

OECD Agricultural Codes and Schemes

2016



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OECD Headquarters, Paris - France

The OECD's Core Values

Objective: Our analyses and recommendations are independent and evidence-based.

Open: We encourage debate and a shared understanding of critical global issues.

Bold: We dare to challenge conventional wisdom starting with our own.

Pioneering: We identify and address emerging and long term challenges.

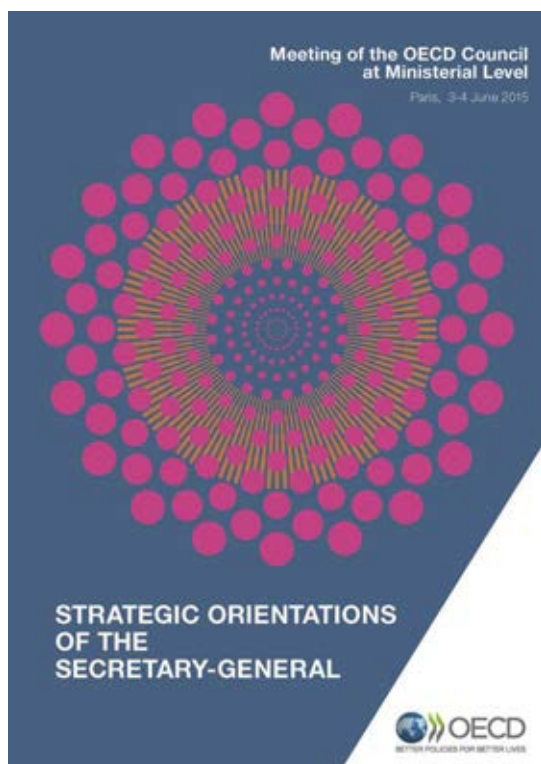
Ethical: Our credibility is built on trust, integrity and transparency.

Strategic Orientations by the Secretary-General



Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD

Strategic Orientations of the Secretary-General 2015 and beyond



“Key Partner and Accession Countries

53. The OECD will continue to integrate Key Partner Countries (Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa) into the work of the OECD. This includes encouraging them to join OECD bodies, adhere to legal instruments and establish mechanisms for jointly identifying mutually beneficial work priorities. The Organisation will build on the strategic relationship developed with China over the past year. This year marks the 20th anniversary of co-operation with China. A joint work programme for 2015-16, includes supporting China in its G20 Presidency, in particular in the fields of inclusive growth, new sources of growth like innovation and skills, trade and investment and the fight against corruption. China has also announced that it will join the Development Centre, which will further strengthen co-operation. A joint work programme with Indonesia provides the basis for deeper engagement with the country in 2015-16 with the support of the newly established OECD Office in Jakarta, which will engage with the whole of Southeast Asia. Brazil has also expressed its willingness to sign a framework agreement with the OECD and to develop a joint work programme. We will also strive to create similar arrangements with India and South Africa.”

Full Report available on the public website
www.oecd.org



Meeting of Agricultural Ministers

On 7-8 April 2016, the Directorate for Trade and Agriculture (TAD) hosted a Meeting of Agriculture Ministers at OECD Headquarters. Ministers from OECD countries and partner economies discussed *Better Policies to Achieve a Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Global Food System*, assessing whether existing government policies are well targeted to address emerging issues and public priorities. The event was a follow-up to the last OECD Agriculture Ministerial meeting held in February of 2010.

The objective of the discussions were to highlight the common policy priorities of governments confronting both opportunities and challenges in feeding a growing world population, managing its resources, and dealing with climate change. For more information about the event please go to the link: <http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/ministerial/>

Why a meeting of ministers?

Ministers of Agriculture from OECD countries and partner economies around the world met at OECD headquarters in Paris on 7-8 April 2016, to discuss *Better Policies to Achieve a Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Global Food System*. Ministers explored the new policies needed to achieve this widely shared interest, and exchanged on how to ensure that existing policies begin to shift in these directions more quickly.

Agriculture Ministers last met at the OECD in February 2010, in the midst of volatile world food markets. Six years later, and as requested by Ministers, it is again time to assess whether the policies governments are pursuing are well targeted to address emerging issues and public priorities. Population growth and increasing prosperity are driving and changing demand for agricultural products. The sector will need to adapt to climate change, including to the expected increased frequency of extreme events, and will also have to be part of the mitigation effort. There will be increased competition for limited natural resources, in particular water.

Against this background Ministers:

- exchanged ideas about which policies would best accompany the sector in responding to these opportunities and challenges and how to manage the transition to a new policy framework;
- covered the entire food chain, with a strong focus on the knowledge and innovation systems needed to achieve sustainable productivity growth;
- discussed how to strengthen global collaboration to that end, including through trade, science and technology, and education and advisory services;
- reflected on how the food system can contribute to the overall well-being of their economies, and on how overall policy settings can be more conducive to achieving sustainable productivity growth in the global food system.

This meeting of Agriculture Ministers comes in the wake of several other important high-level events: the G20 Agriculture Ministerial under the Turkish Presidency of the G20 in May 2015, the UN Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015, the COP21 in November-December 2015, the WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2015, and Germany's Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in January 2016.



Building Robust Food Systems for an Unpredictable Future

Highlights

- The global food system faces a number of uncertainties in future decades, including the pace of market growth and the effects of climate change.
- Scenario analysis provides a means to consider these uncertainties and formulate effective policies to address challenges and avail of opportunities.
- The OECD has developed three potential scenarios for agricultural markets in the lead up to 2050: Individual, Fossil Fuel-Driven Growth; Citizen-Driven, Sustainable Growth; and Fast, Globally-Driven Growth.
- Five policy approaches are recommended which are relevant across all three scenarios. These include greater regulatory coherence across countries and the removal of obstacles to sustainable productivity growth.



What's the issue?

The global food system will face both new opportunities and a formidable array of challenges over the coming decades. Markets are growing, but seldom at a predictable pace. Not only will the sector face rising competition for increasingly limited natural resources, in particular water, it will also have to adapt to – and in some cases to help mitigate – the unpredictable effects of climate change. The sector is also expected to contribute to economic growth, poverty alleviation, rural employment and development.

