

The OECD Codes and Schemes on the African Continent



Information Brochure

OECD Seed Schemes



OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme



OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme



June 2018

The OECD Codes and Schemes on the African Continent

The OECD Codes and Schemes facilitate international trade through the simplification of procedures in the field of Seeds, Fruit and Vegetables, Forest Reproductive Material and Tractors.

These programmes contribute to reducing technical barriers to trade that particularly affect trade between developing and developed countries.

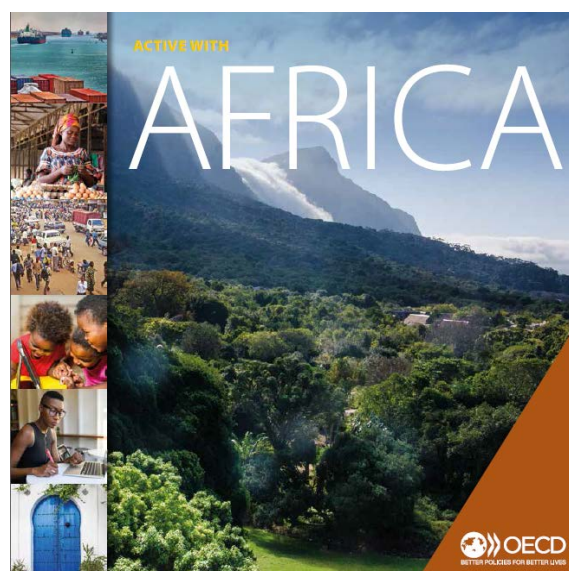
By joining programmes such as the OECD Codes and Schemes, emerging and developing countries can reap the benefits of globalization and penetrate global markets. They will be able to export to foreign markets, at a regional level but also with partners on other continents.

Trade has been recognized as a very efficient driver of growth. Africa is host to 10 % of the world population but the continent contributes, so far, to less than 2% of global trade.

Being members of the OECD Codes and Schemes is a definite advantage to promote growth thanks to an increased trade in some key agricultural sectors.

Already, 13 countries on the African continent actively participate in the OECD Codes and Schemes. The first African country that joined the Schemes was South Africa in 1961, by becoming a member of the Seeds Scheme. It later joined the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme in 1994 and hosted the first official meeting on the continent, the 8th Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services in Cape Town in March 1997. A year later, in April 1998, the Annual Seeds Meeting took place in Pretoria.

More recently, in January 2016 the Technical Working Group Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes was hosted in Cape Town by SANSOR (South African National Seed Organization).



www.oecd.org/africa

Date of accession to the Schemes

	Seeds	Fruit and Vegetables	Forest
Burkina Faso			2008
Egypt	1998		
Kenya	1973	2009	2014
Madagascar			1998
Morocco	1989	2004	
Rwanda			1994
Senegal	2015		
South Africa	1961	1994	
Tanzania	2016		
Tunisia	1978		
Uganda	2005		2014
Zambia	2017		
Zimbabwe	1992		

Among the 61 Member countries, **10 from Africa currently participate in the OECD Seed Schemes.**

Of the 26 countries that are **Members of the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme, 3 are on the African continent.** There are 27 countries participating in the **OECD Forest Scheme**, including several tropical countries (**5 from Africa**) that are developing their forest seed trade for reforestation.

- The *OECD Seed Schemes* provide an international framework for the certification of agricultural seed moving in international trade. The Schemes were established in 1958, driven by a combination of factors including a fast-growing seed trade, regulatory harmonisation in Europe, the development of off-season production, the seed breeding and production potential of large exporting countries in America and Europe, and the support of private industry.

There are 8 agricultural Seed Schemes. They aim at encouraging the use of “quality-guaranteed” seed in participating countries. The Schemes authorise the use of labels and certificates for seed produced and processed for international trade according to agreed principles ensuring varietal identity and purity.

