



National Workshop on OECD Seed Certification

July 4, 2016

Hyderabad, Telangana

PROCEEDINGS



Organised by

Telangana State Seed & Organic Certification Authority

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
Government of Telangana

in collaboration with

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
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Glimpses of National Workshop on OECD Seed Certification



Glimpses of National Workshop on OECD Seed Certification





National Workshop on OECD Seed Certification Proceedings

High quality seed is a pre-requisite to achieve maximum outputs and good returns for farmers. To strengthen the seed sector, it is crucial that seed growers and companies adhere to policies that guarantee quality standards and appropriate regulatory features. Many countries have adopted seed laws. The standards may differ, but considerable efforts are being made to harmonize national seed laws and seed trade regulations. A number of international organizations, conventions and treaties deal with the regulation of seed trade, ranging from access to delivery of quality seeds to growers. Among these organisations are the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), whose Seed Schemes are globally recognized for the certification of seed. The OECD certification provides for official recognition of “Quality-guaranteed” seed, thus facilitating international trade and contributing to the removal of technical trade barriers.

We are glad to inform that the Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority has successfully organized a National Workshop on “OECD Seed Certification” during July 4, 2016 at Hotel THE PARK, Hyderabad. This workshop is convened by Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA, Hyderabad by involving all Designated Authorities, Directors of State Seed Certification and officials, ICAR and university scientists, officials of National Seeds Corporations, seed industry, Government Officials, National Seed Association of India and Seedsmen Association, Hyderabad under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Seeds), Government of India with the agenda to discuss on the status and issues of OECD Seed Certification, to create an awareness and to have an in-depth reviews and analysis of issues in international seed trade and to provide policy makers and analysts with long-term scenarios in seed exports and imports, procedure for inclusion of new varieties in OECD list and other related issues and also action plan for ensuing Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-17.

The meeting was successfully conducted comprising of Inaugural session, Technical session and Panel discussion. It provided a common platform for seed industry to address various issues for development and implementation of regulatory framework for OECD varietal certification and international seed trade. All the sessions were discussed in detail which helped in fulfilling the purpose of organizing the meeting and was successful in drawing a set of recommendations.

The ideas generated during the interactions and the recommendations emerged from the technical sessions and panel discussions were presented here under with an expectation to further consolidate the efforts directed at OECD varietal certification for international seed trade.

Inaugural Session

The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Pocharam Srinivas Reddy garu, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Allied sectors, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, IAS, Joint Secretary (Seeds), Govt. of India and Shri C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Secretary (A&C), Govt. of Telangana, Shri P. Murali, MD, TSSDC, Dr. V. Praveen Rao, Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU, Shri M. Prabhakar Rao, President, NSAI, Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority, Hyderabad, Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad, Project Director, Indian Institute of Seed Science, Mau, U.P., Dr. Ravindra Babu, Project Director, IIRR and Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi, Project Director, IIMR, Hyderabad.

The workshop was started with the invocation song followed by lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest and all the dignitaries followed by the formal welcome address by the Director, TSSOCA, Hyderabad.



Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA, Hyderabad and the convener of the workshop, welcomed the chief guest, guests of honor and all the dignitaries and delegates. He has given a brief introduction and importance of OECD seed certification. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1958, Secretariat at Paris (France) provides a multilateral forum to discuss, develop and reform economic and social policies. The OECD's mission is to

promote for sustainable economic growth and employment, a rising standard of living and trade liberalization. The OECD Seed Scheme is an International Seed Certification programme (Varietal identity and Varietal Purity) which is a voluntary, self-financing programme that serves as a bench mark in International Seed Trade.

The OECD and India have a longstanding relationship that has steadily developed since late 1990s. Today, India is an active key partner of the OECD varietal certification, participating in the work of over



10 Designated authorities and bodies in a multitude of policy areas. Since 2002, Officials of Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation, GOI, have regularly attended Ministerial Council Meeting dialogue sessions with non-OECD countries, and India is currently a member of the OECD Development Centre Governing Board. The relationship has enabled OECD member countries and non-member economies, who are increasingly engaged with India through trade and investment, to gain a better understanding of India as a major actor in the globalised economy.



