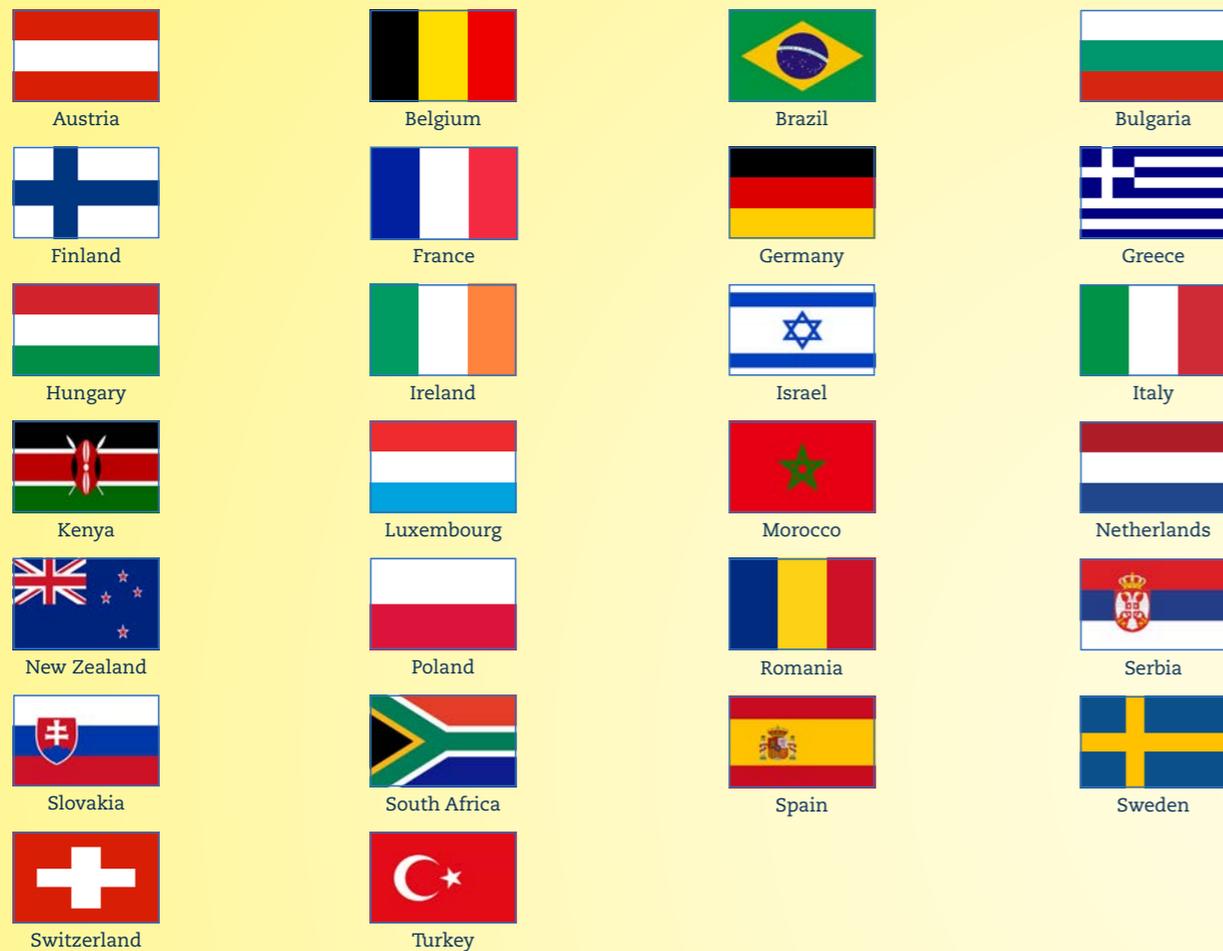


## 26 countries participate in the Fruit and vegetables OECD Scheme



### Formal Applicant Countries



### Potential Member Countries



## OECD Agricultural Codes and Schemes

2018



## **C o n t e n t s**

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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.

