OECD SEED SCHEMES

COVID-19 impacts on implementation of the International Treaty

15 September 2020.
OECD Seed Schemes

Established 1961 (OEEC - 1958)

8 Schemes

61 Participating countries as 2018

202 Species

62,000 varieties eligible for OECD certification

1.2 bn kg of OECD certified seed per year
Impacts of COVID-19 on the Seed Sector

• Surveys conducted in participating countries (April, May)

• Main challenges facing the seed sector:
  – Availability and cost of transport due to the reduced number of commercial flights
  – Fewer personnel available for production, transportation and documentation processes
  – Contraction in the market for plants and seeds (particularly ornamentals, due to the closure of garden centers and florists and a loss of contracts with key retailers)

• How long will the seed sector, farmers and consumers be feeling the impact of COVID-19?
Recommendations for policy makers

- The classification of the agriculture sector as “essential”
- Avoiding changes to the regulatory framework and technical barriers to trade is critical
- National Designated Authorities support the flexible implementation of the OECD Rules and Regulations
- Communication, collaboration and harmonisation of measures
Next steps for OECD Seed Schemes

• Continuous monitoring of the situation in participating countries (October survey)
• Guidelines for emergency situations
• Analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on international seed supply chains, including an in-depth case study of the Asian Seed Market
• Feasibility study on the digitalization of the OECD Seed Schemes
Thank you.

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