
APPENDIX B

B.1 THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) SEED CERTIFICATION SCHEMES
B.2 ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL SEED CERTIFYING AGENCIES (AOSCA)

B.1 THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SEED CERTIFICATION SCHEMES (OECD)

There are seven OECD schemes in operation involving the varietal certification of seed moving in international trade: herbage (grass and legume), oilseed, cereal, vegetable, sugar and fodder beet, maize and sorghum, subterranean clover and similar species. The objectives of these schemes are to encourage the use of seed of consistently high quality for the improvement of forage, food and fibre production in participating countries and to facilitate the international movement of Certified seed.

Canada has been a participating member country of the original Herbage and Oilseed Seed Scheme since four years after its inception. The Cereal Scheme was established in 1966, and the Vegetable Scheme in 1968. The OECD Scheme for Sugar Beets and Fodder Beets came into being in 1968 and the Maize Scheme was proposed in 1976.

The schemes are operated by the government of the participating country, which may designate an authority that will be responsible for the implementation and operation of the schemes in that country. The designated authority in Canada is the Plant Production Division of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. As such, it is responsible for:

- arranging for approval from the country of origin for the multiplication of their varieties in Canada according to OECD rules;
- receiving from the country of origin approval of a generation system for each variety and the number of seed crops to be harvested from a stand;
- maintaining pedigreed records;
- carrying out field inspection;
- issuing the OECD certificates;
- labelling and sealing the seed; and
- conducting the pre-and post-control tests.

Because the CSGA is empowered to certify seed crops and maintain pedigreed records, a number of the above responsibilities are assigned to the CSGA and it therefore has an important and necessary function in the operation of the schemes in Canada. CSGA administers the applications for OECD crop inspections, reviews the crop inspection reports for adherence to field standards, maintains the pedigreed records and issues domestic crop certificates.

The labels and certificates that can be used under the schemes are prescribed by OECD and are readily identifiable as belonging to the OECD schemes. The schemes are not intended to replace the national pedigreed seed certification systems of participating countries, but rather are designed so that they can be operated in co-existence with national systems.

Canada's interest in the schemes is the CSGA's recognition of certification eligibility for imported parent seed, winter or contra season certification for Canadian variety developers and the multiplication of varieties for export either to the country of origin or to some other market. Canadian seed exporters play an important part in the multiplication of foreign varieties since they make the initial contact with the variety developers and contract, process and export these pedigreed seedlots.

Three categories or classes of seed are recognized in the schemes: Pre-Basic, Basic and Certified seed. Pre-Basic Seed is equivalent to Breeder or Select. Basic seed of forage varieties is equivalent to Foundation seed under Canadian terminology and is imported and multiplied to Certified seed. Most foreign varieties are not registered for sale in Canada. Therefore, all production of these varieties is for export only. Pedigreed seed of Canadian varieties is also eligible to be sealed with the appropriate OECD labels and exported. Basic seed is equivalent to Foundation and eligible only to produce Certified crops. Select seed may be produced from Pre-Basic Seed and Registered may be produced from Basic seed, provided these extra generations in Canada are approved by the originating Plant Breeder, owner of the variety, the Canadian distributor of the variety, the CFIA and the CSGA.

B.2 ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL SEED CERTIFYING AGENCIES (AOSCA)

AOSCA is an association of certification agencies in North America, Argentina, Chile, South Australia and New Zealand. Canada was a founding member in 1919, when the association was known as the International Crop Improvement Association.

The purpose of AOSCA is to coordinate, standardize and establish minimum standards for genetic purity and identify as well as recommend minimum standards for seed quality for all classes of pedigreed seed. It also assists its members in the promotion, production, identification, distribution and use of pedigreed seed.

No member agency may establish genetic crop standards lower than AOSCA standards, but they may establish higher standards.

Membership in AOSCA facilitates the movement of pedigreed seed across country and state boundaries as all member agencies recognize seed as meeting the genetic standards for the class as labelled.

The certification standards established by AOSCA are included in the U.S.A. Federal Seeds Act.