There are 59 Participating countries including India, from Europe, North and South America, the Middle-East, Asia and Oceania currently participating in the OECD Seed Schemes. National Designated Authority has already nominated 10 State Seed Certification Agencies who are capable of operating the varietal certification process of OECD Seed Schemes in our country as Designated Authorities by considering their technical and administrative facilities. Designated Authorities (DA's) are responsible for OECD Varietal certification system in India. Among the ten DAs carrying varietal certification under OECD Seed Schemes in India, TSSOCA is the one with an area of operation in four different states viz., Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Chattisgarh.

Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority is delighted to report that the registration of crops has been initiated and express gratitude to Shri M. Prabhakar Rao, CMD, M/s. Nuziveedu Seeds, Hyderabad which is the first and foremost company to register the basic seed of Maize crop with an area of 10 acres under OECD seed certification.

The concept for the future of the OECD Seed Schemes is "Better policies for better lives". Commercial sector recognizes and builds on the values associated with international trade in

certified seed which, in turn is driving the need for more countries to formalize their membership and participation within the schemes. It will be extremely important for the schemes to recognise the need to adopt a pro-active approach in reviewing the schemes future strategic direction, methods of engagement and the rules providing the basis upon which official seed varietal certification is provided. This will be necessary for the schemes in order to not only keep pace with and embrace technical and technology developments but to also address challenges arising from an expanded operating base and better facilitation and resolution of commercial needs in a timely manner. A clear focus on the core values of the schemes purpose and role in the provision of modern technical rules upon which participating countries provide official seed varietal certification with integrity will act as the primary basis for making progress happen.

In his welcome remarks, he also stressed that in view of changing world scenario and to improve the global exports OECD is the key for the success of the varietal certification programme and provides an opportunity to all the stake holders to have an access in international trade. He expressed his desire to participate in the present workshop whole heartedly and have through discussions in the two technical sessions - consisting of discussion on OECD seed schemes and its implementation and a panel discussion to prepare a way forward to accelerate seed exports under OECD seed schemes. He thanked each and every one for their keen interest and for taking pain to come from all corners of the country.

Shri C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Secretary (A&C), Govt. of Telangana, in his introductory remarks once again welcomed all delegates and thanked Shri Pocharam Srinivas Reddy garu, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Allied sectors, for his interest in seed workshop.

He highlighted the importance of quality seed, seed replacement rate and seed multiplication ratio to increase the production of quality seed. He enlightened that India became one of the OECD member in 2009 and that OECD has international linkages for seed exports and imports. India's contribution to global market is only 2% and most of the seed produced is being used domestically. He stressed the importance of seed certification and OECD seed certificate for seed exports. He called upon the seed industry to rise to the level of export capacity. He emphasized that implementation of OECD programme provides an opportunity to farmers to improve their skills and thereby increase their income levels. It helps to add employment opportunity. He indicated that farmers and seed industry should be encouraged to participate for vegetable seed production under OECD seed scheme. He has given certain suggestions like:



- Registration of varieties with time limit and development of a mechanism for quicker and time bound approval of the list.
- There should be certain annual budget allotment for the designated authority and suggested to identify a lead designated authority to monitor the scheme
- He stressed the need to train farmers in OECD seed procedures and help to improve their standards of life.
- He suggested NSC, SSDC to rope in the OECD seed schemes and strengthen the seed certification of NSC, OECD & TSSOCA to benefit farming community in the state for continuation of OECD programme.