Senegal was officially admitted to the Maize and Sorghum Seed Scheme and in the Cereal Seed Scheme in 2015. A monitoring mission took place from 26th February to 1st March 2017 in order to coincide with the **AFSTA** Congress taking place in **Senegal** at the same time. The evaluation team comprised the national designated authority from Denmark, and the representative of the OECD Co-ordinating Centre. The evaluation team

was accompanied throughout the visit by the Chief of the Seed Division (DISEM) at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment in Senegal. The Annual Meeting approved the recommendation from the mission team that **Senegal** continues as a member of the Seed Schemes the country applied (the Cereal Seed Scheme, the Maize Seed Scheme and the Sorghum Seed Scheme).

The helpfulness of the staff involved with the mission and their readiness to accommodate changes requested by the mission as well as their openness to ideas presented to them was seen as a very positive value.



Delegate from Senegal during the 2017 Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes held in Prague, Czech Republic

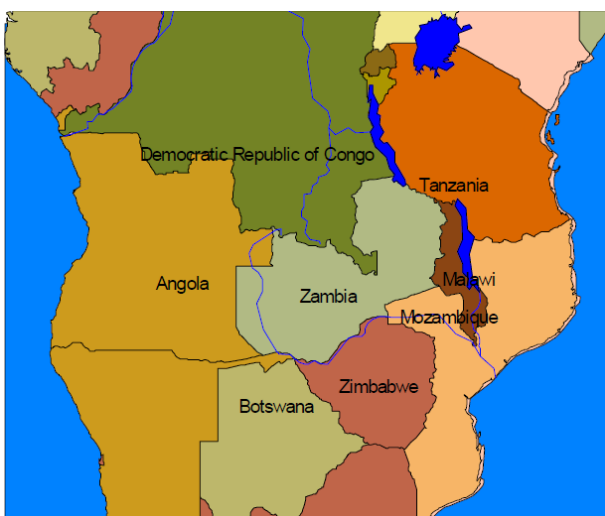
In 2014 **Tanzania** applied for admission to the OECD Seed Schemes. After the evaluation mission held early 2016, the country was admitted to the OECD Seed Schemes for Cereals, and Maize & Sorghum Seed in June 2016. A monitoring visit to **Tanzania** will be organised in 2019 to verify and confirm full compliance with the Rules of the OECD Seed Schemes.



Delegate from Tanzania during the 2017 Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes

In 2016 **Zambia** applied for membership in the Schemes for Maize Seed and Sorghum Seed. It nominated the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) as its National Designated Authority responsible for the implementation of the OECD Seed Schemes. The evaluation mission took place in February 2017. The members of the evaluation team were the National Designated Authority from Italy and and Mr Csaba Gaspar from the OECD Secretariat.

Zambia’s location in Southern Africa



Source: SCCI.

The Evaluation team was satisfied with the organisation and implementation of the seed varietal certification system in Zambia. During the 2017 Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes, delegations thanked the Zambian delegates for the excellent and comprehensive overview on the national seed varietal certification system. The presentation given by the Zambian delegation made a good overall impression on delegates. The 2017 Annual Meeting approved the application from **Zambia** for admission to the Maize Seed Scheme and the Sorghum Seed Scheme.



Delegates from Zambia during the 2017 Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes

African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA)

AFSTA is a not-for-profit membership association formed in 2000 to champion interests of private seed companies in Africa. It is registered in Kenya as an International Organization with an office for West Africa in Dakar, Senegal. Currently, the Association has about 100 members comprising of seed companies and National Seed Trade Associations, among others.

The OECD Secretariat was represented by the OECD Co-ordinating Centre at the AFSTA Congress 2017 held in Dakar, Senegal and gave a presentation on the challenges for the OECD Seed Schemes in Africa.



Delegate from AFSTA during the 2017 Annual Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes

The National Designated Authority of **South Africa** and Chair of the Bureau of the OECD Seed Schemes represented the OECD Secretariat at the 7th Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on 30 October - 3 November 2017 in Kigali, **Rwanda**.



As National Designated Authority of South Africa for the OECD Seed Schemes, the Chair has insight knowledge on African countries and his expertise on the OECD Seed Schemes ensured that the African countries received the right information on the Schemes.