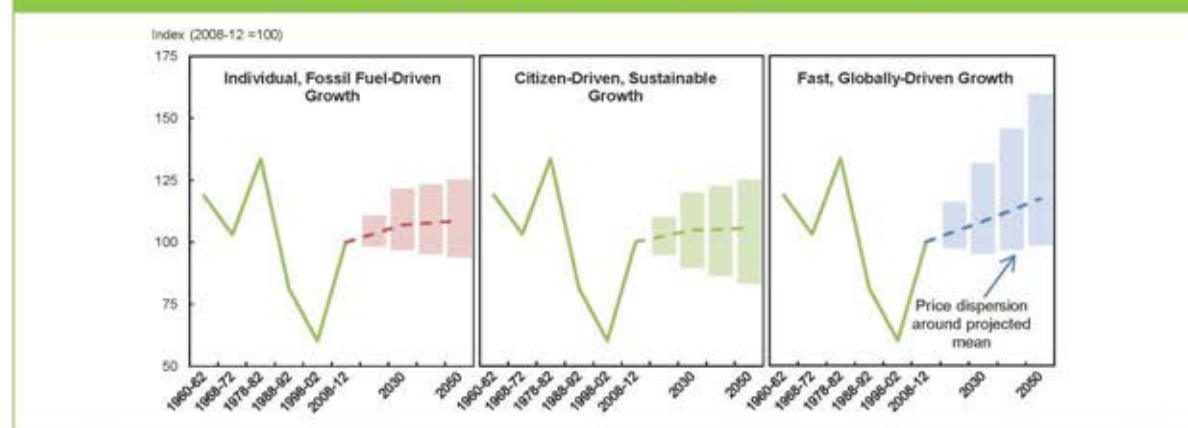
Policy decisions taken today will send important signals to farmers and the broader food sector. Will it be business as usual, or will governments shift the focus to improve the preparedness of the sector to confront an uncertain future?

Scenario analysis provides an approach to address an inherently uncertain future which model projections alone cannot completely assess. By allowing for structural breaks with past trends and unpredictable shocks, scenario analysis can facilitate the design and implementation of robust public and private strategies to address the challenges which lie ahead.

The OECD has developed three potential scenarios for agricultural markets in the lead up to 2050:

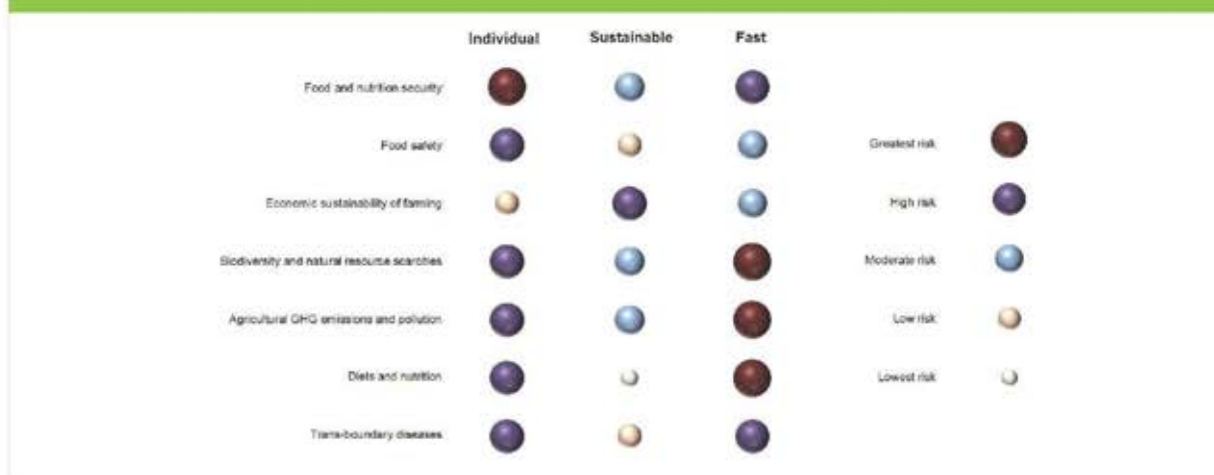
- **The Individual, Fossil Fuel-Driven Growth scenario** portrays a world driven by the strong focus of individual countries and regions on their own economic growth, and relatively minimal emphasis by governments or their citizens on environmental or social questions.
- **The Citizen-Driven, Sustainable Growth world** is one in which consumers and citizens drive their governments to emphasise environmental and social protection above all. Global co-operation is relatively limited.
- **The Fast, Globally-Driven Growth scenario** is characterised by a strong focus on international co-operation to achieve economic growth. Environmental issues receive less attention from governments or their citizens.

FIGURE 1. PROJECTED PRICES AND VARIATION IN THREE SCENARIOS



Note: Historical real commodity prices, prospects for average global real producer prices. All prices deflated based on US GDP deflator. Dotted lines represent means across four contributing models, while vertical bars represent the range of model results.
Sources: Historical data from World Bank (2015), US GDP deflator from World Bank (2015), prospects from results provided by models. Graph presented within OECD (2016), *Alternative Futures for Food and Agriculture*.

FIGURE 2. EACH SCENARIO FACES DIFFERENT PRIORITY CHALLENGES



Note: Larger bubbles correspond to greater overall risks related to specific challenges.

Source: Qualitative representation of scenario outcomes, derived from model results and discussions during OECD Workshops on Long-Term Scenarios for Food and Agriculture, December 2013 and December 2014, and presented within OECD (2016), *Alternative Futures for Food and Agriculture*.



What do these scenarios indicate?

Food prices could once again rise, although the level and related uncertainty varies among the scenarios. Farm incomes should also increase – however, the contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP and employment will fall.

Each scenario features its own priority challenges. Growth based on independent decision-making by countries and a high reliance on fossil energy – as is the case in the Individual scenario – could exacerbate food insecurity risks and increase pressure on the environment. Indeed, although global food security may well improve across all scenarios, the degree and speed of progress varies dramatically between them. Meanwhile, the Citizen-Driven scenario would challenge farmers to adopt more sustainable production methods, and the Fast scenario could witness amplified climate change-related risks.

All three “futures” see the environment being placed under increasing strain – albeit to varying extents. With the further expansion of agricultural land use and the growing use of farm inputs, the Individual and Fast scenarios indicate serious threats to sensitive habitats and ecosystems. Even in the Sustainable scenario, forests in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America would continue to decline – albeit at lower rates than in the other scenarios. Agricultural greenhouse gas emissions would likely continue to increase within all scenarios.



