

INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE UNIFICATION OF EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA COUNTRIES' LEGISLATION IN THE FIELDS OF TESTING VARIETIES AND SEED PRODUCTION

OCTOBER 20TH, 21ST and 22ND 2021



The vulnerability of current agri-food systems as a result of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the need for national seed systems to be strengthened in order to scale seed, food, and nutrition security. FAO consider that crop improvement and the delivery of high-quality seeds and planting materials of selected varieties to growers, is necessary for ensuring improved crop production and meeting growing environmental challenges. FAO in line with the priority activities of the Second Global Plan of Action, assists member countries in strengthening seed production programmes, taking into account comparative advantages of the public and private seed sectors, and encouraging linkages between breeding and seed systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that some countries could be vulnerable owing to their overreliance on imported seed. This meant converting a relationship of complementarity under normal situations into vulnerability in a pandemic crisis. Sustainable national seed systems can guarantee that high-quality seed varieties are developed and made available to farmers and other concerned stakeholders in a timely and cost-effective manner. This can be accomplished through strengthened seed distribution and policing mechanisms, as well as the development of national capacities in seed production, certification, and marketing. Certification schemes and standards are essential for the long-term viability and quality management of seed value chains.

On the other hand, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which is an international organization for regional economic integration, have interested to promote in the joint work in the field of testing varieties and seed production, in order to advance in the harmonization and cooperative work between state members. In this regard, they are interested to know if the standards and tools developed by the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants-UPOV, the OECD Seed Schemes and the International Seed Testing Association-ISTA, could be used as a reference for this purpose. For this reason they are requesting the technical support of FAO.

For this reason, at technical level it is relevant to ask ourselves the following:

- In a post pandemic situation, what opportunities are there for countries in ECA to use these international standards in the regional trade of seeds?
- Is it possible to apply these international standards at national levels without becoming a member of these organizations?
- What is the position of the private sector on this issue?
- What opportunities do these international standards provide for family farmers or smallholder farmers?
- Could these guidelines and techniques be useful in making national seed systems more sustainable and resilient?



REGISTER



REGISTER

OBJECTIVE OF THE WEBINAR

Exchange information about the potentialities of using international standards on seed at the national and regional level in the framework to EAEU to enhance the national seed systems to face climate extreme adverse events.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Alternatives of harmonization/adoption of the regional seed standards in the framework of EAEU identified to enhance the national seed systems of state members as well as their complementarity and synergies, using the experience around international seed standards.
- Challenges and opportunities analyzed and defined for the development of a regional strategy/road map for strengthening national seed systems, based on the accessibility, availability and opportunity of high quality seeds, with an integrated approach to increase crop production and achieve food security, with the support of FAO technical cooperation.

TARGET AUDIENCES

The staff and experts of national seed authorities, policymakers, national and international cooperation agencies, NGOs promoting the development of food systems, and other practitioners interested in a better understanding of effective seed delivery systems.

METHODOLOGY

The event will be structured by three thematic sessions with one or two presentations in each session. These will be followed by thematic panel discussions.



REGISTER

AGENDA

OCTOBER 20TH 2021

Budapest **10:00 - 10:10** / Moscow **11:00 - 11:10**

OPENING REMARKS

Oleg Kobiakov, LOR Director, FAO
Armen Harutyunyan, Director of Agricultural Policy Department of EEC will make a welcome speech

Budapest **10:10 - 10:20** / Moscow **11:10 - 11:20**

INTRODUCTION

Tania Santivanéz,
Agricultural Offices RI3 delivery manager

SESSION 1: INTERNATIONAL SEED STANDARDS

Moderator: **Zsuzsanna Keresztes**

Budapest **10:20 - 10:35** / Moscow **11:20 - 11:35**

OECD SCHEMES FOR THE VARIETAL CERTIFICATION, AS HARMONIZATION STRATEGY FOR PROMOTE STRENGTHENING OF SEED SECTOR IN EURASIAN REGION

Mr. Csaba Gaspar, Programme Manager, OECD schemes,
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Budapest **10:35 - 10:50** / Moscow **11:35 - 11:50**

ISTA STANDARDS AND THEIR ACCREDITATION PROCESS; CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE SEED SECTOR IN THE EURASIAN REGION

Mr. Andreas Wais, Secretary General, International Seed Testing Association

Budapest **10:50 - 11:00** / Moscow **11:50 - 12:00**

Q&A SECTION

Budapest **11:00 - 12:10** / Moscow **12:00 - 13:10**

PANEL DISCUSSION: "SEED CERTIFICATION IN EURASIAN REGION"

PANEL MEMBERS:

Gayane Sargsyan, Director of the Scientific Center of Vegetable-Melon and Technical Crops of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia

Larisa Sechko, Head of the Department for the Organization of Seed Quality Assessment, Main State Inspectorate for Seed Production, Quarantine and Plant Protection of the Republic Belarus