OECD Seed Schemes Annual Meeting

OECD Headquarters
28-29 June 2018

Member Countries

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

Website: www.oecd.org/tad/seed
To contact us: csaba.gaspar@oecd.org

World Seed Partnership

The World Seed Partnership (WSP) is an initiative taken by four international organizations to support the development of the seed sector in countries around the world:

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
- International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV),
- International Seed Testing Association (ISTA),
- International Seed Federation (ISF).

The mission of the World Seed Partnership is to enhance cooperation between the partner organizations and to provide a focal point for information on the role of internationally harmonized seed systems in supporting sustainable agriculture.



To find out more about how the partnership can help you, please consult the WSP website (www.worldseedpartnership.org) or send your enquiry to: **info@worldseedpartnership.org**

- The main objectives of the *OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme* is to facilitate international trade through the harmonization and interpretation of marketing standards.


Kenya is a member of the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme since 2009 and is currently the Chair of the Bureau. **Kenya** is also developing the OECD Explanatory Brochure on Passion Fruit, based on the CODEX standard. As Chair of the Bureau, **Kenya** is helping build new bridges of collaboration between Africa and OECD.

Kenya participated in the **Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables** in Kampala, **Uganda** in October 2017 and made a presentation of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. He also provided an official invitation to the Codex Committee to organise a joint OECD-Codex workshop in 2019.



*Representative from **Kenya** with delegates from **South Africa** and **Rwanda** during the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in Kampala, Uganda in October 2017*

South Africa took part with the OECD Secretariat in the **Peer Review** of France in September 2015. The Peer Review is a systematic examination and assessment of the performance of national fruit and vegetables quality inspection systems by experts from other countries under the umbrella of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. The ultimate goal is to help to improve policy making, adopt best practices and comply with established international standards and principles. The examination is conducted on a voluntary basis, and relies on mutual trust and co-operation among reviewers, as well as their shared confidence in the process. Nine Peer Reviews have already been released (Finland, France, Hungary, Israel, **Morocco**, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey).




BACKGROUND
 Population: 2.1 million (2011 Pop census)
 Size: total: 824,292 km²
 Agricultural-largest employer in Namibia (~30-40% total workforce)
 80% reliance imports (RSA; EU; Asia) states

Table grapes, dates, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, butternuts, cabbages- **main**

New administration
 Gateway SADC
 NAP (Food security/exports/ value addition)
 One-Health-WHO-IHR

AMTA




OECD Secretariat, Vice-Chair and Delegation of France in Rungis, France in 2015

Namibia was invited as Observer in the OECD 2017 Plenary Meeting of the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. The country updated delegates on the status of their national quality inspection system for fruit and vegetables and informed delegates of their interest in joining the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme.

Conclusion

- AMTA through its assigneeship intends to enhance the **credibility** of Namibian exports and by supporting **competitiveness** of its perishable produce industries and also strengthening its capacity to **provide professional services**
- Therefore we are **THANKFULL** to be invited as Observer nation with intend to ascend to OECD community in near future.



Kenya as Chair of the Bureau, with delegates from the Netherlands, Spain and OECD Secretariat for the admission of Brazil to the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme in OECD in December 2017.



The Europe-Africa Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (**COLEACP**) is a civil society organisation (CSO) established in 1973 whose main purpose is to support the development of a sustainable and competitive agriculture and agribusiness.

The COLEACP objective as an association is to contribute to poverty alleviation and food and nutrition security through the development of sustainable agricultural value chains throughout ACP (African Caribbean and Pacific) Countries.

COLEACP is an important player for sustaining the ACP horticultural industries and more and more systematically associated to the reflection on this thematic. Since 40 ans, the association works on the strengthening of the inclusive value chains and the public-private partnerships. The COLEACP position is based on the convergence of the objectives of the association and those of the development of the ACP countries (agriculture modernization, imperative of sustainability and resilience, food security), important objectives of EU public policies (food safety) and markets evolution under the pressure of the European and ACP consumers (fair trade, food quality, organic agriculture).

