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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
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Trade and Agriculture Directorate
Committee for Agriculture

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OECD Scheme for the Certification of Forest Reproductive Material Moving in International Trade

Draft Summary Record of the Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme

29-30 September 2010, Paris. France

This Draft Summary Record of the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Forest Seed and Plant Scheme held on 29-30 September 2010 is circulated to all Delegates and Observers of the Scheme.

Delegates and Observers are invited to send their comments on the Draft to the Secretariat by 15 November 2010.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

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English - Or. English

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE OECD FOREST SEED AND PLANT SCHEME

29-30 SEPTEMBER 2010, PARIS, FRANCE

1. Opening remarks by the OECD Secretariat

Mr. Wayne Jones, Head of Agro-Food Trade and Market Department and Mr. Michael Ryan, Head of the OECD Codes and Schemes Unit welcomed Delegates and opened the meeting. Mr Jones informed the Meeting on the extension of the OECD with 4 new member countries, on the enhanced engagement programme and the outcome of the 2010 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting. Mr. Dimitris Diakosavvas introduced the OECD Green Growth Strategy and its relevance to the forestry sector.

2. Adoption of the Agenda [TAD/CA/F/A(2010)2]

The draft agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of Draft Summary Records

a) 2009 Annual Meeting [TAD/CA/F/M(2009)2]

Delegates approved the Summary Record of the 2009 Annual Meeting.

b) 2009 Technical Working Group Meeting, Kigali, Rwanda [TAD/CA/F/M(2009)1]

Delegates approved the Summary Record of the 2009 Technical Working Group Meeting.

c) 2010 Technical Working Group Meeting, Purdue University, US [TAD/CA/F/M(2010)1]

Delegates approved the Summary Record of the 2010 Technical Working Group Meeting which was held at Purdue University on 4-6 May 2010.

4. Report on the Meeting of the Bureau

Mr. Michael Ryan informed the delegations on the outcome of the Meeting of the Bureau held on 28 September 2010. The meeting focused on the preparation of the 2010 Annual Meeting, the 2011/12 Biennial Programme of Work and Budget and the date and place of the meeting in 2011. It was also mentioned that the OECD will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2011 and the next 2011 Annual Meeting would be organised in the framework of this event in Paris.

5. Participating countries, other interested countries [TAD/CA/F/(2010)1]

The OECD Secretariat informed Delegates that there were no changes in the number of Member countries over the last year. The Secretariat invited 17 observer countries to the Annual Meeting, as part of the promotion of the Scheme. Indonesia, Korea accepted the invitation and informed the Annual Meeting on the FRM certification system in their countries.

The Indonesian Delegation gave an overview on the forest sector in Indonesia. They informed the Meeting that they built up the national FRM certification system based on the OECD Scheme between 2000 and 2006. Indonesia adopted the Danish system with the help of the Danish Government. They expressed interest in joining the Scheme. However they need to consult further with the Ministry of Finance on the benefits of a possible membership.

The Secretariat informed the Indonesian delegation on the application process. They need to send an official application letter to the Secretary General of the OECD. They also need to provide information on the national FRM certification system to the Secretariat. An evaluation mission needs to be organised in order to confirm the received information and to finalise the evaluation report. The report will be presented to the Annual Meeting which will discuss it with the view of its recommendation for adoption. The Committee for Agriculture need to endorse the report before its submission to the OECD Council for final adoption. The OECD Secretariat also informed the Indonesian delegation on the method of calculation of the annual membership's fee. An estimation of the fee can be provided to Indonesia, for request. The Indonesia will discuss their possible accession in the capital and inform the Secretariat on the outcome.

Korea also gave an overview on the national FRM certification system. The Delegate mentioned that 55% of the country is covered by forest. The national system is slightly different from the OECD system. They recognise two types of basic materials; stand and seed orchard. The source-identified category does not exist in the country. 13 species are covered by the certification system. The most important species are *Quercus* ssp. and *Pinus* ssp. The Korean Delegate informed the Meeting that they have FRM import from the US, mainly *Liriodendron tulipifera* and timber from Russia. However the forest seed exchange is not significant. They would like to fully harmonise the national system with the OECD rules in the near future.

6. Secretariat's activity report [TAD/CA/F/RD(2010)1]

The OECD Secretariat informed delegates on the activities since the 2009 Meeting and on the budget and the programme of work of the Scheme.