Olga Tretyakova, Head of the seed laboratory of the East Kazakhstan branch of JSC "Kazakhstan Agrarian Expertise"

Damir Baidaliev, Head of the seed certification sector of the department for the expertise of agricultural crops of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic

Alexander Malko, Director of the federal state budgetary institution «Russian Agricultural Center»

Budapest **12:10 - 12:20** / Moscow **13:10 - 13:20**

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORT OF SEED MATERIAL INTO THE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF THE EAEU

Oleg Shashlov, Advisor to the federal state budgetary institution "Center for Safety and Quality Assessment of Grain and its Processed Products"

Budapest **12:20 - 12:30** / Moscow **13:20 - 13:30**

WRAP UP AND CLOSING REMARKS OF THE FIRST DAY

OCTOBER 21ST 2021

SESSION 2: NEW VARIETIES RELEASE

Moderator: **Birim Mor**

Budapest **10:00 - 10:10** / Moscow **11:00 - 11:10**

WELCOME AND RE-CAP OF THE FIRST DAY

Moderator: **Birim Mor**, FAO

Budapest **10:10 - 10:25** / Moscow **11:10 - 11:25**

UPOV SYSTEM: HOW CAN THE UPOV SYSTEM HELP COUNTRIES TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF NEW COMMERCIAL VARIETIES

Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General, International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

Budapest **10:25 - 10:40** / Moscow **11:25 - 11:40**

THE VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL SEED TRADE IN PROVIDING ACCESS FOR FARMERS TO IMPROVED VARIETIES AND QUALITY SEEDS

Mr. Szabolcs Ruthner, Regulatory Affairs Manager

Budapest **10:40 - 10:50** / Moscow **11:40 - 11:50**

Q&A SECTION

Budapest **10:50 - 12:00** / Moscow **11:50 - 13:00**

PANEL DISCUSSION: "NATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR RELEASING OF NEW COMMERCIAL VARIETIES"

PANEL MEMBERS:

Tatyana Semashko, Deputy director of the state institution "State Inspection for Testing and Protection of plant Varieties"

Talgat Azhgaliyev, Chairman of the republican state institution "State Commission for Variety Testing of Agricultural Crops" of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Marat Satkeev, Head of the department for testing varieties and hybrids of agricultural crops of the department for the expertise of agricultural crops of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic

David Martirosyan, Acting director of the research and production CJSC "Gyumri Breeding Station" of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia

Yuri Goncharov, Deputy Chairman of the State Commission of the Russian Federation for Selection Achievements Test and Protection

Budapest **12:00 - 12:10** / Moscow **13:00 - 13:10**

WRAP UP AND CLOSING REMARKS OF THE SECOND DAY

OCTOBER 22ND 2021

SESSION 3: SEED QUALITY ASSURANCE

Moderator: **Andrei Drobysheski**

Budapest **10:00 - 10:05** / Moscow **11:05 - 11:05**

WELCOME AND RE-CAP OF THE SECOND DAY

Moderator: **Andrei Drobysheski**, EEC

Budapest **10:05 - 10:20** / Moscow **11:05 - 11:20**

SEED PRODUCTION AND TRADE: WHAT TO DO IN THE HARMONIZATION PROCESS

Wilson Hugo

Budapest **10:20 - 10:30** / Moscow **11:20 - 11:30**

Q&A SECTION

Budapest **10:30 - 11:30** / Moscow **11:30 - 12:30**

PANEL DISCUSSION: "NATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES"

Moderator: **Andrei Drobysheski**, EEC

PANEL MEMBERS:

Alexander Malko, Director of the federal state budgetary institution «Russian Agricultural Center

Zulfira Bashirova, Deputy director of the department of production and processing of crop products of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Abdybek Asanaliev, Acting professor of the department of crop production and plant protection of the faculty of agronomy and forestry of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K. I. Scriabin

Oleg Belanovsky, Head of the Seed Production Department of the Main Department of Crop Production of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic Belarus

Abdulkhakim Islamov, President of the Seed Association of Kyrgyzstan. Theme of speech "Production and trade of seeds in Kyrgyzstan"

Budapest **11:30 - 11:45** / Moscow **12:30 - 12:45**

UNIFICATION OF SEED SYSTEMS IN EEC

Andrei Drobysheski, chief of agricultural subsidies sector of the Agricultural policy department of Eurasian economic commission

Budapest **11:45 - 12:00** / Moscow **12:45 - 13:00**

REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ENHANCE SEED SYSTEMS IN THE ECA COUNTRIES

Tania Santivanéz, FAO Agricultural Officer

Budapest **12:00 - 12:15** / Moscow **13:00 - 13:15**

CLOSING REMARKS

Artak Kamalyan, EEC Minister in charge of Industry and Agroindustrial Complex