

OECD AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE & SEED SCHEMES POLICY FORUM: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SEED REGULATORY POLICIES & AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

**A summary of the regulatory &
technical work of the OECD Seed
Schemes Committee**

Pier Giacomo Bianchi

Chairperson of the OECD Seed Schemes Designated Authorities

Outlook

- Mission and Vision of the OECD Seed Schemes
- The OECD Seed Schemes in a nutshell
- 2009 Strategic plan
- Current challenges
- The added value of implementing the OECD Seed Schemes
- Some ideas for a possible way forward

Mission Statement

- Facilitate international movement of seed
- Adoption of standard and common definitions
- Harmonization of procedures
- Reduction of technical barriers

Mission Vision

Global certification system adopted
for international trade in seed

The seed sector involves multidisciplinary knowledge ranging from genetic to biochemical, from agronomy to marketing, from industrial processing to economy.

Each species involved (200 within the OECD Seed Schemes) has its own peculiarity in terms of any of these aspects

New technologies and innovation mark out a dynamic sector

This complexity is well reflected in any regulatory framework related to seed

The OECD Seed Schemes in a nutshell

7 Schemes (by species or group o species)

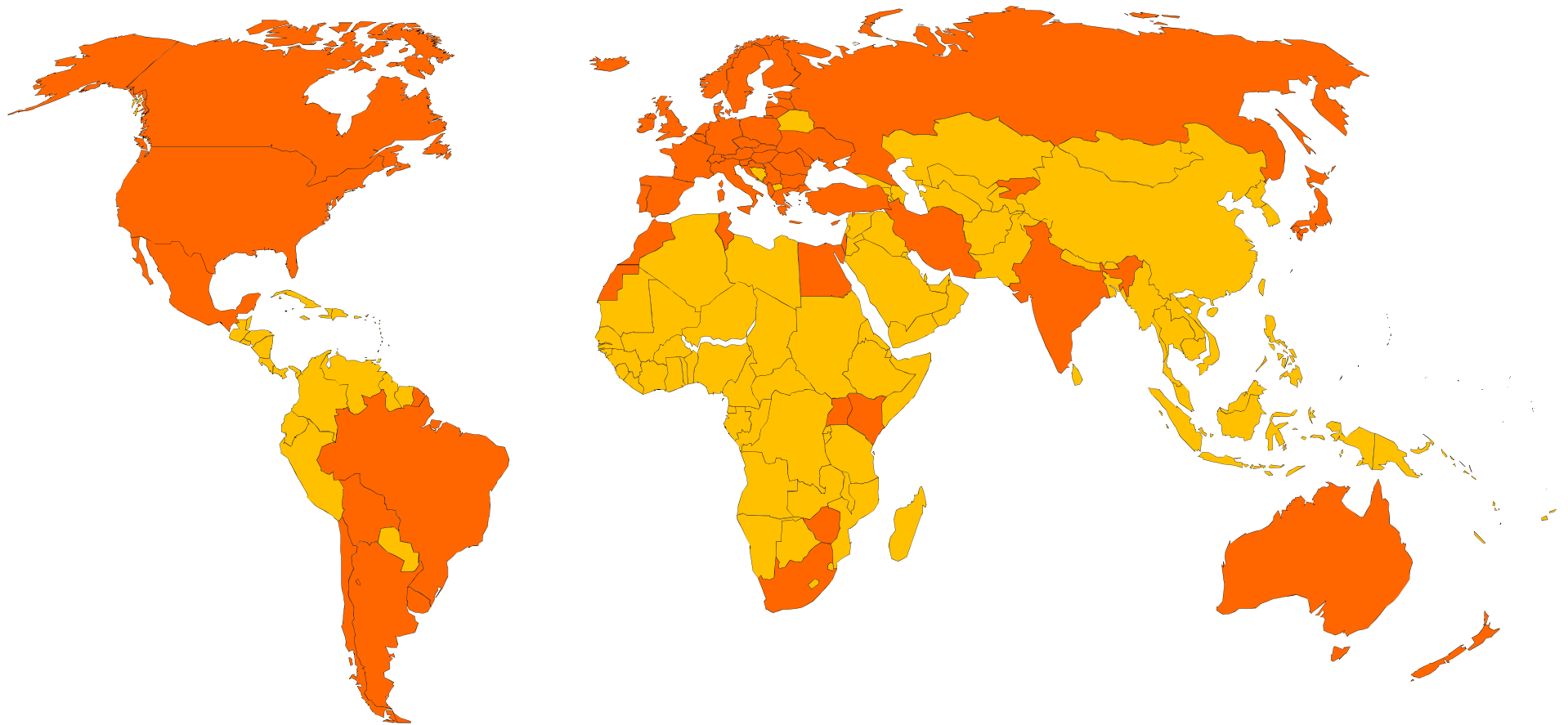
58 Participant countries (33 OECD Member countries and
25 non OECD Member countries)