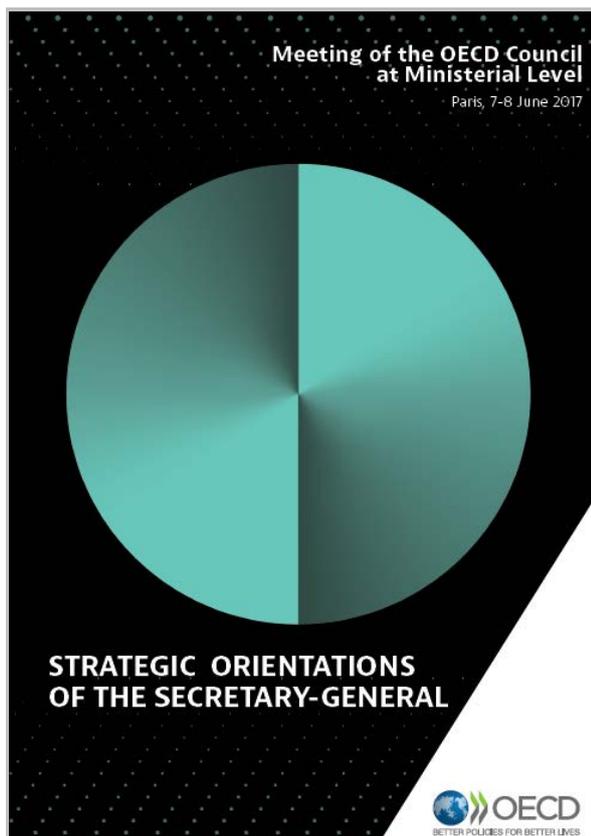
**Ethical:** Our credibility is built on trust, integrity and transparency.

## Strategic Orientations by the Secretary-General



Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD

### 2017 Strategic Orientations of The Secretary-General “Better Lives Through Better Policies And Multilateral Co-Operation”



*"Improving the OECD's DNA and the work needed to rise to the challenges and expectations*

**53. Building a more open, global and inclusive OECD policy network is critical in order to expand the impact of our standards and our work.** In this regard, completing the accession processes of Colombia, Costa Rica and Lithuania will bring the total number of OECD members to 38. Drawing on the report by the Council Working Group on Membership, we hope to be able to respond promptly to the formal requests for membership received from Argentina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Malta, Peru, Romania and Sri Lanka, and consider other expressions of interest. We will work closely with Members on further engaging with prospective candidates who can bring value added to the Organisation and can provide regional beacons for stability and good practices, while bearing in mind that the OECD does not aim to become a universal organisation in terms of its size and membership, but rather one with global impact. We will also leverage all our outreach instruments, bodies and programmes, to broaden take-up by non-members – with a special focus on large emerging economies and relevant global and regional players – by explaining better how participation and engagement can help them meet their specific challenges. We should continue building on the OECD's Development Centre's membership in our outreach efforts to Partner countries".

Full Report available on the public website  
[www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

## 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 countries<sup>1</sup> 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 2 500 staff and a budget of over €374 million.

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<sup>1</sup> *OECD member countries in 2017: 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 2017 there were 115 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**.

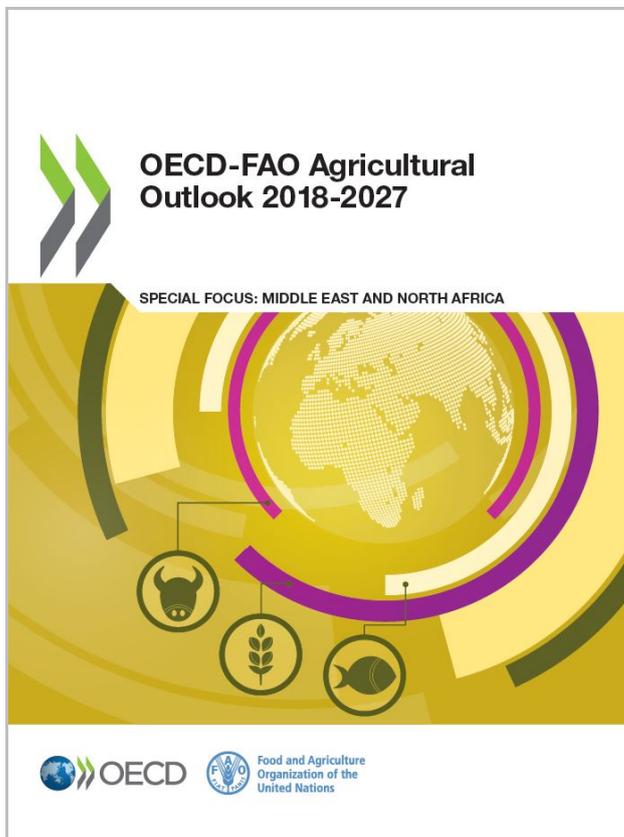
**The OECD Codes and Schemes increases market transparency by helping to reduce technical barriers to trade, enhances market openness and access through the simplification of procedures, and helps to strengthen market confidence by ensuring product quality.**

## OECD Flagship Publication

### OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2018-2027

The fourteenth joint edition of the *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook* provides market projections for major agricultural commodities, biofuels and fish, as well as a special feature on the prospects and challenges of agriculture and fisheries in the Middle East and North Africa.

