

## **Report from 2015 Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme, 6-7 October, 2015 at the OECD Headquarter in Paris.**

The Annual Meeting is open to delegates from all 27 countries which participate in the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. They also invite representatives of the European Commission, FAO, ICRAF, ISF, ISTA and EFNA.

Vincent Naudet or Andy Gordon usually attend the Annual Meeting and the Technical Working Group (TWG). This year Vincent was unable to attend, so Bent Leonhard was asked to represent EFNA as a first step in taking over from Andy Gordon, as Secretary.

Csaba Gaspar from Hungary is Programme Manager of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme and the Chairman, Kari Leinonen, from Finland chaired the Annual Meeting together with the Vice Chairmen Mr. Robert Karrfalt from USA and Mr. William Omondi from Kenya.

Diana Charels represented the EU Commission. A week before, the Annual Meeting of the FRM representatives from the EU countries was held with her as chair to coordinate their standpoints on the items on the OECD Agenda,

At this year's meeting 30 items were on the agenda. This report only comments on a few items of most significance for EFNA.

The Secretariat gave an update on the work on label security and traceability. When the EU decisions on the content and format of Plant Passport is approved, it will be looked at in the design of the future OECD labelling.

Mr. Michele Bozzano, representing EUFORGEN, (the group of EU countries carrying out trials on FRM) gave a presentation on their work on "Use and transfer of forest reproductive material in Europe in the context of climate change". The Secretariat will provide the link to the presentation on the EUFORGEN website when available.

Finland have for some years now been looking at the possibility of using climatic zones as complementary information to region of provenance. It is based on provenance and progeny trials and a wide selection of climatic factors. A Planters guide will be publicly available as a web tool. These new deployment models will be implemented in Finland within the next two years.

The Secretariat presented three tables gathering the collected information from Members on web links to national registers of: 1) basic material, 2) regions of provenance and 3) results of provenance trials and progeny tests. Delegates approved the format of Tables 1 and 2 which will be published on the OECD website.

Kari Leinonen presented a draft of the Guidelines on the OECD FRM Certification system made by the working group, which will be enlarged to include FRM traders, certificates and labels. A special working group was created on clones with the participation of France, Germany and the US. This group will work on registration, control of the production and certification of clones. And if necessary will recommend a revision of the OECD Certificate of Identity for qualified and tested category as regards the clonal components of clonal seed orchards.

Diana Charels described the possibility of a common approach for periodic FRM data collection for both OECD and EU by using the EU system (FRMIS) as a platform. The EC will launch a trial of the system for OECD countries, and together with the Secretariat they will prepare a proposal for 2016 annual meeting. Also the development of a more detailed OECD database on available Basic Material was given a high priority, which means OECD and EU will work on a common database in the next year.

Diana Charels made no mention of the status of the revision of Plant Reproductive Material Regulations during the meeting but in talks with her outside the meeting Bent Leonhard learnt that there is no progress on the PRM and no action at all on FRM but negotiations on the Control Regulation are proving difficult.

**Comment [1]:**

Bent Leonhard recommended that the OECD got involved in the challenges on defining the owner's rights when the NAGOYA Protocols are implemented in the different countries. There might be a fight on the ownership of specific genes in the future, as we has been seen for new varieties of fruit.

The Technical Working Group Meeting will be held in Hungary last week of April 2016. The Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme will take place on 4-5 October 2016.

Bent Leonhard