The OECD Seed Schemes in a nutshell

In addition to the rules and regulation of the Schemes

- list of varieties eligible for certification (54.000 varieties)
- Guidelines:
 - Control plot test and field inspection
 - Multiplication abroad
 - Authorization of some certification activities

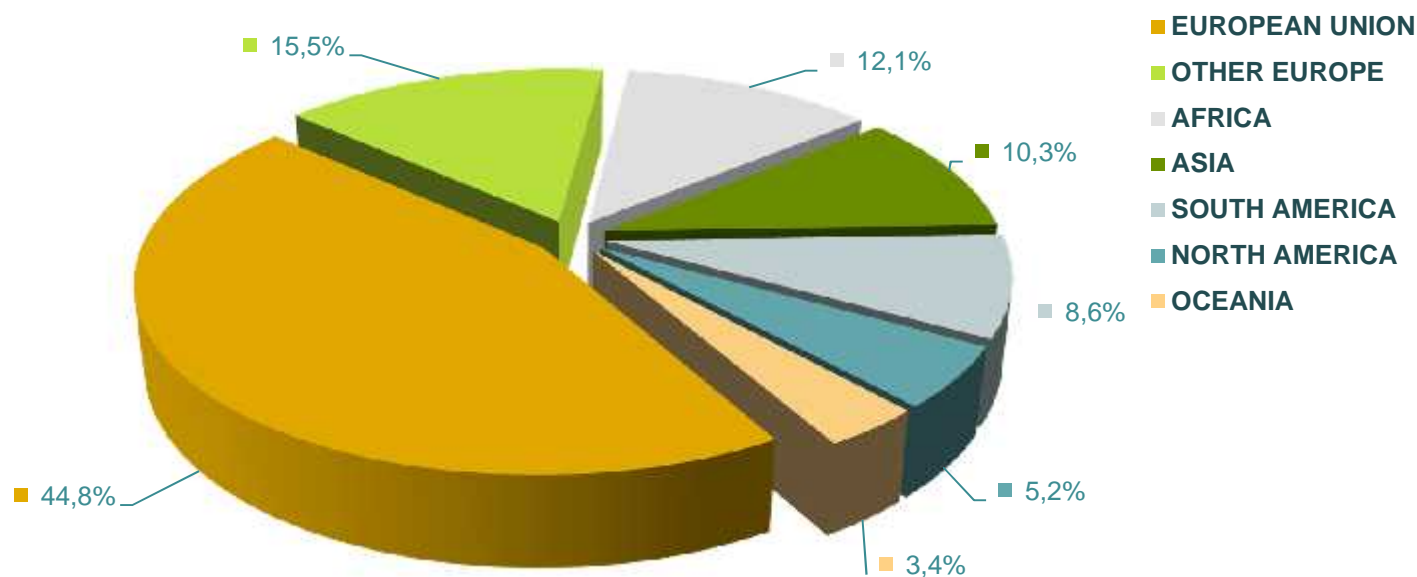




The OECD Seed Schemes in a nutshell
58 Participant countries (2014)

The OECD Seed Schemes in a nutshell

Share of participant countries by continent



The OECD Seed Scheme in a nutshell

Co-operation with other international organizations

UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants)

ISTA (International Seed Testing Association)

AOSA (Association of Official Seed Analysts)

AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies)

The OECD Seed Scheme in a nutshell

Co-operation with other international organizations

AFSTA (African Seed Trade Association)

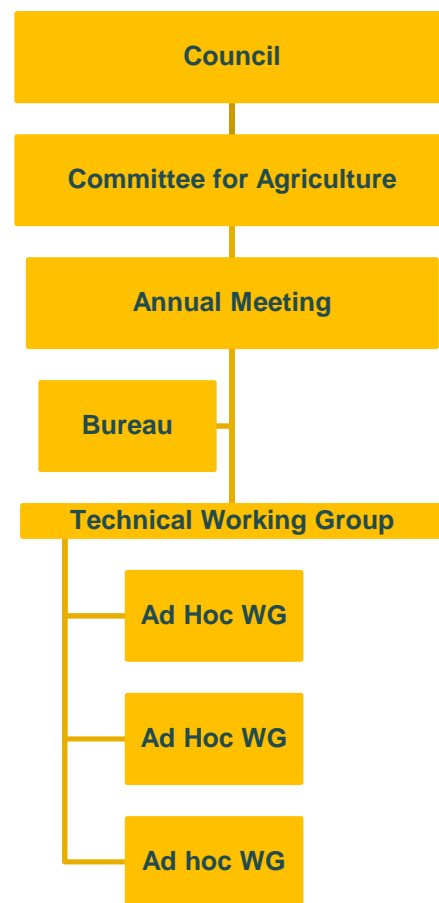
APSA (Asian and Pacific Seed Association)

ISF (International Seed Federation)

ESA (European Seed Association)