COLEACP participates regularly in the Plenary Meetings of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme, and provided an update on its ongoing activities at the 2017 Plenary Meeting of the Scheme.

Year 1 Activities

- > Missions in Africa, Caribbean, Pacific
- > 295 applications received from 30 countries
- > Mainly from businesses and Producers groups
- > Topics: Business practices, Food safety, plant health, Sustainable Production...



PRODEFIMA

Funded by ITC-WTO (USD 3 million, 2014-2017) to develop the mango sector in Guinea

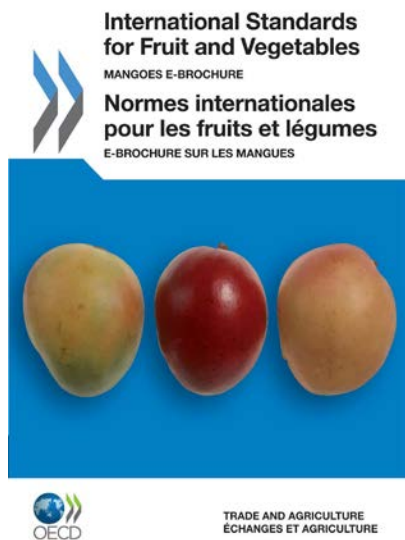
- Led by the Guinean Agency for Export Promotion (Aguipex)
- Partnered by COLEACP (to lead on capacity building)
- Activities since 2014:
 - ✓ Field visits in Mali; trade mission to Europe; networking within West Africa (Mango Regional Alliance)
 - ✓ Developing training materials on "Harvest and Post Harvest" (for quality managers in private and public sectors)
 - ✓ Development of "food safety and quality management system" handbook

*Family photo
2017 Plenary Meeting held in OECD, France*

A further objective of the Scheme is to facilitate mutual recognition of inspections by participating countries. **The Fruit and Vegetables Scheme is well known for its explanatory brochures on standards**, but is also involved in defining inspection procedures that are recognized in many countries, and in sponsoring training courses. **South Africa hosted the 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services in Cape Town in 1997 and Morocco hosted the 12th Meeting in Agadir in December 2006.**



Kenya chaired the Technical Working Group Meeting of the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme held in Arcachon, France in April 2017.



- **The OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme is a certification scheme to facilitate international trade in forest seed and plants.** The Scheme aims at encouraging the production and use of forest reproductive material that have been collected, processed, raised, labelled and distributed in a manner that ensures their trueness to name. The Scheme reflects the requirement by governments to have these materials correctly identified, with a view to minimising uncertainty in achieving successful afforestation.

Kenya was admitted in 2014 to the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. **The National Designated Authority of Kenya** was appointed Chair of the Bureau in 2017.



Kenya as Chair of the Bureau, with delegates from Finland, Turkey and OECD Secretariat, for the accession of Bulgaria to the Forest Scheme at the 2017 Annual Meeting held in Denmark in October 2017

Kenya is internationally considered to be a low forest cover country as it has only 7 % of its total land area classified as forest. The Government therefore put in place measures to significantly increase the area under forest cover, with the aim of attaining at least 10% within the next decade. This is particularly important as the forest sector plays a vital role in the livelihood of the Kenyan population.

THE GREAT GREEN WALL

Uganda was admitted to the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme in 2014. The Forestry plays an important role in the economy of the Republic of Uganda contributing 8.7 % to GDP. Forests and woodlands cover about 17.4 % of the total land area. The most important forest products are timber, firewood, charcoal, wood pulp, and paper; as well as leaves for fodder and fertilizer, medicinal herbs, fruits and fibres.

the Republic of **Uganda** has developed the necessary institutional capacity and legal framework for forestry and a certification system of forest reproductive material.

The Great Green Wall is an African-led project with an epic ambition: to grow an 8,000km natural wonder of the world across the entire width of Africa. Its goal is to provide food, jobs and a future for the millions of people who live in a region on the frontline of climate change.

Once completed, the Great Green Wall will be the largest living structure on Earth and a new Wonder of the World.