World agricultural markets have changed markedly since the food price spikes of 2007-8, as production has grown strongly while demand growth has started to weaken. In the coming decade, real agricultural prices are expected to remain low as a result of reduced growth in global food and feed demand. Net exports will tend to increase from land abundant countries and regions, notably in the Americas. Countries with limited natural resources, slow production expansion and high population growth will see rising net imports. Increasing import dependence is projected in particular for the Middle East and North Africa, where a scarcity of arable land and water constrains agricultural production.



### Date of accession to the OECD Schemes of some of the countries from North Africa

Countries	OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme	OECD Seed Schemes
Egypt		1998
Morocco	2004	1989
Tunisia		1978

## 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.

## **OECD and enlargement**

Global reach has been an integral part of the OECD mission from its beginning. Article 1 of the Convention states that the Organisation should "contribute to sound economic expansion in member as well as non-member countries in the process of economic development."

The OECD is committed to act as a global and flexible network based on high standards, with the goal of developing effective and innovative policy choices for governments around the world. Partner countries' involvement in OECD work is mutually beneficial and essential for keeping the OECD inclusive and relevant, and may in some cases lead to OECD membership.

In 2007 the OECD Council at Ministerial level opened membership discussions with five candidate countries, as a result of which Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia became Members in 2010, while discussions with the Russian Federation are currently postponed. In May 2013, the Council decided to launch a new wave of accession discussions with Colombia and Latvia; in April 2015, it invited Costa Rica and Lithuania to open formal OECD accession talks. Latvia became an OECD Member on 1 July 2016.

### **What is an Accession Roadmap and how does the accession process work?**

An "Accession Roadmap" is developed to detail the terms, conditions and process of each accession discussion. This roadmap lists the reviews to be undertaken by Committees in various policy areas in order to assess the country's position with respect to the relevant OECD instruments and to evaluate its policies and practices as compared to OECD best policies and practices in the relevant area. Each country follows its own process and is assessed independently.

At the end of the technical review, each Committee provides a "formal opinion" to the OECD Council. The timeline for the accession process depends on the pace at which the candidate country provides information to Committees and responds to recommendations for changes to its legislation, policy and practice.

On the basis of the formal opinions and other relevant information, the Council takes a final decision on the basis of unanimity. An Accession Agreement is then signed and the candidate country takes the necessary domestic steps and deposits an instrument of accession to the OECD Convention with the depositary, *i.e.* the French government. On the date of deposit, the country formally becomes a Member of the OECD.

### **What is the role of the Council in the accession process?**

As the governing body of the OECD, bringing together representatives of each of the 35 Member countries and of the European Union, the Council ultimately controls all aspects of the accession process and takes the final decision on whether to extend an invitation to a country to become a Member.

### **What is the role of the Committees?**

The Committees, bringing together technical experts from all OECD countries, assess the candidate country's willingness and ability to implement OECD legal instruments and evaluate its policies and practices as compared to OECD best policies and practices. Committees may recommend changes to bring the candidate country's legislation, policy and/or practices into line with OECD legal instruments or to bring its policies closer to OECD best practices.

## **Global relations**

Over time, OECD's focus has broadened to include extensive contacts with non-Members and it now maintains co-operative relations with a large number of them.

The **Global Relations Secretariat** (GRS) develops and oversees the strategic orientations of OECD's global relations with non-Members. More than 15 Global Fora have been established to address trans-boundary issues where the relevance of OECD work is dependent on policy dialogue with non-Members.

Regional initiatives cover Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; Asia; Latin America; the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The Sahel and West Africa Club creates, promotes and facilitates links between OECD Members and West Africa.

Helping improve public governance and management in European Union Candidate Countries, Potential Candidates, and European Neighbourhood Policy partners is the mission of a joint OECD-EU initiative, the Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA) programme.

<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

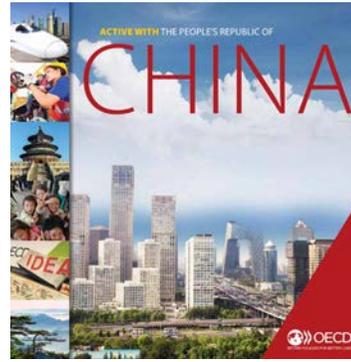
Countries	OECD Seed Schemes	OECD Tractor Codes	OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>1999</b>		<b>2018</b>
<b>China</b>		<b>1988</b>	
<b>India</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>1988</b>	
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>1961</b>		<b>1994</b>

## OECD Active with...

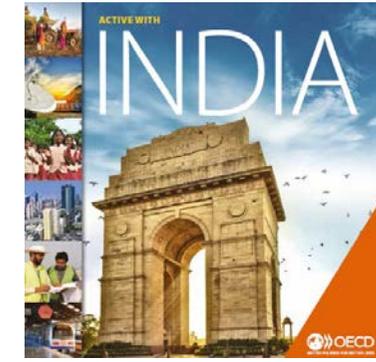
(brochures available on the public website [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org))