He announced that Government of Telangana is planning to conduct a two day International workshop in the month of December, 2016 and ISTA workshop in the month of February, 2017. As Chairman of Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority, he is pleased to declare that the Director of TSSOCA Dr. K. Keshavulu has been elected as the Governing Board Member of the ISTA for the period of four years (2016-19) in the 31st ISTA seed congress held at Tallin, Estonia on June 21, 2016. He is the first ever Indian to be elected as Governing member of prestigious International Seed Organization. It is indescribable to state that the Director, Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority is the only Designated Member of ISTA in the entire country. He appreciated Dr. K. Keshavulu for his achievement and noteworthy contributions in strengthening the state seed sector.



Finally, he called upon the delegates for their active participation to resolve and clarify doubts and draw a concrete road map for implementation of OECD seed schemes in the country.



Dr. V. Praveen Rao, Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU stressed the importance of capacity building to all the stake holders on procedural and production aspects for export of quality seed under OECD seed scheme. He also suggested the testing and evaluation of new varieties covered under OECD, in India and also in the participating countries.

Dr. M. Prabhakar Rao, President, NSAI and MD, M/s. Nuziveedu Seeds Private limited emphasized that there is a tremendous potential for production of quality seed in the country and have sufficient capacity for production of quality seed to meet the export potential. He informed the house that OECD seed certification also benefits the seed growing farmers and industry and enhances the potential of India in producing quality seed and to accelerate international seed trade.



Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary (Seeds) has stated that though OECD was established in 1958 it could not make much lead way due to lack of ownership, clear cut understanding of the procedures and advantages of OECD etc. The OECD Seed Schemes provide an international frame work for certification of agriculture seed moving in International trade. Keeping in view, the growth of the seed sector in the country, the Government of India has become the member of OECD Seed Schemes in October, 2008 with

an aim to improve the international seed trading share to 10%. He announced that OECD provides a platform to all the stakeholders to have an access to international market and suggested the dire need to establish ISTA accredited labs and facilities to issue phyto-sanitary certificates for seed exports and imports. He appreciated the action taken by the Govt. of Telangana for organizing National Level Meeting on OECD Seed Certification for all DAs and other stakeholders to accelerate and hoped that the discussion and deliberations of this meeting would come into shape of recommendations, which surely support the Indian Seed Industry to accelerate the export of seed.

Hon'ble Agril. Minister Shri Pocharam Srinivas Reddy garu

stressed the importance of quality seed production and OECD seed certificate from the view point of beneficiary i.e., farmer, as it helps in increasing the income and growth of the farmer. He expressed his thanks to GOI for giving an opportunity to organize this workshop in the seed capital. He stated that Telangana State has the seed processing capacity of 650 metric tonnes per hour which is highest in the world and



provides employment to 70,000 among the 2 lakhs farmers involved in seed production. Keeping this in view, Govt. of Telangana is strengthening SCA, HACCA, and also providing additional budget for seed chain programme for Breeder seed, Foundation seed and Certified seed. He also requested Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh to establish Central Seed Testing Laboratory and ISTA Cell at Hyderabad to cater the needs of the southern states and seed industry and to improve international linkages. He repeatedly urged seed companies to discourage the marketing of spurious seeds. He also advised Dr. M. Prabhakar Rao, President, NSAI to produce more quantity of vegetable seeds for domestic and international seed trade. He appreciated Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA for his achievement of electing as Governing Board Member for ISTA and his noteworthy contributions in strengthening the state seed sector and advised the Joint Secretary (Seeds) to involve Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA in National Seed Programmes, Quality Control Programmes and Seed Science Research activities for strengthening Indian seeds quality control system, Seed Programmes and for International Seed Trade.

Later, a Promo on TSSOCA and OECD seed certification was released by the organizers followed by felicitation to Chief guest and to Shri M. Prabhakar Rao MD, NSL and President National Seed Association, New Delhi as mark of gratitude for being the first and foremost company to register the basic seed of Maize crop with an area of 10 acres under OECD seed certification. The inaugural session concluded with the formal vote of thanks.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Two technical sessions were designed for the workshop. The technical session –I consists of the following talks followed by technical session II consisting of panel discussion.

