agent)
* Controlled access, secure and confidential
1. As of June 29, 2018, UPOV PRISMA covers 21 countries and the European Union. For more information on all the crops covered, participating PVP Offices and fees, please see: [http://www.upov.int/upovprisma/en/index.html](https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=b85b7772eb1ff9f8.b85b5cb1-6b61d8744e0462f0&u=http://www.upov.int/upovprisma/en/index.html)

     The UPOV Office invited NDAs to attend the next session of the UPOV/BMT, to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from September 10 to 13, 2018.

ISTA

1. The Secretary General of ISTA informed the meeting that ISTA increased the security level of ISTA Certificates as they recognised that there are some false ISTA Certificates on the market. He informed the meeting that the 2018 Annual Meeting of ISTA was organised in Sapporo, Japan. It was a successful meeting where a good progress was made. The 32nd ISTA Seed Congress will be organised in Hyderabad, India on 26 June – 3 July 2019. In conjunction with the meeting, there will be a joint ISTA/OECD/UPOV workshop on BMT.

ISF

1. The representative of ISF informed the meeting that the 2018 World Seed Congress was organised in Brisbane, Australia in June 2018 where they approved eight position papers, which are available from the ISF website. One of these position papers is dealing with illegal seed practices, which was presented to the Technical Working Group Meeting. He highlighted the importance of cooperation on this issue with OECD as the two organisations share the same goals.

ESA

1. The representative of ESA informed the meeting that they are active to engage with policy makers in important topics for the seed sector. They developed position papers on several topics. One of the most important topics is plant breeding innovation as the development of a good regulatory framework for the new breeding techniques is crucial for the European seed industry. He informed the meeting that the next Annual Meeting of ESA would be organised in Madrid on 7-9 October 2018.

AOSA

1. The representative of AOSA informed the meeting that this AOSA and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologies (SCST) organised their annual meeting in North Carolina three week before the 2018 OECD Annual Meeting. They approved 17 rule proposals including the addition of new species to purity rules, and modification of germination length for *Sorghum bicolor* germination standards for sorghum, uniformity of laboratories, and clarified see storage length of time. They also focused on lab uniformity, the publishing of the Cultivar Purity Handbook and the translation of the AOSA Rules into Spanish. He also explained that AOSA and SCST will be merged into one organisation and the process will be completed by 1st January 2020. The next annual meeting will be organised on 1-6 June 2019 in Sparks, Nevada.

AOSCA

1. AOSCA is a seed certifying agency and had the annual meeting on the same week than the OECD Seed Schemes. They approved few standard changes. He explained that they have 4 regional meetings which cover the Southern, Western, Northern and the Global regions. In this latter, Mr Eddie Goldschagg, who is also a member of the bureau of the OECD Seed Schemes, is in the management of this group and he makes a very helpful work. AOSCA will celebrates its 100 years anniversary and the ceremony will take place at their annual meeting to be held in 23-26 June, Chicago, Illinois

ASTA

1. The representative of ASTA informed the meeting that they approved their new strategic plan. It is a 3 years plan and deals with all recent mergers and acquisitions in their region. Education and communication is also an important part of the plan.

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| **Conclusion:** The annual Meeting noted the reports of EU and international organisations.  |

# Date and place of 2019 meetings of the OECD Seed Schemes

1. The Secretariat informed the meeting that Argentina volunteered to organise the 2019 January TWG meeting in Buenos Aires from 28 January to 1 February. The delegate of Argentina invited all participants to attend the TWG meeting. He also showed a promotional video on Argentina and the meeting.
2. The representative of Austria invited the Annual meeting to hold its 2019 Meeting in Vienna from 10-to 14 June 2018. She also presented a video on Vienna.
3. The Secretariat informed delegates that the meetings in 2020 are planned on 27-30 January 2020 (TWG meeting) and 1-5 June 2020 (annual meeting). For the 2020 January TWG meeting Italy volunteered to host the meeting. The 2020 Annual Meeting will be in Paris but the Secretariat informed delegates that upon invitation of a participating country the venue can be changed. The date and place of the 2020 meetings will be confirmed at the 2019 Annual Meeting.
4. Delegates approved the dates and places of the meetings of the OECD Seed Schemes in 2019.

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| **Conclusion:** The annual Meeting approved the following dates and venues:* 28 January - 1 February 2019: AHWG and TWG meetings (including a one-day field trip), Buenos Aires, Argentina
* 10-14 June 2019: Annual Meeting, TWG and AHWG meetings, Vienna, Austria
* 27-30 January 2020: AHWG and TWG meetings. Italy

The Annual Meeting noted the following dates and venues:* 1-5 June 2020: Annual Meeting, TWG and AHWG meetings, provisionally at OECD Headquarters, Paris. Volunteers are welcome.
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# Other business

There was no discussion under this item.

# Confirmation of outcomes

Delegates approved the outcomes of the 2018 Annual Meeting.

2018 Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes

**Held at the OECD Conference Centre**

**on 28-29 June 2018**

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