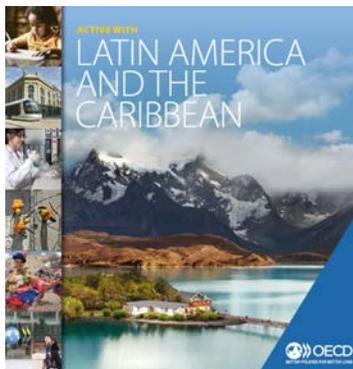
*"...Brazil's application for OECD membership is a signal that it is ready to further consolidate its reform agenda..."*



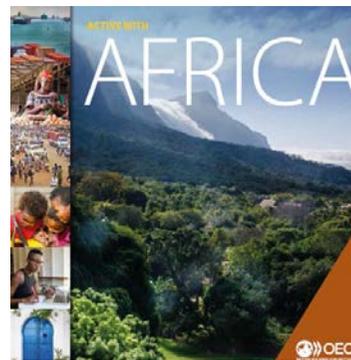
*"... The OECD takes pride in its co-operation with China. Today, with China's increasing importance as a dynamic engine for the world economy, this partnership is more relevant than ever..."*



*"...India's valuable policy experience has enriched the work of the OECD, increasing the relevance of its analyses and legal standards in today's increasingly globalised world..."*



*"...  
"...The Latin American and Caribbean must tap into internal sources of growth in order to sustain economic and social development..."*



*"...This brochure provides an overview of the OECD's work with Africa and underlines the interest of the Organisation to continue developing a promising and intense relationship with the continent..."*



*"...A member of the G20, Indonesia is the largest economy in the rapidly growing region of Southeast Asia..."*

## 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.

The OECD's Eurasia activities involve 13 countries extending from the borders of the European Union to the Far East: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

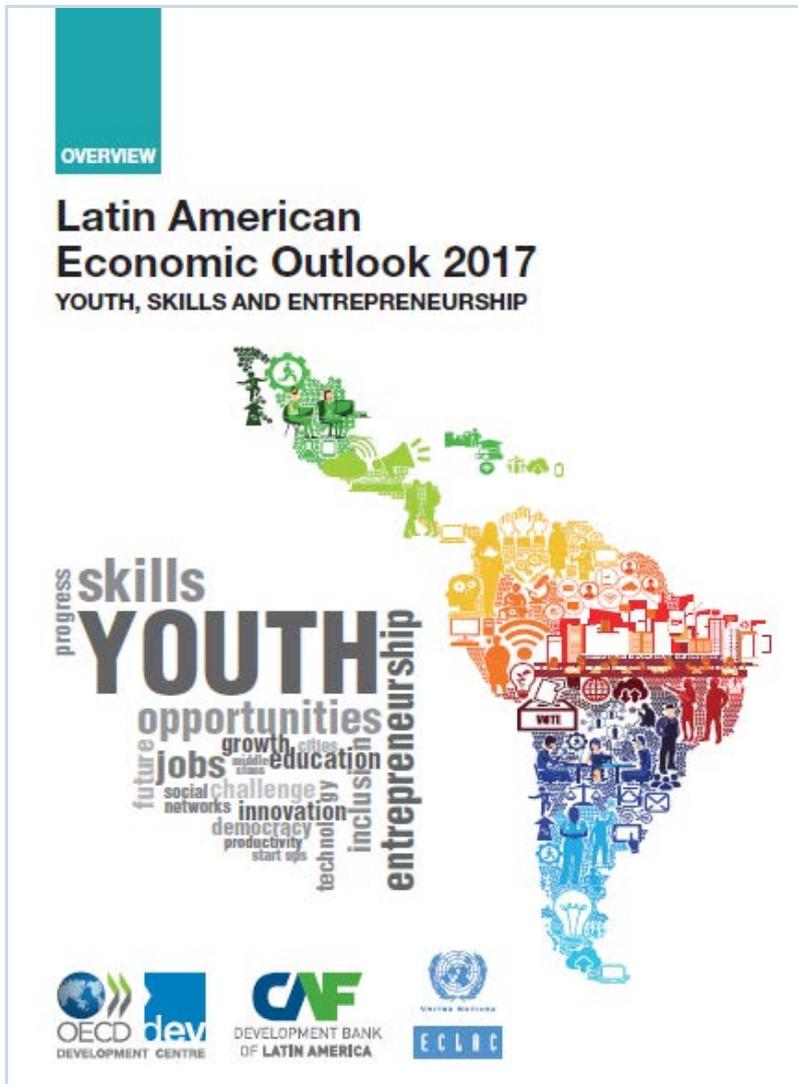
### Regional dialogue and peer learning

The OECD promotes policy dialogue between OECD and Eurasia countries, as well as among countries of the region, through country-specific work, peer review processes and knowledge sharing.