The Great Green Wall is taking root in the Sahel region, at the southern edge of the Sahara desert - one of the poorest places on the planet.

More than anywhere else on Earth, the Sahel is on the frontline of climate change and millions of locals are already facing its devastating impact. Persistent droughts, lack of food, conflicts over fewer natural resources, and mass migration to Europe are some of the many consequences.

Yet, local people from Senegal in the West to Djibouti in the East are fighting back. Since the birth of the initiative in 2007, life has started coming back to the land, bringing greater food security, jobs and stability to people's lives.

The Great Green Wall isn't just for the Sahel. It is global symbol for humanity overcoming its biggest threat – our changing environment.

It shows that if we can work with nature, even in challenging places like in the Sahel, we can overcome adversity, and build a better world for generations to come.

More than growing trees and plants, the Great Green Wall is transforming the lives of millions of people in the Sahel region.

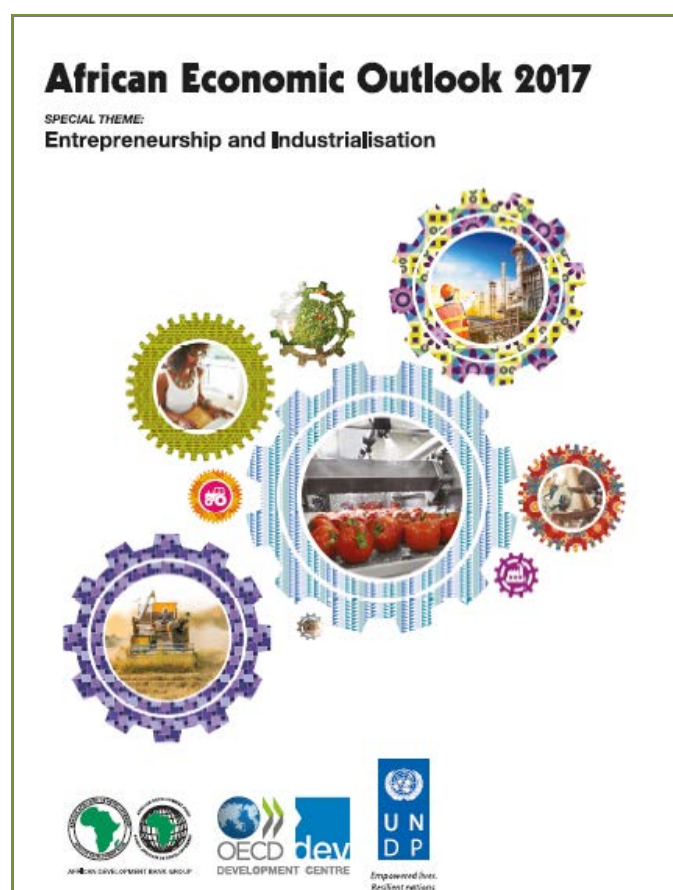
Source: <http://www.greatgreenwall.org/great-green-wall/#great-green-wall-internal>

Website: <http://www.oecd.org/tad/forest> To contact us: csaba.gaspar@oecd.org

Flagship Publication

The *African Economic Outlook 2017* presents the continent's current state of affairs and forecasts its situation for the coming two years. This annual report examines Africa's performance in crucial areas: macroeconomics, external financial flows and tax revenues, trade policies and regional integration, human development, and governance. For its 16th edition, the report takes a hard look at the role of entrepreneurs in Africa's industrialisation process. It proposes practical steps that African governments can take to carry out effective industrialisation strategies. Policies aimed at improving skills, business clusters and financing could remove important constraints on African private enterprises.

A section of country notes summarises recent economic growth, forecasts gross domestic product for 2017 and 2018, and highlights the main policy issues facing each of the 54 African countries. A statistical annex (available only on line) compares country-specific economic, social and political variables.



Membership of the OECD Codes and Schemes not only facilitates trade thanks to certification and harmonized practices for some key agricultural products, but also provides an opportunity to be part of the decision making process on rules to facilitate international trade.

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www.oecd.org/agriculture/code