Technical Session-I

S. No.	Topic	Name
1	OECD Seed Scheme: Latest Development at Global Level :	Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA
2	Overview and Status of OECD Seed Schemes in India :	Shri R.K. Trivedi Former Dy. Commissioner (QC), Govt. of India
3	Indian Seed Certification Systems vis-a-vis OECD Seed Certification :	Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad Director, IISS
4	Modus Operandi to Register New Varieties in OECD list :	Shri D.S. Misra Dy. Commissioner (QC) Govt. of India
5	Maintenance of Pre-Basic, Basic Seed & Seed Quality Control under OECD Seed Schemes :	Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi Director, IIMR

Technical Session-II : Panel Discussion

Theme: Way forward to accelerate Seed Exports under OECD Seed schemes

Panel discussion

Chairman	:	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, IAS Joint Secretary (Seeds), Govt. of India
Co-Chairs	:	Shri C. Partha Sarathi, IAS APC & Secretary (A&C) Govt. of Telangana Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad Director, IISS Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi, Director IIMR, Hyderabad
Members	:	Shri R.K. Trivedi Former Dy. Commissioner (QC) Govt. of India Dr. D. Raji Reddy Director of Research PJ TSAU, Hyderabad Shri Niranjan Kumar, SMA, Hyderabad Shri K. Ramana Murthy, APSSCA, A.P. Shri Rajvir Rathi, Bayer Crop Science Shri S.S.B. Raju, Sagi Seeds, Hyderabad

TECHNICAL SESSION-I

Chairman : Shri R.K. Singh, IAS, Joint Secretary (Seeds)
DAC, GOI, New Delhi.

Co-Chairs : Shri C. Partha Sarathi, IAS
APC & Secretary (A&C), Govt. of Telangana.
Dr. V. Ravindra Babu, Director, IIRR, Hyderabad.



Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA talked about "OECD Seed Schemes: Developments at Global Level". He explained about the importance of OECD in facilitating international seed trade, its objectives and a brief overview of the OECD scheme and the developments at global level with regard to OECD seed scheme. He highlighted the following points:

- Genesis of OECD seed scheme and its member countries and their seed schemes.
- OECD varietal certification and its objectives and frame work to develop seed production with other countries or companies.
- Imports and exports can be done by maintaining seed quality by following agreed principles on authorized use of labels and certificates for the seed produced and processed for International seed trade.
- OECD varietal scheme and its procedures such as field inspections, pre and post control tests for maintaining quality of pre-basic and basic seed.
- A close collaboration between public and private sectors, exchange of information between seed agencies and organizations helps in implementation of OECD scheme for International seed trade.
- Mentioned about importance of updating the list of eligible varieties/hybrids for export and its publication and availability on OECD website. He explained that there are about 200 species with >70,000 varieties included in the list.
- National Designated Authority will implement OECD certification by identifying eligible varieties and by conducting post – control tests.
- He mentioned and given clarification about different classes of seeds and labels used.
- Stressed the need of availability of a hand book on rules and regulations, standard operating procedures of OECD seed schemes and seed standards need to be make available (online) to all the stake holders to have an updated information on OECD seed scheme.
- Projected the Outcomes of 2016 annual meeting: Separation of the maize and sorghum seed scheme, Preparation of the guidelines for implementation of inclusion of new countries etc.
- Emphasized on the main outcome of Joint OECD/UPOV/ISTA/AOSA workshop on BMT and that India has to adopt the use of molecular markers as a legal test in future to identify the genetic purity.

- He highlighted that OECD varietal certification can be implemented, rightly if provided sufficient budget to the concerned DAs'.
- He requested the DAs' to immediately start the scheme for seed exports as implementation is very easy if we maintain the genetic identity and follow quality control procedures as we are having a strong internal seed certification system.
- Emphasized constitution of OECD Expertize Committee and region wise master trainers should be identified from SAU's, ICAR institutions and SCA's to offer capacity building programmes.