Website: [www.oecd.org/globalrelations/eurasia.htm](http://www.oecd.org/globalrelations/eurasia.htm)

## Latin American Economic Outlook 2017



The Latin American Economic Outlook is the **OECD Development Centre's** annual analysis of economic developments in Latin America in partnership with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (**UN ECLAC**) and the Development Bank of Latin America (**CAF**). Each edition includes a detailed macroeconomic overview as well as analysis on the dynamics shaping the region in the context of shifting wealth, particularly towards emerging economies. Each issue also includes an in-depth look at a special theme related to development in Latin America, taking into account the strategic challenges and opportunities the region will have in the future.

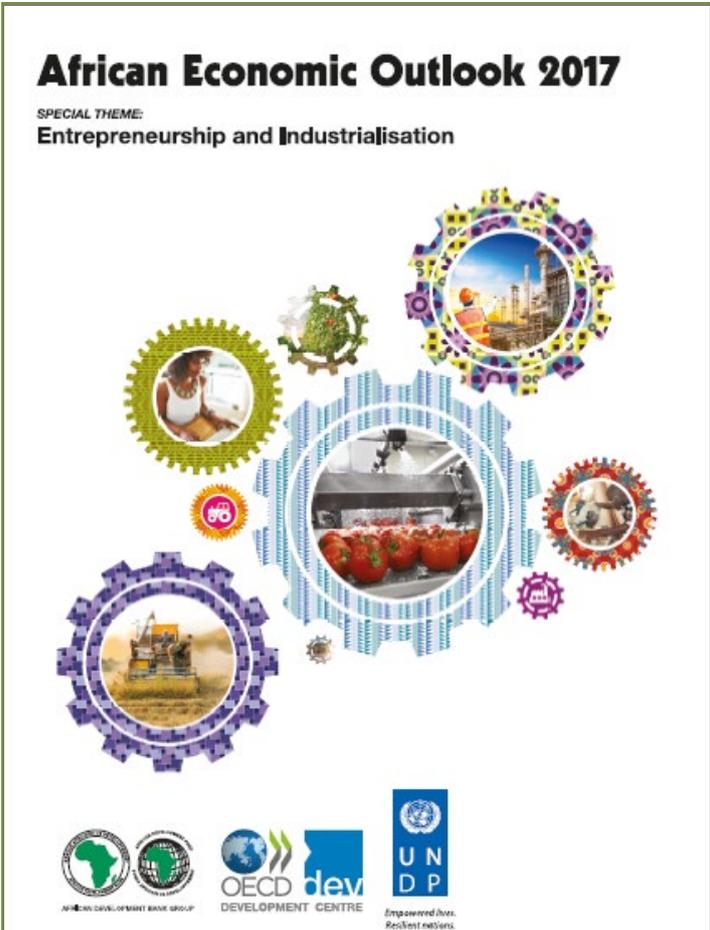
<http://www.oecd.org/publications/latin-american-economic-outlook-20725140.htm>

Countries	Date of admission to the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme	Date of admission to the Seed Schemes
Argentina		1982
Bolivia		1996
Brazil	2018	1999
Chile		1972
Mexico		2002
Uruguay		1989

## African Economic Outlook 2017

### African Economic Outlook 2017

SPECIAL THEME:  
**Entrepreneurship and Industrialisation**



The annual *African Economic Outlook (AEO)* monitors the continent’s state of affairs using a collaborative approach. The AEO assesses the recent economic and social situation in Africa, projects likely developments for the near future and explores a special theme on the structure of African economies. The *AEO 2017*, the 16th edition, examines entrepreneurship and industrialisation in Africa. The report results from a unique partnership between three international organisations: the African Development Bank, the OECD Development Centre and the United Nations Development Programme.

