



# OECD SEED SCHEMES

COVID-19 impacts on implementation of the International Treaty

15 September 2020.

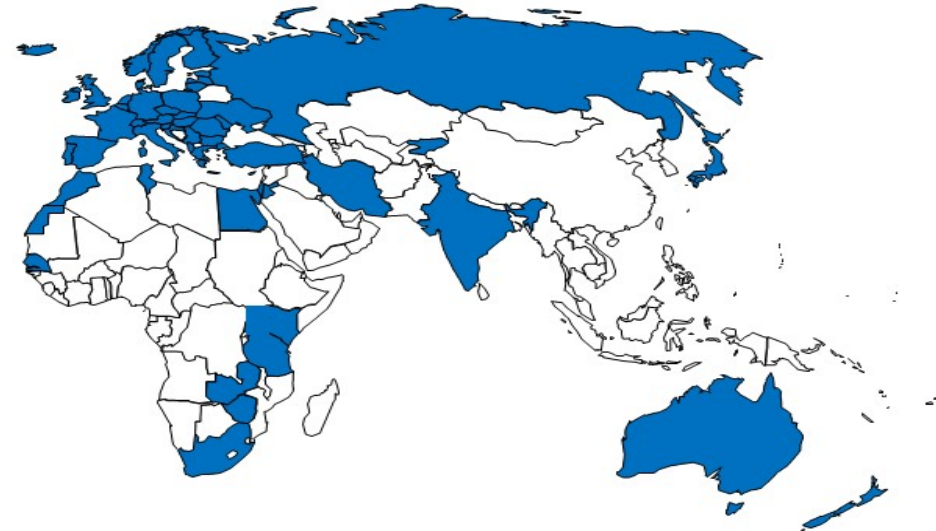


# OECD Seed Schemes

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

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- **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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