Shri R.K. Trivedi, Former Dy. Commissioner (QC), DAC, GOI in his presentation on "Overview and status of OECD Seed Schemes in India"

- Informed that guidelines were already formulated in the form of manual and this is the time to follow practically.
- He mentioned the procedures under OECD seed schemes and stressed that any seed producer can start seed production under the scheme provided that seed producer maintain seed quality through proper sampling.
- He cleared that there are 182 varieties in 24 crops being listed under OECD scheme in our country. List of the varieties should be revised annually depending on the potentiality of the variety for export.
- Much progress could not be made due to lack of regulatory system, lack of documentation and the ways and means to proceed with OECD seed certification.
- He emphasized that OECD is a quality guaranteed system to ensure traceability and purity of seed.
- Suggested to identify a lead DA s in the country for supervision and monitoring of the varieties in the country and expedite the enlisting varieties in the OECD varietal list.
- He focussed efforts should be given by giving one SSCA the lead role and setting up a Task Force-tie up with seed industry.
- As way ahead, he suggested frequent interaction of NDA with lead SSCA for standards, categories of seed labelling-testing.



- One of the DA or NDA should be given EU equivalence for marketing of labelled seeds under OECD.

Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad, Director, IISS, Mau, U.P. in his presentation on "Indian Seed Certification Systems vis-à-vis OECD Seed Certification"

- Clearly brought out and clarified the differences between the existing Indian system and OECD system of certification and where we can harmonise the rules.

- He emphasized that ISTA standards should be followed as against IMSCS for seed exports.
- He insisted that criteria for validity and revalidation period, preceding crop requirements should be discussed on.
- Suggested to look into the scope to include/decide validity period from the date of harvest and criteria for revalidation.
- Suggested that it is necessary to harmonize Indian standards and OECD and ISTA standards to facilitate seed trade.
- SAUs, BSP / various ICAR seed projects should be assisted to evolve a basic seed maintenance plan in relation to DUS characters to have pure seed in order to meet the seed standards..
- He has given a clarification on different classes of seed and labels used.
- It is the time for the National Designated Authority to implement OECD by identifying eligible varieties and maintaining seed quality by and conducting pre and post control tests.



Dr. D.S. Misra, Dy. Commissioner (QC) in his talk on “Emerging challenges and issues vis-a-vis OECD scheme”

- Stressed that the varieties in the national catalogue should meet VCU (Value for Cultivation and Use), and criteria of DUS and inclusion of the same in national catalogue.
- We have to gear up ourselves to face challenges posed due to climate change, advancement of biotechnology and change in consumer preferences, in such a way that we have to produce seeds of new types and to have international seed certification system for vegetable seeds.
- Strengthening and implementation of the existing international seed certification system for vegetable seeds.
- Harmonization of certification procedures at International level.

Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi, Director, IIMR, Hyderabad during his presentation on “Maintenance of Pre-Basic, Basic Seed & Seed Quality Control under OECD Seed Schemes” highlighted the practical aspects of OECD schemes implementation like

- The system of OECD system is viable based on VCU of enlisted few important varieties.
- Seed standards required by the importing country are to be maintained in the seed crop.
- Selection of suitable varieties for export and following pre control test to study trait purity in the pre basic seed is essential.
- Suggested the importance of quality control aspects with reference to maintenance of disease free seed with 0% level of disease incidence in all classes of the seed being exported.
- He suggested for more funding to DA/SCA with due emphasis given to capacity building.

- Public and private, SAU's and DA's should work in coordination to maintain seed standards under OECD scheme.