Mrs. Boissonnade updated the meeting on the situation of arrears for 2009 contributions and previous years. It was mentioned that one country still has some outstanding payments. To solve the problem of old arrears, the Secretariat submitted a proposal to use the Codes and Schemes financial reserves and write off old arrears from 1997 to 2006, which would be about 9K€. The Secretariat reported that this proposal was discussed at the Bureau meeting. The Bureau recommended to the Annual Meeting to use the OECD reserve fund in order to pay off all outstanding arrears prior to 2006. This reserve fund was build up when Codes and Schemes were a Part I programme, and can be used only for the purpose of outstanding arrears.

The Bureau's recommendation on the management of arrears has been approved. The reserve fund will be used to cover outstanding arrears from 1997 to 2001.

The Secretariat reported to the meeting the template for the 2011/2012 Programme of Work and Budget showing the expected output results and the provisional budget envelope from 2011 to 2012.

This draft PWB has been developed following discussions with the Bureau and Delegates early this year. The budget proposal of 4% increase in 2011 and 4% in 2012 was approved under the written

procedure in April 2010. The aim of this proposed increase is to try to maintain the level of services and to support the cost increases on overhead charges, etc. The Secretariat reported that this Draft Programme of Work and Budget has been presented to the Committee of Agriculture in June 2010 and it will be submitted to the Budget Committee for approval in November and then to Council in December 2010.

Mr. Eric Espinasse made a presentation on the new Clearspace application. This is an interactive communication website, where all working documents (TAD/CA/F/WD), presentations, technical information will be uploaded. Delegations will also have possibility to initiate online discussions. The website has already established and available. All authorised persons can have access to Clearspace. Delegates can use their OLIS or MyOECD login and password. Mr. Espinasse sent an email to all participants with all information on Clearspace after the meeting.

7. Draft proposal on incorporating the Qualified category into the Scheme [TAD/CA/F(2010)3]

The OECD Secretariat presented the draft proposal on incorporating the qualified category into the Scheme. The proposal was developed after two years of discussion taking into account different certification policies in the Member countries.

The European Commission, on behalf of the EU Member countries, supported the proposal. However they recommended some editorial changes to the text. Delegations discussed these editorial changes and the meaning of provenances in the definition of the qualified category. Provenance, in general, means a place from where the FRM is originated, but in the definition it refers to the material itself. After a long and comprehensive discussion, it was agreed to keep the definition of the qualified category unchanged. However the Technical Working Group should review it at its next meeting in 2011.

Delegates approved all editorial modifications made during the discussions and recommended the proposal for adoption. The Secretariat will prepare the revised document [TAD/CA/F(2010)3/REV1] and submit the proposal to the Committee for Agriculture for endorsement and for the Council for final adoption in October 2010.

8. Adaptation of the Scheme for the conditions in tropical countries [TAD/CA/F(2009)3/REV2]

The OECD Secretariat introduced the document summarising the three years of discussion on the adaptation of the Scheme for conditions in tropical countries. The main proposal in the document was the addition of a new Appendix I. to the Scheme's Rules on minimum requirements for the approval of basic material intended for the production of reproductive material to be certified as source- identified.

Delegates discussed and recommended the proposal for adoption without any changes in the substance of the text. However, some small technical correction was made on the text during the Meeting and the Secretariat will prepare the post session document [TAD/CA/F(2009)3/REV3]. The Secretariat will submit the proposal to the Committee for Agriculture for endorsement and for the Council for final adoption in October 2010. Delegates also requested to merge the two proposals on the inclusion of the qualified category and on the adaptation of the Scheme for the conditions in tropical countries into one compound document for clarification. The compound document will be circulated to the participants for information before the two proposals will be submitted to the Committee for Agriculture.

9. Draft Action Plan of the Scheme [TAD/CA/F(2010)4]

The OECD Secretariat introduced the draft Action Plan. The document provided information on the implementation of the adopted strategic plan. It was mentioned that the draft Action Plan is an open

document and will be annually discussed and updated according to the status of the implementation of each action and the revised priority order.