What should policy makers do?

Versatile, comprehensive and robust strategies are required – not only involving governments, but also private actors, where relevant. Five approaches are recommended:

- **Accelerated movement towards more sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns.** This can be achieved both by public policies – such as the reform of subsidy and tax systems and consumer awareness campaigns – and private sector initiatives, including voluntary standards.

- **Improved coherence of food market regulations across countries** is essential for a well-functioning international trade system, the effective management of trans-boundary livestock diseases and the development of climate-resilient infrastructure.
- **Sustainable productivity growth is fundamental.** Governments need to reform policies that pose obstacles to sustainable productivity growth – including support for the use of fossil energy or other energy-intensive inputs – and invest in effective agricultural innovation systems.
- **Correcting infrastructure deficits** can increase market efficiency, support local economies and enable higher revenues for farmers and lower prices for final consumers.
- **The improvement of agricultural risk management systems,** with a clear delineation of public and private responsibilities, is increasingly critical for the management of volatile markets due to weather, policy or technological shocks.



Further reading

This document is based on the evidence and analysis found in a number of OECD reports and papers published in recent years:

- OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2015
- Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)
- Alternative Futures for Global Food and Agriculture
- Price Volatility in Food and Agricultural Markets: Policy Responses

A complete list of relevant books and papers can be found at <http://oe.cd/taking-stock> or on the Agriculture Ministerial website at www.oecd.org/agriculture/ministerial.

WHAT IS THE G20

The G20 is a forum of 19 countries plus the European Union, representing both developed and emerging economies whose size or strategic importance gives them a particularly crucial role in the global economy. Its role is to co-ordinate policies at the international level and to make globalisation a smoother, more harmonious and sustainable process.

The countries are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, the European Union, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Following the largest financial, economic and social crisis in decades, the world's twenty most influential economies decided to meet at the Leaders' level for the first time in November 2008 in Washington D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to cope with the most current challenges of the escalating economic and financial crisis. Following that first meeting, the G20 was officially designated as the premier forum for economic co-operation at the Pittsburgh Summit in September 2009.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Since they first met in 2008, the G20 Leaders have taken decisive action to prevent future financial crises, while securing sustainable and balanced global growth and reforming the architecture of global economic governance. The decisions made by the G20 have been key to the stability of the global economy at the height of the crisis and to avoiding an outright collapse of the international financial system. For instance, G20 leaders endorsed in 2009 the largest internationally-coordinated stimulus package in history. They also committed to keeping markets open and launched a major overhaul of the international financial and prudential regulation framework, as well as of the international tax architecture.

By committing every year to an action plan of growth and jobs and monitoring its implementation, the G20 shows continuous engagement towards creating high quality jobs and opportunities for all. Specifically at the Brisbane Summit in November 2014, the G20 committed to lift global growth by 2% by 2018 ("2 in 5") over a baseline scenario defined in the second half of 2013. In Antalya in November 2015, leaders endorsed ambitious G20 Country Investment Strategies to lift the G20 investment to GDP ratio. They also put forth a G20 youth employment target to reduce the share of young people who are most at risk of being permanently left behind in the labour market by 15% by 2025 in G20 countries, as well as a G20 Skills Strategy to counter inequality and grapple with low productivity growth in many G20 countries.

With the active support of the OECD, the G20 has also achieved concrete progress in domains such as tax transparency and the fight against tax evasion, thanks to the peer review of tax legislation carried out in the Global Forum (in relation to exchange of tax information on request), the adoption of a new global standard for the Automatic Exchange of Information to be implemented by 2017-18, and the endorsement of the 15 Actions identified in the G20/OECD BEPS Action Plan to combat tax avoidance.

The G20 has also achieved very concrete progress in the areas of financial regulation, anticorruption and food security – with the design of mechanisms to stem food price volatility (AMIS). Through its efforts to address the global economic challenges, the G20 has proved to be an influential international forum where global economic heavyweights from both the developed and the emerging world are sitting together on an equal footing.

THE OECD IS AN ACTIVE PARTNER OF THE G20

Since the Pittsburgh Summit, the OECD has been an active partner of the G20 in its efforts to strengthen the global economy, accelerate recovery from the crisis and promote a more harmonious rules-based globalisation process. Upon a call by G20 Leaders, the Organisation supported the G20 during the crisis and continues to provide policy expertise and analysis to address the complex challenges of the post-crisis era and a fragile recovery.

The Organisation's expertise continues to be increasingly recognised and relied upon for identifying the world's most pressing policy challenges and finding ways to address them. The OECD works closely with the G20, carrying out tasks mandated by the members and in close co-operation with the Presidencies of the G20, in framing, developing and carrying out their priorities. By working with the different Presidencies, the OECD has broadened its support and become a recognised partner of the Group. This has also been the opportunity for the Organisation to build a closer relationship with non-member economies, allowing it to learn further about their policy expectations and integrate their views in a more systematic way, contributing to reaffirming the OECD's role as a global standard-setter, and supporting its strive for relevance.

HIGH LEVEL PARTICIPATION

Given its multidisciplinary character, the OECD participates both at the highest level (Sherpa, Finance Deputy, Ministers and Leaders) as well at the technical level (Working Groups) by contributing to virtually all of the Group's strands of work and most G20 working groups with data, analytical reports, policy recommendations and standards. Our contributions to the Group's work are frequently carried out in collaboration with other international organisations.

This relationship has shown to be mutually beneficial. The G20 process helps international organisations to co-ordinate their work, gives it leverage, and when necessary, injects the political momentum to break deadlocks.

<http://www.oecd.org/g20/about.htm>

OECD In Brief



OECD Headquarters

Photographer: Luc Boegly

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an inter-governmental organisation founded in 1961, provides a multilateral forum to discuss, develop and reform economic and social policies. Today it has 35 member countries¹ The OECD's mission is to promote policies for sustainable economic growth and employment, a rising standard of living, and trade liberalisation. It is at the forefront of efforts to help governments understand and respond to new developments and concerns so that economic and social developments are not achieved at the expense of environmental degradation.