[www.africaneconomicoutlook.org](http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org)

Countries	Date of admission to the OECD Fruit & Vegetables Scheme	Date of admission to the OECD Seed Schemes
<b>Kenya</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1973</b>
<b>Morocco</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>1989</b>
<b>Senegal</b>		<b>2015</b>
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1961</b>
<b>Tanzania</b>		<b>2016</b>
<b>Tunisia</b>		<b>1978</b>
<b>Uganda</b>		<b>2005</b>
<b>Zambia</b>		<b>2017</b>
<b>Zimbabwe</b>		<b>1992</b>

**26 Countries**  
**Participate in the**  
**OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme**  
**in 2018**

Countries	Seeds	Forest	Tractors	Fruit and Veggies
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				
Tanzania				
Tunisia				
Turkey				
Uganda				
Ukraine				
United Kingdom				
United States				
Uruguay				
Zambia				
Zimbabwe				

## **Role of the Members of the Bureau**

A bureau is made up of the Officers of the Plenary Meeting; Its task is to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of the next Plenary Meeting, including matters relating to the admission of new countries and to propose solutions, when necessary, to urgent problems that may arise out of the implementation of the Scheme. The Bureau is convened by the Secretariat at the request of anyone of its Members or any country participating in the Scheme. It can provide counsel in writing and invite one or more participating countries to be presented.

In 2018, The Chair of the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme Bureau is Mr. Syanda from Kenya and the Vice Chair is Ms. De Armas from Spain.

## **Admission of Brazil to the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme During the 2017 Plenary Meeting**



Delegates from Brazil with OECD Secretariat and Members of the Bureau.

## 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, 26 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.

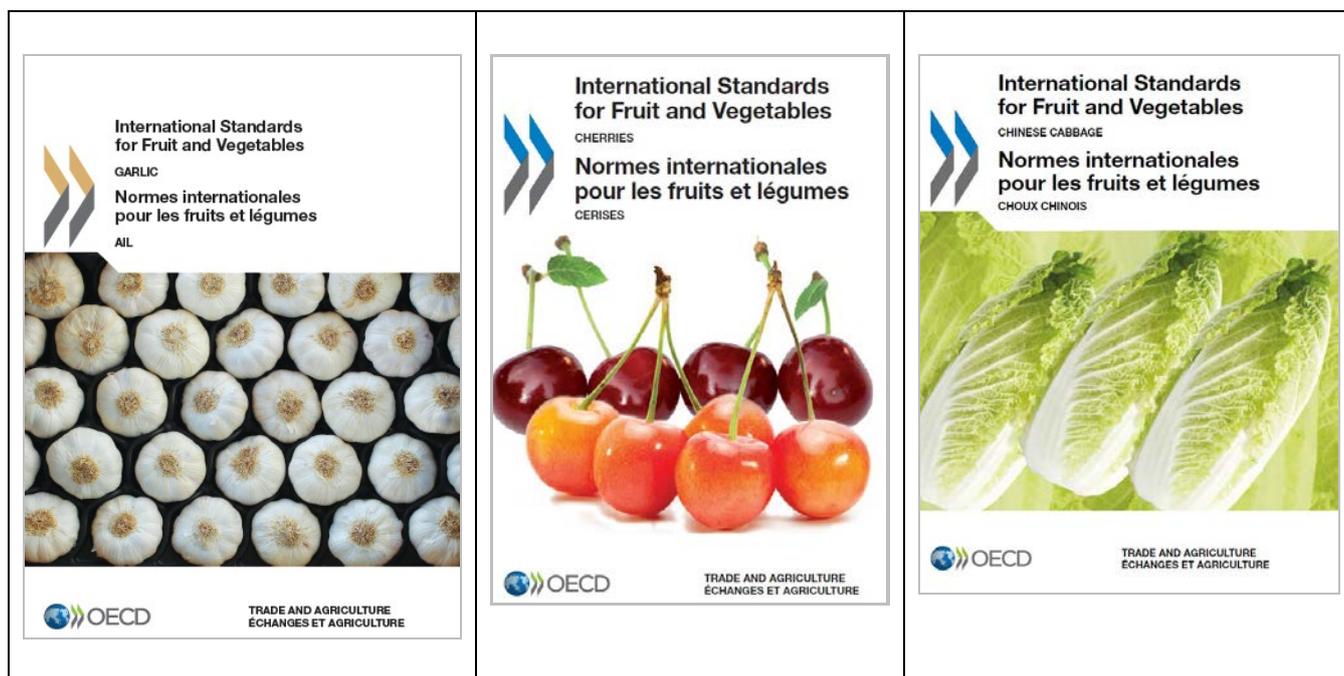
As many African and Asian countries are specialized in fruit and vegetables production, they would benefit from implementing the Scheme to build up their export capacities.

For more information see:

<http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/fruit-vegetables/>

## 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 31 products in hard copies as well as in electronic versions.



### Brochure on Garlic

*This standard applies to garlic of varieties (cultivars) grown from *Allium sativum* var. *sativum* L. to be supplied fresh, semi-dry or dry to the consumer, green garlic with full leaves and undeveloped cloves and garlic for industrial processing being excluded.*

*Garlic varieties are commercially classified, according to the bulb and clove colour, in four commercial types which represent approximately 95% of the worldwide production,*

### 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 choi is not part of the standard.*

## International Training Course Harmonization Meeting of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Assessment

Harmonization meetings are crucial to ensure the same level of understanding and interpretation of marketing standards amongst OECD member countries. Fruit and Vegetables inspectors and other stakeholders are able to meet and have hands on demonstrations of real inspections, allowing them to share experiences and discuss differences in interpretation of the standards. The Meeting held in Slovakia in September 2018 counted with the participation of inspectors from Austria, Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Kenya, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Brazil, Czech Republic, the UK and the US.