The Meeting discussed the draft Action Plan in detail. Delegations decided to give higher priority to action C)1, on the establishment of questionnaires to understand needs and expectations of Members and to action C)2 on the development of a newsletter. It was mentioned that a newsletter would mean added value to Members but it could also be used in the promotion of the Scheme. It was also agreed that the cooperation with other international organisations, such as FAO, on capacity building activities is a high priority.

The Secretariat will revise the draft Action Plan taking into account the comments and the developments in the activities. The revised document will be submitted to the 2011 Annual Meeting for information and discussion.

10. Development of a relevant and more up to date database [TAD/CA/F/RD(2010)1/REV1; TAD/CA/F/RD(2010)5]

a) Presentation on the OECD Data Management System [TAD/CA/F/RD(2010)1/REV1]

The Secretariat introduced the document. The first part of the paper discussed the content of the database. Currently the OECD collects data on traded seeds and on available basic materials in the Member countries. Delegates discussed the possibility to collect more information on the basic material using the similar EU database as an example. After a detailed discussion delegates agreed that the currently available information on basic material is sufficient.

The document also proposed to collect information on the OECD label and provenance certificate. However, the Secretariat mentioned that the collection of this type of information would increase the workload, as each lot would appear in the database as a new record, instead of a summary of information. Delegates discussed the proposal and agreed to continue the data collection as at present and not deal with certificate numbers.

Mr. Frano Ilicic from the Secretariat made a presentation on the second part of the document which discussed the OECD data management and statistical system. He introduced the Seed Database which was recently developed and it could use as an example for the Forest Database. The new system would allow interactive data input, and automatic data analysis. The Members and all authorised parties could access to the data and statistics via the OECD website. They could use or create queries and download the tables and charts in different file formats. The database will be able to handle geographic information and display statistics on the map. However, the OECD is not planning to deal with detailed geo-coded maps which would be useful in the Forest database in general. It might be possible on an ad-hoc basis. The Secretariat informed delegates that the development of the Forest Database would start in 2011.

b) Pilot Document on the impact of using adjustment factors on the seed statistical data [TAD/CA/F/RD(2010)5]

Mr. Andrew Gordon, author of the document, introduced the study on the impact of using adjustment factors on the seed statistical data. He mentioned that the current statistics based on the weight of the traded seed not always reflect on the trade value of the seed. Therefore the aim of his study was to find a right adjustment factor to the collected weight data, which would give the best estimation on the trade value of the seed lots. This was a great challenge to find one factor as the forest seeds are very diverse and it is difficult to standardise them. He analysed the use of the number of seeds per kg, the number of germinable and viable seed per kg, and the number of seedling per kg. For the request of the Secretariat, Mr. Gordon also collected information on the value of a seeds in euro per kg for selected species. For the

analysis he used the 2007/08 seed trade data of France and Madagascar. He came to a conclusion that the value of the seed lots would be the best data to collect.

Delegates discussed the outcome of Mr. Gordon's presentation. Several countries mentioned that they cannot provide information on the price of the forest seeds as this is confidential information and their government does not collect such data. After a comprehensive discussion, delegations agreed to develop a table of different adjustment factors for forest tree species certified under the Scheme. This would be available for the Members. In this case they could adjust the seed weight data according to their need. A draft table could be developed during the next Technical Working Group Meeting.

11. Presentation of the Technical Working Group

Mr. Pierre Bouillon, as Chair of the Technical Working Group (TWG), informed Delegates on the work done by the TWG. He gave an update on each item which was discussed at the Technical Working Group Meeting on 28-29 September 2010. More detailed information on the TWG meeting is available in the summary record of the Meeting [TAD/CA/F/M(2010)2]

a) Development of common definitions:

- The TWG discussed and further developed the proposed commercial document and the table of definitions. The revised draft proposal will be circulated to the TWG which could propose a final draft to the 2011 Annual Meeting for adoption.

b) Short rotation plantations for Bioenergy and agroforestry and shrub species.

- The FAO Secretariat informed the TWG members on their activity on planted forests and on their Voluntary Guidelines on Planted Forest Management.
- The TWG proposed that as regards short rotation plantation, the Scheme should concentrate on the responsible use of forest reproductive materials and on the inclusion of advanced categories and new types of basic materials, such as clones and mixture of clones. There could also be a presentation on the use of different shrub species in short rotation plantation and on their certification background. The Annual Meeting was asked to give a mandate to the TWG to work further on these items.

c) Capacity building activities

- The FAO Secretariat informed the TWG that they support the participation of developing countries in the Scheme and are open for future cooperation and collaboration with the Scheme in capacity buildings. The EU, ISTA and the private sector could also be involved the capacity building activities.
- The Scheme could follow a 3 steps approach in capacity building:
 - *Step 1:* Invitation of potential member countries to training programmes in order to help them in the development of a national FRM certification system
 - *Step 2:* Experts from Member countries could visit the potential members to give them support in the development of their national FRM certification systems and to help them in the preparation to join the Scheme.