The OECD brings together its Member countries to discuss and develop domestic and international policies. It analyses issues, identifies good policy practices and recommends actions in a unique forum in which countries can compare their experiences, seek answers to common problems, and work to co-ordinate policies. It shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 100 countries worldwide and engages in dialogue with business, labour, and civil society organisations on topics of mutual interest. The OECD is the largest and most reliable source of comparable statistical data and information on economic, environmental and social developments in its Member countries.

The OECD's work is overseen by several bodies. At the highest level is the OECD Council, made up of Ambassadors from all Member countries. The Council's main role is to review and approve the OECD budget and Programme of Work. The specific policy and technical work is directed by specialist Committees, supported by Working Parties and *ad hoc* meetings, which bring together technical expertise from Member countries. The daily work of the OECD is coordinated and supported by its Secretariat in Paris, with 2 880 staff and a budget of over € 353 million.

¹ *OECD member countries in 2016: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States. The European Commission also participates in the work of the Organisation.*

Trade and Agriculture Directorate



Ken Ash, Director

The **Directorate for Trade and Agriculture (TAD)** is the part of the OECD Secretariat that undertakes the work on behalf of the Trade, Agriculture and Fisheries Committees. The key objective of OECD work on trade is to support a strong, rules-based multilateral trading system that will maintain the momentum for further trade liberalisation, while contributing to rising standards of living and sustainable development. OECD also analyses food, agriculture and fisheries issues and provides advice to governments on practical and innovative options for policy reform and trade liberalisation, as well as facilitating the negotiation of international rules on official export credits. An important part of the mandate of the OECD is to provide analytical support to agricultural trade liberalisation, as well as estimating the effects of further trade liberalisation. Working closely with Member countries, the Directorate collects information and data, and develops modelling capacity to analyse the policy issues identified by

the Committees. The **Committee for Agriculture**, the **Committee for Trade**, and the **Committee for Fisheries** are responsible for implementing the agriculture, trade and fisheries biennial programme of work, once it has been approved by the OECD Council.

The **Directorate** is structured around seven divisions that work together to deliver the work programme: Agro-food Trade and Markets, Development Division, Fisheries Policies, Agricultural Policies and Environment, Policies and Trade in Agriculture, Trade Policy Linkages and Services and Export Credits. Two other units are attached to the Directorate: **Agricultural Codes and Schemes**, and the **Co-operative Research Programme**. The staff of the Directorate is drawn from Member countries. In 2015 there were 120 full-time staff, and increasingly, the Directorate also welcomes staff on short-term appointments, consultants and trainees.

Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division



Jonathan Brooks,

**Head of the Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division
of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD)**

The Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD) undertakes a range of quantitative and qualitative analysis of the links between policies and markets within the agro-food sector. A key output is the annual OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook publication, which is prepared jointly with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and provides ten-year projections for agricultural markets. **The Agricultural Codes and Schemes Unit** is located within the **Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division**.

The OECD Codes and Schemes increases market transparency by helping to reduce technical barriers to trade, enhances market openness and access through the simplification of procedures, and helps to strengthen market confidence by ensuring product quality.

Agricultural Codes and Schemes

The OECD Agricultural Codes and Schemes facilitate international trade through the simplification and implementation of international standards.

For **Seeds** and **Forests**, the **Schemes** encourage the production and use of seeds or plants of consistently high quality for which trueness to name or source is guaranteed.

For **Tractors**, the **Codes** enable an importing country to accept, with confidence, the results of safety and performance tests carried out in another country, and in the case of **Fruit and Vegetables**, the **Scheme** promotes the use of uniform classification and quality control procedures.



The Codes & Schemes were created in the late 1950s/early 1960s and the number of participating countries has been constantly rising. The Codes and Schemes are open to any OECD or non-OECD country that is a member of the United Nations, or of the World Trade Organisation. In addition to the 34 OECD countries, which are all members of at least one of the Codes & Schemes, participation currently encompasses 29 non-OECD Economies including some of the major players in world trade (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Argentina, Ukraine). There is also close co-operation with the UN family especially the FAO, UNECE, UNESCAP and UNIDO as well as manufacturer non-governmental organisations and manufacturer and farmer organisations.

The overarching objectives of the Codes & Schemes are to simplify existing international trade procedures, increase transparency, reduce technical barriers to trade, contribute to international harmonisation of standards, environmental protection, and to increase market confidence through enforcement of quality control and inspection procedures, and facilitate the traceability of the traded products.

The objectives are achieved through ongoing dialogue and debate with the designated authorities of member Countries, observers and other stakeholders, including farmers, industry and trade. This comprehensive and inclusive process ensures that the standards are reliable, efficient and fit for purpose.

International product certification differs from national certification as domestic regulatory systems may vary to a large extent. A voluntary international system is a tool that countries can use for specific products traded. The benefits from product certification and guarantees are shared among all stakeholders.

It is important to note that all decisions to amend/update the rules are taken by full consensus of all member countries. The Rules governing the Codes and Schemes are regularly updated to reflect changes in trade, agriculture, environment and health and safety standards in member countries.

The following are the prerequisites for joining the Codes & Schemes:

- ✓ An official request to join is sent to the OECD Secretary-General, accompanied by the relevant documentation.
- ✓ This is followed by an evaluation process, usually involving a short mission to the applicant country.
- ✓ The evaluation report is circulated to the authorities of the participating countries and discussed at the OECD Annual Meeting.
- ✓ The final step is an internal OECD process resulting in a Council Decision. The whole procedure takes about one year.

Global Relations

In an increasingly integrated world economy, the prosperity of OECD member countries depends not only on the development of their own economies but also on global economic development. It is therefore essential that the Organisation promotes, on a global scale, those principles, values and policies that lead to sound, sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

Mandate

Global reach has been an integral part of the OECD from its beginning in 1961. Its global nature was already expressed in the original OECD Convention. The Convention's Article 1 states that members "should contribute to sound economic expansion in member as well as non-member countries in the process of economic development." To do so, Article 12 stipulates that the Organisation may:

- Address communications to non-member states or organisations;
- Establish and maintain relations with non-member states or organisations;
- Invite non-member governments or organisations to participate in activities of the Organisation.