- International system of OECD aims for standards acceptable for importing country.
- Stressed upon the maintenance of pre-basic, basic and seed quality control under OECD seed certification

TECHNICAL SESSION-II

The technical session-II is a panel discussion on "Way forward to accelerate seed exports under OECD Seed Scheme".

Chairman : Shri R.K. Singh, IAS, Joint Secretary, DAC, GOI, New Delhi.

Co-Chairs : Shri C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Secretary (A&C), Govt. of Telangana.

Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad, Director, IISS, Mau, U.P.

Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi, Director, IIMR, Hyderabad.

Following are the highlights of the discussions emerged out from the panel members.



Shri Rajvir Rathi, Bayer Crop Science

- Suggested the need for working together in cooperation and coordination.
- Creation of separate export promotion council and need to harmonize and work efficiently.
- Earmark dedicated areas for seed production.
- Suggested effective single window system for clearance of export proposals, passage of New Seed Bill and BRAI bill, improve intellectual property protection and simplify the movement of germplasm for R&D and requested for tax support to the industry.

Shri C. Partha Sarathi, APC & Secretary (A&C), Govt. of Telangana

- Need to have sufficient knowledge on procedures in implementation of the system.
- Understand various issues in the implementation of the system.
- Implementation of OECD varietal certification in a participatory mode by active involvement of stakeholders/ DA's/ Institutions / knowledgeable personnel.
- A committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Seeds) has to be constituted to review and to monitor the progress of OECD Certification once in 3 months and take necessary action for smooth implementation of OECD Seed Certification for global seed trade.
- Need an action plan with future vision.

Dr. D.Raji Reddy, Director of Research, PJTSAU, Hyderabad.



- He suggested that for successful implementation of OECD in TS & India one should take the advantage of climate change, delineation of seed producing zones for export purpose, and identification of crop specific areas with special focus on redgram, pearl millet and corn are necessary.
- There is a need to reemphasize on standard operating procedures for export purpose.
- He opined that for farming to be viable one should concentrate on seed production in field and vegetable crops and it should be taken in lines of export purposes.
- Technological tools like to be developed for monitoring quality aspects.
- He also suggested to identify seed agencies and seed export hubs to create awareness and sensitize the farmers.
- Shri R.K. Trivedi, Director, NSRTC, Former Registrar, PPV & FRA & Ex-Dy. Commissioner (QC), DAC, GOI
- All the STLs in the country have to be audited by the experts who are well versed with seed testing procedures as per ISTA procedure to improve the infrastructure facilities and human resources. It should be done annually and need to be discussed at the national level every year. In this regard, the Government of India may have to direct all states for their budget requirement each year.
- At present, there is only one referral laboratory at CSTL, Varanasi. There is need to establish two more referral laboratories and training institutes at Hyderabad to cater the needs of Southern and Central states.
- Stressed that any seed producer can start seed production under the scheme provided that seed producer maintain seed quality through proper production, sampling and seed testing procedures.

- As way ahead, he suggested frequent interaction of NDA with lead SSC for standards, categories of seed labelling-testing, enlisting varieties etc. He suggested focussed efforts should be given by giving one SSCA the lead role and setting up a Task Force-tie up with seed industry.
- One of the DA or NDA should be given EU equivalence for marketing of labelled seeds under OECD.

Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad, Director, IISS, Mau, U.P.

- Suggested to implement the OECD with existing facilities and train up all the institutions for effective functioning of the implementation of OECD system.
- In new seed bill lots of exemptions are there however, clarifications with regards to seed standards are necessary.

Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi, Director, IIMR, Hyderabad

- Indicated that for OECD to work pro-actively the two bottle necks namely the pre and post control tests should be implemented strictly.
- He suggested the mode of OECD varietal Certification should be more participatory
- Designated Authorities / institutions should be part of strict monitoring process.
- Capacity building and linking the seed industry with various institutions for varietal testing has to be encouraged.