The OECD Seed Scheme in a nutshell

The decision making process



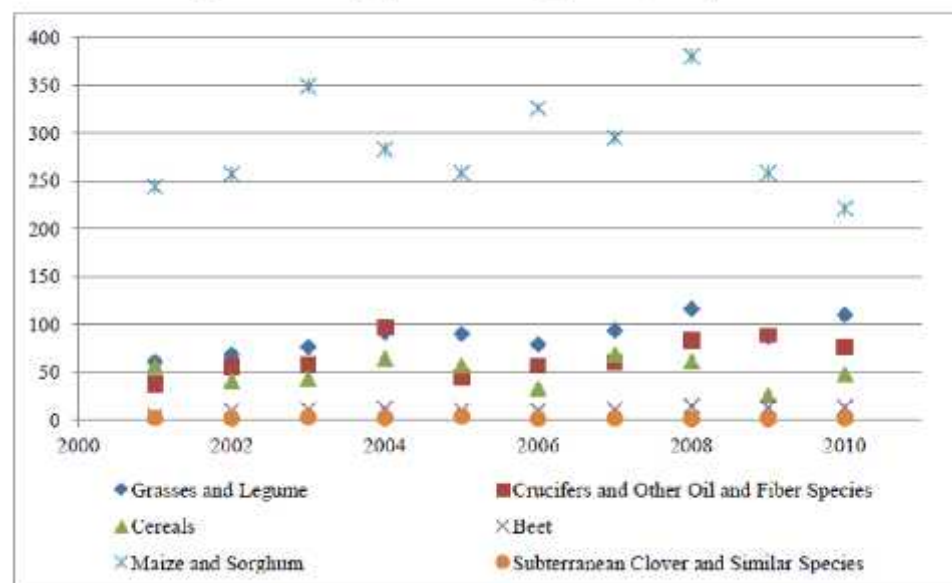
The OECD Seed Scheme in a nutshell (key figures)

Certified seed only

Table 4. Leading species, average annual total weight (1000 t)

| Species | Weight |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Zea mays</i> | 276.2 |
| <i>Helianthus annuus</i> | 24.6 |
| <i>Triticum aestivum</i> | 19.3 |
| <i>Lolium perenne</i> | 17.6 |
| <i>Triticum turgidum durum</i> | 12.5 |
| <i>Lolium multiflorum</i> | 12.5 |
| <i>Brassica napus</i> | 12.0 |
| <i>Glycine max</i> | 11.7 |
| <i>Beta vulgaris</i> | 10.9 |
| <i>Gossypium hirsutum</i> | 10.7 |

Figure 4. Total weight (in 1000 tonnes) by Scheme, all respondents



Strategic plan (set 2009)

Five key areas

1. Effective Implementation of the Schemes

To promote effective and harmonized implementation of the Schemes in Member countries.

2. Effective Communications

To improve communications for enhancing the implementation of the Schemes, as well as to better promote the Schemes.

3. Enhance Policy Awareness through better Linkages to Seed related issues

To enhance policy awareness by informing policy makers of the key role of the OECD Seed Schemes in the seed supply chain.

To ensure the inclusion of the seed sector in agro-food sector discussions and other related areas.

4. Address Institutional and Technical Developments

To continue to adapt the Rules and Procedures in order to respond to new and emerging concerns in the seed sector.

5. Enlarge Participation in the Schemes

To promote the harmonization of seed certification standards and procedures worldwide.

Current challenges

1. Participation to the Seed Schemes
2. Use of biochemical characteristics for varietal identity and purity assessment
3. New technical developments
4. Admission of varieties to the OECD list
5. Addressing critical issues
6. Improving security of labels

The added values of implementing the OECD Seed Schemes, as a quality assurance system governed by a regulatory framework and implemented by an independent agency:

- ensure farmers access to guaranteed quality seed (high germination capacity, lower sowing density, minimum weeds)
- minimize the impact on the environment by calibrating a sustainable strategy of using nitrogen and agro-pharmaceutical products

- improve crop productivity (yield and quality)
- enhance transparency along the supply chain providing traceability
- contribute to food security by ensuring higher overall production
- boost export of seed and foodstuffs

- facilitate trade by improving market access, thanks to harmonised certification procedures and use of internationally recognised labels
- play a role in the international market
- enhances cooperation between countries by setting internationally acceptable standards

- enhance co-operation between public and private sectors
- provide a global platform for sharing of information, experience and best practices between countries
- contribute to prevent technical barriers to trade
- support innovation by promoting the use of improved varieties

Ideas for a possible way forward:

- develop a strategy to bring in new member countries in Asia and Africa
- elaborate a plan for capacity building

•

Ideas for a possible way forward:

- Commit a study on the contribution of variety innovation and quality seed to face climate changes
- Establish a regular consultation between CoAG and Seed Committee (e.g reporting to each other AM)

•

The OECD Seed Schemes:

a powerful tool for seed policy!

a win-win strategy for all the stakeholders!

Thank you for your attention