- *Step 3:* The new Members would get technical support from other Members.

The TWG will continue the work on the development of capacity building activities in 2011.

d) Marketing and Promotion of the Scheme to encourage new countries to join

- The Secretariat presented the current publications on the Codes and Schemes and on the Forest Scheme. The Scheme could develop a leaflet which could be short, précised and informative and would focus on the advantages of the participation in the Scheme's programmes. It should be simple and eye-catching. This leaflet could be sent around to the key people in possible member countries. The TWG will further work on the development of such leaflet.

e) Storage procedures for tree seeds and collecting and processing procedures in forestry seed production

- Mr. Fabio Gorian made a presentation on storage, collecting and processing procedures of forest seeds. During the discussion it was mentioned that the FAO have guidelines in this issues, however it was not updated in the last decades. It was proposed to the Annual Meeting to give a mandate to the TWG to start working on a draft guidelines on for collection, process and storage of forest seed

f) Potential future work

The Annual Meeting decided to give the following new tasks to the Technical Working Group for 2011:

- Explore the possibility to incorporate the tested category to the Scheme's rules as well as new types of basic materials, such as clones, mixtures of clones.
- Review the definition of the qualified category.
- Develop draft guidelines for collection, process and storage of forest seed.
- Examine the possibility for using the Scheme's rules for fruit trees.
- Discuss the possible consequences of new scientific results on the rules of the Scheme such as the effect of the environment on genotypes.

12. Update on the implementation of the 2007 Forest Scheme in Member countries

The participating Members gave an overview on the implementation of the current OECD Scheme in their countries. EU member countries mentioned that the EU certification system is more frequently used, especially in the trade within the EU. However, it was mentioned that the OECD system facilitates the trade with other Scheme's Member countries, as now the OECD and EU certification is equivalent. They reported trade mainly with Canada, US, Croatia and Serbia.

The representative of Canada mentioned that all tree seed lots were exported from British Columbia mostly under the source-identified category. However he supported the inclusion of the qualified category into the Scheme because there is a need for export from untested seed orchards.

The Croatian Delegate mentioned that they implement the OECD certification system for forest reproductive material and this is the main international reference in Croatia. He mentioned that they established a new supplier's register and also a new gene bank.

The representative of Norway mentioned that the international trade will be regulated and reduced in his country due to the new national legislation. He also mentioned that the legal rights issues of forest reproductive materials could be discussed in the TWG meetings as it is under discussion in Norway.

The Slovakian Delegate reported that the national Parliament adopted a modification to the National Law on Forestry. Tasks moved from the Forest Research Institute to the State Forest Authority which also means budget cuts. However the Slovak Designated Authority remained the same.

The Representative of Serbia mentioned that they fully adopted and applies the Scheme. Mr. Orlovic mentioned that they finalised the work on the delineation of region of provenances and the national list of basic material. He reported increase in trade of source-identified category forest seeds.

Mrs. Lolona Ramamonjisoa informed the Meeting that Madagascar adopted the Scheme in 1998 and the national legislation is based on the OECD rules. She mentioned that they recently started to implement a national genetic improvement programme. She welcomed the inclusion of the qualified category into the Scheme's rules. Mrs. Ramamonjisoa reported FRM export to Spain and France.

13. Update of statistics on the Forest Scheme

a) Weight of seed certified [TAD/CA/F/RD(2010)6]

The Secretariat introduced the statistics on traded seed for the period of 2008/2009. Denmark, Italy, Switzerland United States and Turkey were invited to send their data to the Secretariat in order to complete the document. It was mentioned that EU countries do not provide information on the trade of seeds certified under advanced categories. EU members confirmed that there is no legal and professional objection to provide information on the qualified and tested category. It was agreed that they will send these data to the Secretariat from 2011.

b) Summary list of approved basic material [TAD/CA/F/RD(2010)7]

The Secretariat introduced the document. It was mentioned that the website (www.oecd.org/tad/forest) was updated and the list is available online. However, the data of individual countries won't be published but it can be requested from the Secretariat.