The "Revised Council Resolution on a New Governance Structure for the Organisation" reaffirms the Organisation's engagement with non-members, in particular large emerging economies, to share best practices and to promote economic development. The OECD offers members and non-members a platform for discussion, and the exchange of experiences and insights.

Strategic Framework

Recognising that the OECD's relationships with non-member economies are even more fundamental in today's interdependent world than they were when the Organisation was founded, the OECD in 2005 adopted a strategic framework to guide its global relations. This framework allows for flexibility in individual areas of work while encouraging a coherent overall OECD approach to global relations. OECD's co-operative activities with non-members aim to support the following strategic framework:

Contribute to the harmonious functioning of the global economy

- By promoting worldwide policy coherence;
- By engaging major global actors as well as significant actors in specific policy fields outside of OECD membership in the work of the OECD;
- By reducing risks of tensions and preventing conflicts through comparative research and policy dialogue;

Promote shared prosperity

- By facilitating the integration of economies outside of OECD membership in the global economy;
- By capitalising on the comparative advantages of the OECD;
- By enhancing the economic prospects and standards of living of economies outside of OECD membership, taking into account of their desire and capacity to co-operate/benefit from relevant policy dialogue and related activities;

Encourage shared knowledge for better public policy

- By drawing from experiences outside of OECD membership to anticipate significant new issues relevant to the OECD mission;
- By capturing and disseminating good practices that are relevant to the mission of the OECD beyond the OECD membership.

<https://www.oecd.org/globalrelations/>

The OECD's Relations with its Key Partners

The 2012 Ministerial Council Meeting marked the fifth anniversary of the launching of Enhanced Engagement, aimed at advancing the OECD's relationship with five Key Partners, **Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa**.



Brazil



China



India



Indonesia



South Africa

Key partners contribute to the OECD's work in a sustained and comprehensive manner. A central element of the programme is the promotion of direct and active participation of these countries in the work of substantive bodies of the Organisation. Each country participates in OECD work through a programme containing a mix of several elements, notably:

- participation in OECD committees,
- regular economic surveys,
- adherence to OECD instruments
- integration into OECD statistical reporting and information systems,
- sector-specific peer reviews.

The actual mix and the sequencing of the elements is determined by mutual interest.

Date of accession of some of the key partners to the OECD Codes and Schemes

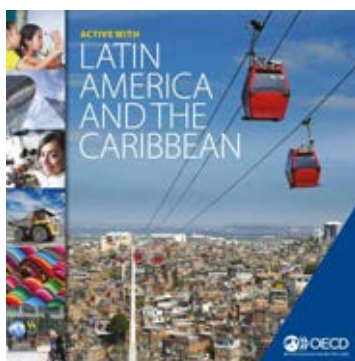
Countries	OECD Seed Schemes	OECD Tractor Codes	OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme
Brazil	1999		
China		1988	
India	2008	1988	
South Africa	1961		1994

OECD Active with...

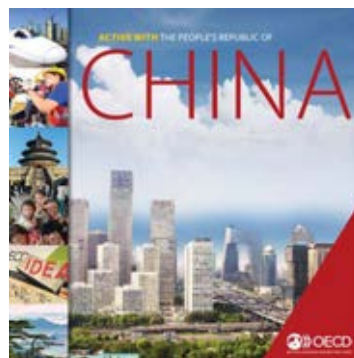
(brochures available on the public website www.oecd.org)



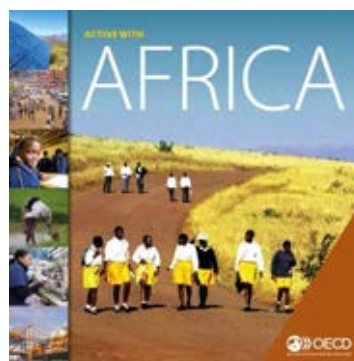
“...The OECD is proud to have Brazil as a key Partner. Brazil participates actively in a number of key OECD Committees, as well as in various areas of work...”



“... Since the turn of the century, the Latin America and Caribbean region was able to combine robust economic growth and social progress. Today, Chile and Mexico are members of the OECD...”



“... The OECD takes pride in its co-operation with China. Today, with China's increasing importance as a dynamic engine for the world economy, this partnership is more relevant than ever...”



“... OECD's co-operation with sub-Saharan Africa has strengthened significantly over the years in response to increasing demand from African governments for OECD expertise and support...”



“... The OECD is proud to have India as a key partner and is working closely with the Indian Authorities to advance socioeconomic development and well-being...”

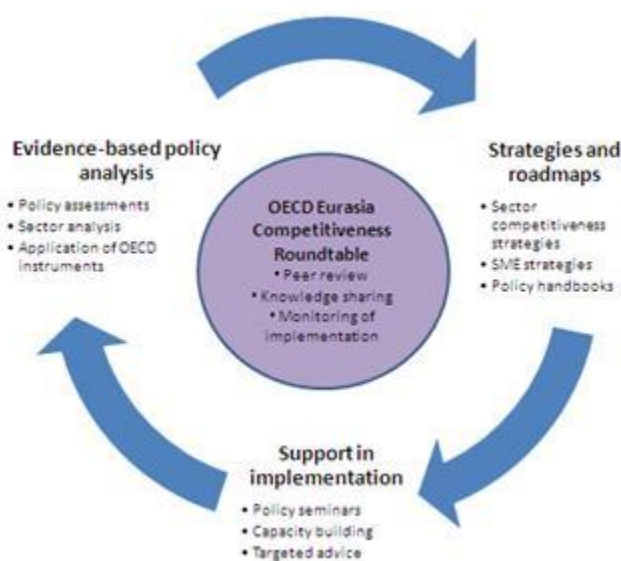


“... The creation of an integrated ASEAN economic community beginning in 2015 will generate even more opportunities for growth and employment across the region...”

About the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme

The OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme was launched in 2008 to support Eurasian economies in **developing more vibrant and competitive markets**. The programme uses OECD instruments and tools in order to assess where and how to enhance competitiveness of countries, sectors and regions to generate sustainable growth. It includes two regions: **Central Asia** (Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and **Eastern Europe and South Caucasus** (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

A three-step approach



This approach comprises both a regional dimension, which entails **peer dialogue and capacity building**, and a country-specific aspect supporting the implementation of a number of prioritised reforms. Sectoral analyses cover the formulation of targeted policies and strategies requested at the industry level.