Shri Niranjan Kumar, Seedsmen Association, Hyderabad

- Suggested that autonomous seed export promotion council should be started and
- Involvement of experienced / knowledgeable personnel in implementation of OECD scheme is necessary.



Sri K. Ramana Murthy, APSSCA, A.P.



- Suggested action plan with future vision and a road map with step wise procedures should be prepared.
- It is necessary to establish and upgrade infrastructural facilities.
- List of varieties desirable by stake holders should be furnished to State Certification Agencies.
- He also emphasized the importance of capacity building through developed countries and also to have exchange visits for better understanding of the procedures.

- **Shri S.S.B. Raju, Sagi Seeds** emphasized the development of testing facilities to vegetable crops and establishment of phyto-sanitary testing procedures and issue of certificate for seed exports



Interaction session

- During the interaction session, most of the participants posed queries with regard to the following aspects:
- The characteristic features along with their photographs of the varieties listed in the national list under OECD Scheme should be displayed.
- Enlisting and updating of OECD Certification eligible varieties/hybrids.
- Establishment of ISTA accredited laboratories for conducting quality tests to maintain international seed standards for seed quality assessment and OECD seed certification.
- Creation of facilities for testing designated seed borne diseases which facilitates to issue phyto-sanitary certificates for seed exports and imports.
- A hand book on rules and regulations and seed standards need to be made available (atleast online) to all the stake holders to have an updated information on OECD seed scheme and to create awareness.



In conclusion, the workshop was resolved with the special remarks and observations of Principal Secretary. Shri C. Partha Sarathi, APC & Secretary and Chairman of TSSOCA appreciated Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director of TSSOCA and the entire Technical staff of TSSOCA for their efforts in making the programme a grand success. All the committees involved in the workshop have performed their duties with commitment and loyalty thus paving the way in accomplishing the given work. Hope this workshop provided all with a very useful platform to exchange information, ideas and to take policy decisions in the country that may have a way for effective implementation of OECD seed schemes for the varietal certification in India.

The workshop closed with the formal vote of thanks by Smt. M. Vijitha Reddy, Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority, Hyderabad.

Based on the above lead presentations, the following points were emerged to prepare road map for implementation of OECD Varietal Certification system in India.

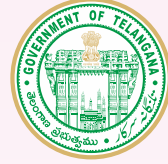
Recommendations for implementation of OECD Seed Schemes

1. **Enlisting of OECD Certification Eligible Varieties/Hybrids:** The official OECD national list of varieties/hybrids with Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) have to be updated at quarterly basis and published in the official website of NDA.
2. **Testing of Indian varieties/ hybrids in the participating countries:** In order to encourage seed industry for international seed trade, it is very much needed to have linkages with organizations like EU, ISF, ISTA & AOSA.
3. **Delineation of Seed Production Zones and identification of seed export hubs:** For successful implementation of OECD in India, taking the advantage of climate change, identification of crop specific area with special focus on crops/ varieties eligible for export is the need of the hour.
4. **Identification of Lead Designated Authority:** Lead Designated Authority need to be identified to monitor / supervise the progress in implementation of OECD procedures for quality seed exports and for entrusting the responsibility of supply of OECD seed labels for the entire country. Further, it should be given responsibility of conducting capacity building programmes on OECD certification. This center will provide training to all stake holders of the seed industry to create awareness about OECD seed schemes, rules and regulations, step wise procedures, pre and post control tests, maintenance and adoption of field and seed standards, authorized use of labels and certificates, issues in the implementation of the system, export policies and international trade.
5. **Setting up a National Task Force Committee:** A committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Seeds) has to be constituted with 5-6 experts from the Seed Certification Agencies, Seed Industries, Agricultural Universities/ICAR, NSC, to review and to monitor the progress of OECD Certification once in 3 months and take necessary action for smooth implementation of OECD Seed Certification for global seed trade. Preparation of action plan with future vision and a road map with step wise procedures is essential.
6. **Strict Quality Control:** Implementation of strict quality control regime and compliance with the international seed standards is required in terms of meeting the requirements of maintenance of pre-basic and basic seed, criteria of registration, sampling procedures and pre and post control tests.
7. **Participatory Mode of OECD Varietal Certification:** Implementation of OECD varietal certification in a participatory mode by active involvement of stakeholders/ DA's/Institutions / knowledgeable personnel.
8. **Strengthening and Implementation of International Certification System for Vegetable Seeds:** In view of climate change, biotechnological advancements and consumer preferences, demand for vegetables and release of new types it is necessary to strengthen and implement International Certification System for vegetable seeds.
9. **Financial Support:** Extending financial assistance to Designated Authorities/ SCA's for effective implementation of OECD Seed Scheme. A definite annual budget must be allocated to all the Designated Authorities for meeting the expenditure towards the implementation of OECD Seed Schemes until the seed schemes takes off.