The topics covered included food waste, climate change, quality and safety of fruit and vegetables, how to setup effective producers' organisations, less known or "ugly" fruits, tolerances and the interpretation of UNECE standards on garlic, root vegetables and apples. A field trip was organised to witness production sites and packinghouses of potatoes, onions and garlic.



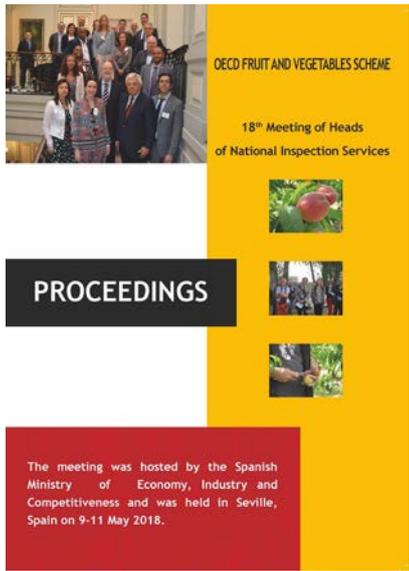
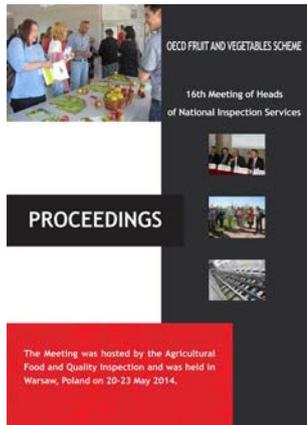
Field visit  
Production site and packinghouse in Slovak Republic

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services was hosted by and took place at the Chamber of Commerce of Seville, Spain on 9-11 May 2018.. The President of the Chamber of Commerce of Seville officially opened the meeting. He stressed the importance of the meticulous work done by the participating countries of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme when preparing explanatory brochures and inspection guidelines. International trade would not be possible without common norms and regulations, and the OECD Scheme plays a key role ensuring uniform understanding and application of the norms and rules for the quality of fruit and vegetables..

The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services was prepared by the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness in collaboration with the OECD Secretariat in the framework of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. Both organisers 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 the two-days room session and the one-day technical visit, Spain had great opportunity to present the Spanish fresh fruit and vegetables sector particularly the production of peaches and nectarines.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services held in Spain in 2018</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services held in Italy in 2016</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services held in Poland in 2014</b></p>
		

## 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.**

Peer Review of France 2016	Peer Review of Finland 2015	Peer Review of Spain 2013
<div style="background-color: #00a651; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-bottom: 5px;"><i>OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables</i></p> <p style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Peer Review of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System in France</b></p> <p style="margin-bottom: 10px;">2016</p>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Codes and Schemes Trade and Agriculture</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #00a651; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-bottom: 5px;"><i>OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables</i></p> <p style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Peer Review of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System in Finland</b></p> <p style="margin-bottom: 10px;">2015</p>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Codes and Schemes Trade and Agriculture</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #00a651; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-bottom: 5px;"><i>OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables</i></p> <p style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Peer Review of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System in Spain</b></p> <p style="margin-bottom: 10px;">2013</p>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Codes and Schemes Trade and Agriculture</p> </div>

## ESCAP-OECD joint Workshop on Fruit and Vegetables



In November 2017 the OECD and ESCAP organised a joint Workshop on "international trade of fresh fruit and vegetables -the role of standards and quality inspection systems". The aim of the workshop was threefold: i) to contribute to capacity building and raise awareness of OECD work amongst fruit and vegetables producers around the world; ii) to attract potential new member countries to join the Scheme; and iii) to increase collaboration of OECD with other international organisations.



Ms. Russel from the OECD Secretariat attended the Workshop with the National Designated Authority of France, Germany and Slovak Republic. The OECD Secretariat and the Experts delivered some presentations on the OECD and on the OECD explanatory brochures.

The Workshop attracted 41 participants from 12 countries (Cambodia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Slovak Republic, Sri Lanka and Thailand), from academic, institutional and private sectors.