Within the framework of the programme, public authorities, the private sector and civil society in these countries have been engaged in a dialogue and collaborative process to support policy actions and identify the key barriers to sectoral competitiveness. The participation of all the stakeholders in the reform process, including foreign investors, is considered to be crucial for guaranteeing the effectiveness and transparency of the recommended policies.

Date of accession to the OECD Seed Schemes of some of the countries from Central Asia And Eastern Europe and South Caucasus

Countries	OECD Seed Schemes
Kyrgyz Republic	2005
Republic of Moldova	2008
Ukraine	2009

Website: www.oecd.org/globalrelations/eurasia.htm

25 Countries

Participate in the

OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

in 2016

Countries	Fruit & Vegetables	Tractors	Seeds	Forest
Albania				
Argentina				
Australia				
Austria				
Belgium				
Bolivia				
Brazil				
Bulgaria				
Burkina Faso				
Canada				
Chile				
China				
Croatia				
Cyprus				
Czech Republic				
Denmark				
Egypt				
Estonia				
Finland				
France				
Germany				
Greece				
Hungary				
Iceland				
India				
Iran, Islamic Rep. of				
Ireland				
Israel				
Italy				
Japan				
Kenya				
Korea				
Kyrgyzstan				
Latvia				
Lithuania				
Luxembourg				
Madagascar				
Mexico				
Moldova				
Morocco				
Netherlands				
New Zealand				
Norway				
Poland				
Portugal				
Romania				
Russian Federation				
Rwanda				
Senegal				
Serbia				
Slovak Republic				
Slovenia				
South Africa				
Spain				
Sweden				
Switzerland				
Tunisia				
Turkey				
Uganda				
Ukraine				
United Kingdom				
United States				
Uruguay				
Zimbabwe				

OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

Objectives of the OECD Scheme on Fruit and Vegetables

The main objective of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme is to facilitate international trade through the harmonization of implementation and interpretation of marketing standards. A further objective is to facilitate mutual recognition of inspections by participating countries. The 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. The Scheme also organises peer reviews with the goal of helping the reviewed country improve its quality inspection system.

Participating Countries

Currently, 25 countries participate in the OECD Scheme, including several major exporting countries, for all or some of the products covered.

How does the OECD Scheme operate?

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme provide a complete and internationally harmonised export quality inspection system for member countries. The mutual recognition of inspections is strengthened through implementation of peer reviews on national quality inspection systems, organisation of meetings for the heads of national inspection services and workshops for the inspectors. Frequent meetings also allow for a comprehensive dialogue amongst stakeholders in reviewing and elaborating the OECD standards' interpretation, as well as defining inspection procedures.

Outlook

Inter-governmental quality standardisation for fruit and vegetables remains essential for reducing technical barriers to international trade, as well as increasing transparency to consumers. The interpretation of standards is indispensable to applying them in practice and here the Scheme and its explanatory brochures on standards and inspection guidelines will continue to play a pivotal role.

The peer review activity on national fruit and vegetables inspection systems is well received among member countries and has become a core activity of the Scheme. It helps countries to improve policy making, adopt best practices, and comply with established international standards and principles.

As many African and Asian countries are specialized in fruit and vegetables production, they would benefit from implementing the Scheme to build up their export capacities.

For more information see: www.oecd.org/tad/fv

OECD Explanatory Brochures

The OECD explanatory brochures comprise explanatory notes and illustrations to facilitate the common interpretation of the standards. They are valuable tool for the inspection authorities, professional bodies and traders interested in the international trade of fruit and vegetables. The newest publications also include a USB key with the high quality electronic version of the brochures. Currently the OECD explanatory brochures are available for 24 products in hard copies as well as in electronic versions.



Brochure on Fresh Figs

*This standard applies to fresh figs of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Ficus carica* L. to be supplied fresh to the consumer, fresh figs for industrial processing being excluded.*

There are more than 300 fresh fig varieties available in the world with different characteristics in shape, size, skin and flesh colour.

Brochure on Cherries

*This standard applies to cherries of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Prunus avium* L. and *Prunus cerasus* L. and their hybrids, to be supplied fresh to the consumer, cherries for industrial processing being excluded.*

There are two species of cherries:
*-Sweet cherries (*Prunus avium* L.).*
*-Sour cherries (*Prunus cerasus* L.).*

Brochure on Chinese Cabbage

*This Standard applies to Chinese cabbage of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Brassica rapa* subsp. *Pekinensis* (Lour.) Hanelt to be supplied fresh to the consumer, chinese cabbage for industrial processing are excluded.*

There are two commercial types, long and round, of Chinese cabbage.
Pak choi or Bok choy is not part of the standard.

Focus on Meetings of Heads of National Inspection Services

The OECD Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services facilitates discussions between inspection services on major problems, developments and challenges in the fruit and vegetables sector and quality inspection system. It provides an update on the latest developments in inspection techniques and tools. The Meeting is open to all Members of the Scheme, and any other country and organizations invited by the OECD Secretariat and/or Host Country.

The 16th Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services was officially opened by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in Poland. The Minister stressed the long-standing tradition in the production of fresh fruit and vegetables in Poland and the scientific achievements in this field. Today, Poland is the third producer of apples in the world and leading exporter in 2013.

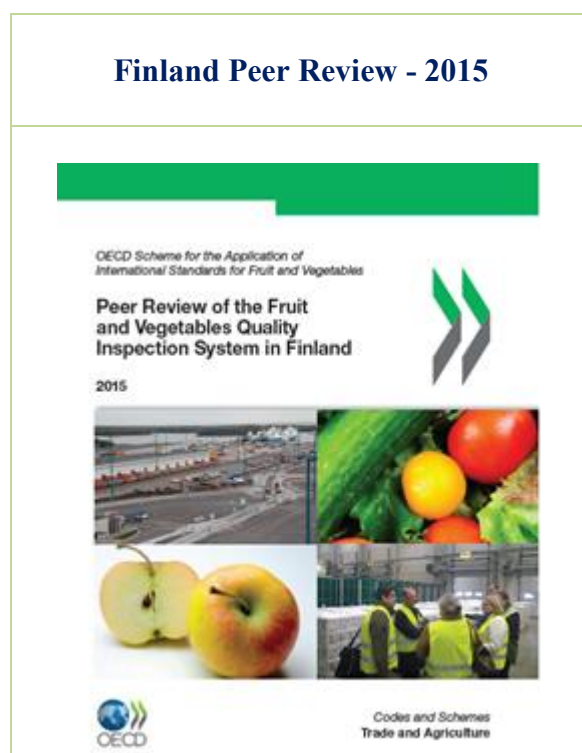
The inaugurated 16th Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services was prepared by the Main Inspectorate of Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection in collaboration with the OECD Secretariat in the framework of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. Both organizers and participants agreed that the meeting was an excellent opportunity to exchange views and experiences in the field of inspection in the participating countries. It was also pointed out that during two days of room sessions and one-day technical visit, Poland had great opportunity to present the Polish fresh fruit and vegetables sector particularly the production of apples.

Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services held in Poland in 2014	Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services held in Hungary in 2011	Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services held in Finland in 2009
		

OECD Peer Reviews

The Peer Review is a systematic examination and assessment of performance of national fruit and vegetables quality inspection systems by experts from other countries under the umbrella of the OECD. The ultimate goal of the peer review is to help improve policy making, adopt best practices and comply with established international standards and principles.

Finland Peer Review - 2015



Spain Peer Review - 2013



Netherlands Peer Review - 2012



OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme



The main objective of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme is to facilitate international trade through the harmonization of implementation and interpretation of marketing standards. A further objective is to facilitate mutual recognition of inspections by participating countries. The 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. The Scheme also organises peer reviews with the goal of helping the reviewed country improve its quality inspection system. Currently, 25 countries participate in the OECD Scheme, including several major exporting countries, for all or some of the products covered.



25 Member Countries participate in 2015 in the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme



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www.oecd.org/tad/fv

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme provide a complete and internationally harmonised export quality inspection system for member countries.

The mutual recognition of inspections is strengthened through implementation of peer reviews on national quality inspection systems, organisation of meetings for the heads of national inspection services and workshops for the inspectors. Frequent meetings also allow for a comprehensive dialogue amongst stakeholders in reviewing and elaborating the OECD standards' interpretation as well as defining inspection procedures.

Key numbers

More than 100 billion dollars in fresh fruit and vegetables was traded internationally in 2013.

68 billion was traded in fruits and 35.5 billion dollars was traded in fresh vegetables worldwide.

The main fruit products traded globally are bananas, apples and oranges.

When it comes to fresh vegetables, onions are number one, followed by tomatoes, peppers, carrots and cucumbers.

Source: Fruit & Vegetable Facts, Jan Kees Boon, +31 6 54 687 684, www.fruitandvegetablefacts.com, fruitvegfacts@gmail.com Publication date: 3/3/2014, <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/118402/World-trade-in-fresh-fruit-increasing-fresh-vegetables-stable>

Inter-governmental quality standardisation for fruit and vegetables remains essential for reducing technical barriers to international trade, as well as increasing transparency to consumers. The interpretation of standards is indispensable to applying them in practice and here the Scheme and its explanatory brochures on standards and inspection guidelines will continue to play a pivotal role. As many African and Asian countries are specialized in fruit and vegetables production, they would benefit from implementing the Scheme to build up their export capacities.

Key Messages

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Assurance ✓ <i>Clear and common interpretation of quality parameters</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization ✓ <i>Common Procedures</i> ✓ <i>Common regulations</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade Facilitation ✓ <i>Clear origin of Fruits and Vegetables</i> ✓ <i>Clear classification of product quality</i>
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Key beneficiaries of the Scheme

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government <p><i>OECD Brochures ensure that Marketing Standards are interpreted homogenously amongst Member Countries.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers <p><i>Farmers benefit from harmonized inspection methods and clear quality classifications that promote fair trade.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumers <p><i>The Scheme provides quality assurance for the final Fruit and Vegetables consumers.</i></p>
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ADVANTAGES OF THE SCHEME

- **Reputation and Quality Assurance for final Fruit and Vegetables Consumers**

The Scheme has a history of more than 50 years. It is well known for its rigorous inspection methods and the high quality of its explanatory Brochures.

- **Unique Quality Inspection System**

OECD is the only international organization that provides a clear and harmonized Inspection Methodology allowing Member Countries and their inspection services to apply and interpret marketing standards in the same uniform manner.

- **Trade Facilitation**

A key pillar of the Scheme is Mutual Recognition of inspections by Member Countries; this contributes to expedite trade between participating countries.

- **Country Peer Reviews**

Each year a participant country volunteers to undergo a peer review. This helps Member Countries to improve their inspection systems and continuously enhance the quality of its services. Peer Reviews also guarantee that the Scheme continuously evolves to take into account the latest developments in technology or adapt to new market or environmental challenges.

- **Market Analysis**

Each year the Scheme provides comprehensive market analysis of fruit and vegetables products. This helps Member Countries to stay abreast of the latest market developments and trends.

- **Meetings of Heads of National Inspection Services**

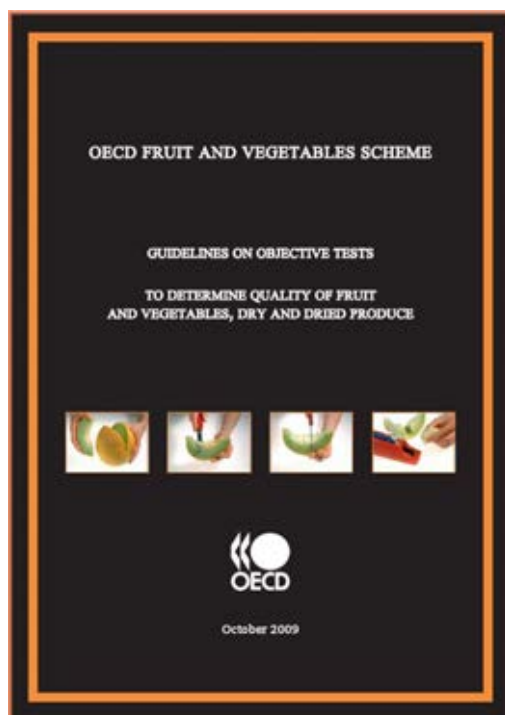
A distinctive feature of the Scheme is its biennial gathering of Heads of Inspection Services. The Meeting is usually hosted by a Member Country and provides a unique opportunity to confront ideas, improve policy making, adopt best practices, comply with established international standards, and discuss challenges faced by each participating country