10. **Establishment of ISTA Accredited Laboratories:** Establishment of ISTA accredited laboratories is necessary for conducting quality tests to maintain international seed standards for seed quality assessment and OECD seed certification. At least one STL in each state should have facilities for testing designated seed borne diseases which facilitates to issue phytosanitary certificates for seed exports and imports.
11. **OECD Country Exchange Visits:** Delegation of team from seed industry, NDA, DA and policy makers need to be visited to the OECD member countries (major as well as small member countries) to study the ongoing OECD seed schemes.
12. **Strengthening of Seed Organizations:** Strengthening of State SCAs, Seed Farms, SSDC's and State co-operatives in terms of budget, infrastructural facilities, adequate technical manpower in organizing systematic seed production programmes.
13. **Manual on OECD Varietal Certification in India:** A hand book on rules and regulations, standard operating procedures of OECD seed schemes and seed standards need to be make available (online) to all the stake holders to have an updated information on OECD seed scheme and to create awareness on validity period, preceding crop requirements, minor pests and diseases etc.
14. **Creation of Seed Export Promotion Council:** Creation of export promotion council and implementation of single window system for effective clearance of Seed export proposals.
15. **National Level Workshop:** It was decided to organize a two days National level workshop by involving Chair of OECD varietal certification and other experts from other OECD countries, all DAs, State Seed Certification Agencies, State Seed Corporations, National Seed Corporation, seed technology experts from SAU and ICAR, seed industry and policy makers in the month of December, 2016 at Hyderabad.
16. **Governing Body Member:** Involvement of Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA and Member of Governing Body of ISTA in National Seed Programmes, Quality Control Programmes and seed science research activities for strengthening Indian seed quality control system, seed programmes and for international seed trade.
17. **Auditing of STLs:** All the STLs in the country have to be audited by the experts who are well versed with seed testing procedures as per ISTA guidelines to improve the infrastructure facilities and human resources. It should be done annually and need to be discussed at the national level every year. In this regard, the Government of India may have to direct all states for their budget requirement each year.
18. **Region wise Referral Laboratories and Training Centers:** At present, there is only one referral laboratory at CSTL, Varanasi. There is need to establish two more referral laboratories and training institutes at Hyderabad to cater the needs of Southern and Central states.
19. **Announcement of ISTA workshops:** There is a need to organize ISTA workshops on Variety identification and GMO Purity Testing at Hyderabad by involving foreign delegates from ISTA to improve capacities in seed quality control of the country during February 2017.
20. **ISTA 2019 Seed Congress:** In view of the proposals of Govt. of India for organizing ISTA 2019 Seed Congress at Hyderabad, the preparatory action has to be initiated for organizing the Seed Congress. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture & Cooperation, Telangana has proposed to establish an ISTA Cell in Telangana, in view of increasing the export potential in the State by improving the International Linkages in Seed Trade.

Felicitation





Telangana State Seed & Organic Certification Authority

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
Government of Telangana

in collaboration with
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
Government of India

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