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



### 26 Member Countries participate in 2018 in the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme



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<http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/fruit-vegetables/>

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme provide a complete and internationally harmonized 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.fnatan.org/vegetablefacts.com](http://www.fnatan.org/vegetablefacts.com), [fruitvegfacts@gmail.com](mailto: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"> <li>• <b>Quality Assurance</b></li> <li>✓ <i>Clear and common interpretation of quality parameters</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Harmonization</b></li> <li>✓ <i>Common Procedures</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Common regulations</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trade Facilitation</b></li> <li>✓ <i>Clear origin of Fruits and Vegetables</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Clear classification of product quality</i></li> </ul>
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### Key beneficiaries of the Scheme

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Government</b></li> </ul> <p><i>OECD Brochures ensure that Marketing Standards are interpreted homogenously amongst Member Countries.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Farmers</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Farmers benefit from harmonized inspection methods and clear quality classifications that promote fair trade.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consumers</b></li> </ul> <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**

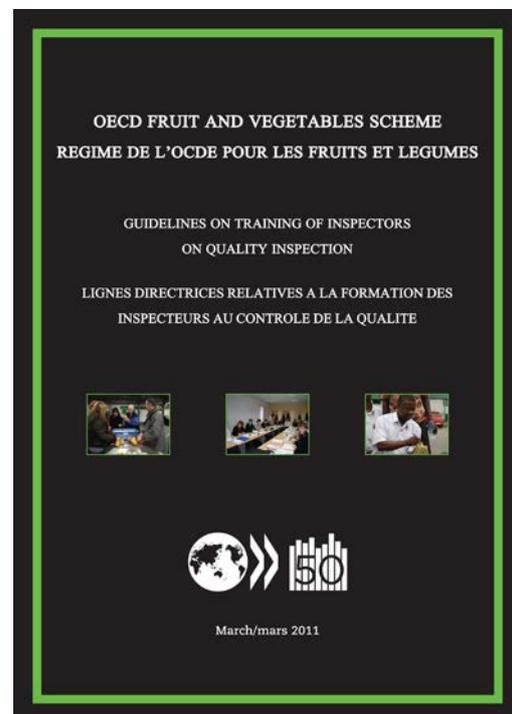
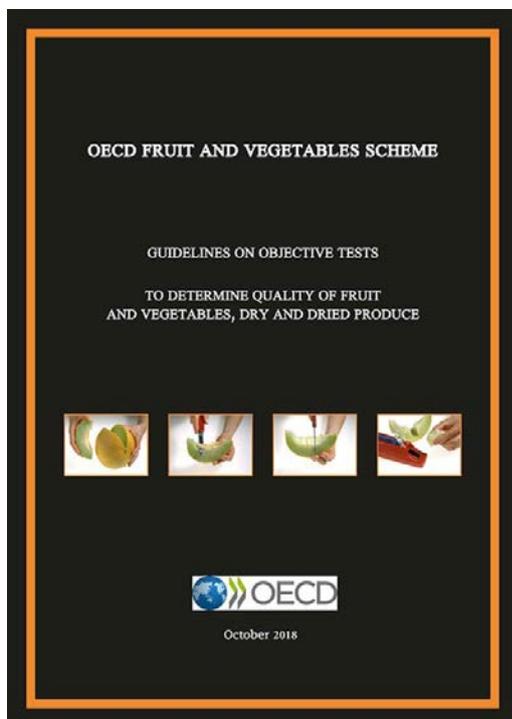
*A distinctive feature of the Scheme is its biennial gathering of Heads of Inspection Services. The Meeting is usually hosted by a Member Country and provides a unique opportunity to confront ideas, improve policy making, adopt best practices, comply with established international standards, and discuss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

**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*

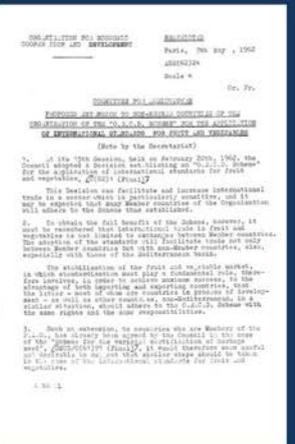
Right to left: T. Klötscher (Germany), unknown, Dr. Krosnar (Austria), Mr. Baccu (Belgium), J.P.L.L. Burg (Netherlands), Mr. Klamer (Netherlands), K. Ton (Netherlands), unknown, Mr. Schmit, unknown.



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. Klamer (Netherlands)  
K. Ton (Netherlands)



Library & Archives Historical Exhibit



## 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](http://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](http://www.oecd.org/tad/code)**

### **Fruit and Vegetables:**

**<http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/fruit-vegetables/>**

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## OECD Publishing

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[www.oecd.org/about/publishing/oecddirect.htm](http://www.oecd.org/about/publishing/oecddirect.htm).

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