- **Global / New Markets**

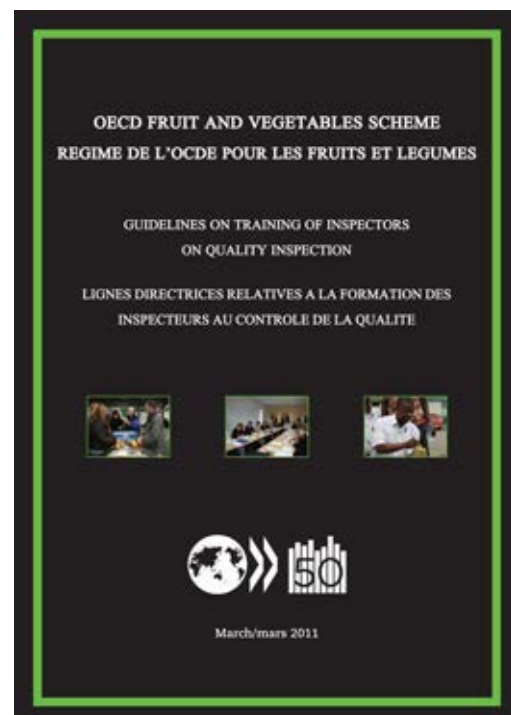
Currently, 25 countries participate in the OECD Scheme, including several major exporting countries, for all or some of the products covered by the scheme. Discussions are underway to increase Membership throughout Africa, Latin America and Asia.

OECD Guidelines

The OECD guidelines provide tools for the inspection services as well as to the private sector as regards the implementation of a quality inspection system, such as inspection methods for internal quality, notification of nonconformity



OECD Guidelines on Objective tests: in recent years there has become an increased awareness of the need for consumers to have fruit available to eat which has reached a satisfactory state of ripeness and which exhibits the true organoleptic characteristics of the produce and of the variety concerned. This document describes the methods of objective testing of fruits that have emerged as beneficial to both inspection services and the fruit industry in general in determining acceptable ripeness and quality.



OECD guidelines on training: This OECD Guidelines on Training of Inspectors on Quality Inspection is an international reference to the public and private inspection services. It helps them to establish a professional inspection team and facilitate to develop initial and annual education plan for quality inspectors.



Annual meeting of OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables

Paris, 17-19 September 1962

Réunion annuelle du Régime de l'OCDE pour l'Application de Normes Internationales aux Fruits et Légumes

Right to left: T. Klötscher (Germany), unknown, Dr. Krosnar (Austria), Mr. Baccu (Belgium), J.P.L.L. Burg (Netherlands), Mr. Klammer (Netherlands), K. Ton (Netherlands), unknown, Mr. Schmit, unknown.



Right to left:
Mr. Defaye (France)
Mr. Gross (France)
Mr. Lotte (France)
Mr. Ruineau (France)
Mr. Zanis (Greece)



Right to left:
Dr. Krosnar (Austria)
Mr. Baccu (Belgium)
J.P.L.L. Burg (Netherlands)
Mr. Klammer (Netherlands)
K. Ton (Netherlands)



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Archives
Historical
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OECD Fruit and Vegetables Meetings to be held at OECD and abroad in 2016



Some pictures of OECD
Photographer: Luc Boegly

OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

12-14 october 2016

Rome, Italy

OECD Technical Working Group Meeting

Meeting of Heads of National

Inspection Services

5 December 2016

Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Produce Working Group Meetings

6-7 December 2016

Bratislava, Slovak Republic

75th Plenary Meeting

of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

Useful information

The following OECD web pages can be consulted for additional information (latest publications, news and events, list of participating countries).

Agriculture (general):

www.oecd.org/tad

OECD Directorate for Trade and Agriculture
2, rue André – Pascal
75775 Paris, Cedex 16
France

Codes and Schemes (general):

www.oecd.org/tad/code

Fruit and Vegetables:

www.oecd.org/tad/fv

Contact:



Jose Brambila-Macias, Programme Manager

E-mail: jose.brambila-macias@oecd.org

Miscellaneous information

OECD Flagship Publication

OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2016-2025



This edition of the Agricultural Outlook – the twenty-second OECD edition and the twelfth prepared jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – provides projections to 2025 for major agricultural commodities, biofuels and fish. The 2016 report provides a special focus on prospects and challenges for agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The market projections not only cover OECD member countries (European Union as a region) but also FAO member countries, notably Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, People's Republic of China and South Africa.

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www.oecd.org/about/publishing/oecd-direct.htm.

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Two and three star Hotels close to OECD Headquarters – Paris 16th

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Distance from OECD : 1 Km

Address: 2, rue André-Pascal, 75016 Paris

The Château de la Muette is the centre of the OECD Headquarters. This historic building is adjacent to the OECD Conference Centre. Please consult the links provided on the OECD Conference Centre website for instructions on how to get here and formalities to obtain a badge: www.oecd.org/conferencecentre

RER	Line C – Henri Martin Station
Metro	Line 9 – La Muette Station
Bus	Line 63 – Octave Feuillet Stop
	Line 52 – La Muette Boulainvilliers Stop
	Line PC1 – Porte de la Muette Stop

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Air France coaches are at your service with 5 regular bus lines taking you to and from the airports. Please see their website for more information, <http://videocdn.airfrance.com/cars-airfrance/>

Map of the area around OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André Pascal, 75116 Paris



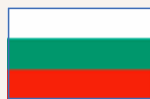
25 countries participate in the Fruit and vegetables OECD Scheme



Austria



Belgium



Bulgaria



Finland



France



Germany



Greece



Hungary



Ireland



Israel



Italy



Kenya



Luxembourg



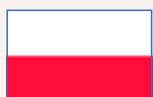
Morocco



Netherlands



New Zealand



Poland



Romania



Serbia



Slovakia



South Africa



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland



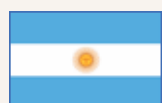
Turkey

Formal Applicant Countries



México

Potential Member Countries



Argentina



Brazil



Chile



China



India

<http://www.oecd.org/tad/fv>