14. Statement by International Organizations on recent developments

ISTA – International Seed Testing Association

Mr. Fabio Gorian gave an overview on the International Seed Testing Association. His presentation is available from the new Clearspace website (<https://community.oecd.org/community/tadcod/forest>). He also mentioned that the next Annual Meeting will be held in Japan on 13-16 June 2011.

ISF – International Seed Federation

Mr. Guy Sancey informed Delegates that the 2010 ISF Annual Meeting was held in the US. They discussed the more and more important phytosanitary problems with tree species (e.g. *Juniperus* sp.), which could effect the international trade between US and Europe. He emphasized the importance of the ISF and OECD work on the development of a common trade document and definition which could further

facilitate the trade. He also welcomed the inclusion of the qualified category into the Scheme's rule which is an important achievement from the trader's point of view. He informed the Meeting that the trade volume dropped by 35% last year as an effect of the economical crisis. It led to disappearance of companies. He also mentioned that more and more companies buy local FRM because of environmental issues and the international trade is decreasing.

EFNA – European Forest Nursery Association

Mr. Andrew Gordon informed delegates on the latest development in the work of EFNA. The last meeting was held in Denmark in June 2010. The next meeting will be in Budapest, Hungary. He reported market decrease as an effect of the recession and the completion of replanting programmes of storm damages in many countries. He emphasised the need of a standardised trade document which the OECD is currently working on. He reported an increase of seed and plant health problems. Ten new diseases and pests raised head in the last years and some of them became epidemic (e.g. Chalara fraxinea, citrus long - horned beetle) which causes many problems in nurseries but also in forests.

European Commission

Mr. Bruno Foletto, representative of the European Commission informed delegates that the EC regulation on marketing of FRM is under revision as part of the simplification policy in the European Union. At the moment the Commission evaluates the economical, social and environmental effects of the draft. They will develop the new text taking into account the results of this impact assessment. He mentioned that the EC plant health regulation is also under revision.

FAO – UN Food and Agricultural Organization

Mr. Oudara Souvannavong informed Delegates that the FAO Committee on Forestry will take place on 4-8 October 2010 in the framework of the World Forest Week. He mentioned that they finished the 2010 Global Forest Resources Assessment. He informed the Annual Meeting that the FAO supports the work of the Scheme as it is the only one international FRM certification system. He highlighted that it can be use not only for international trade but as a basis of a national forestry policy in developing countries. Therefore they support the participation of developing countries and cooperation could be established between the two organizations on capacity buildings.

15. Nomination of officers

Mr. Pierre Bouillon (France) will step down from the Bureau in 2011 after six years of excellent service. Delegates nominated Mr. Robert Karrfalt (USA) as incoming Vice-Chair and Chair of the Technical Working Group. Delegates thanked Mrs. Lolona Ramamonjisoa (Madagascar) for her excellent chairing of the Annual Meeting and the development of the Programme of Work. Mrs. Ramamonjisoa will remain vice-chair of the Annual Meeting for a further 2 year period. In 2011, Mr. Jean Gapusi (Rwanda) will take over as Chair.

16. Date and place of 2011 meeting of the OECD Forest Scheme

Delegates discussed and decided the Technical Working Group should meet twice in 2011 taking into account the amount of tasks. The Secretariat informed the Annual Meeting that the OECD will celebrate its 50th years anniversary in 2011. Therefore, it was decided that the 2011 Annual Meeting will be held in Paris on the last week of September. It will be 1.5 days preceded by 1.5 days Technical Working Group Meeting. The first TWG meeting will be held in late April 2010 in Paris.

17. Other business

The representative of the European Commission informed the Meeting that some of the EU member countries had difficulties to import FRM from some Scheme member countries. The OECD Certificate was issued by a body which was not recognized as Designated Authority in the OECD system as well as in the European legislation. After discussion with the exporting country it was recognized that the NDA delegated the task to this body, but the Secretariat was not aware of this decision. Therefore it was decided that the list of NDAs will be reviewed in 2011.

ANNEX I

2010 Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme

OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris – France

29-30 September 2010

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