

Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques**TWM/4/27****Fourth Session****Cambridge, United Kingdom, June 2 to 5, 2026****Original:** English**Date:** May 28, 2026

OECD SEED SCHEMES: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE APPLICATION OF BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES

Document prepared by an expert from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

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The annex to this document contains a presentation “OECD Seed Schemes: Recent developments in the application of Biochemical and Molecular Techniques”, to be made by an expert from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), at the fourth session of the TWM.

[Annex follows]



OECD SEED SCHEMES

Recent developments in the application of Biochemical and Molecular Techniques

“Towards enhanced OECD / ISTA/ UPOV cooperation”


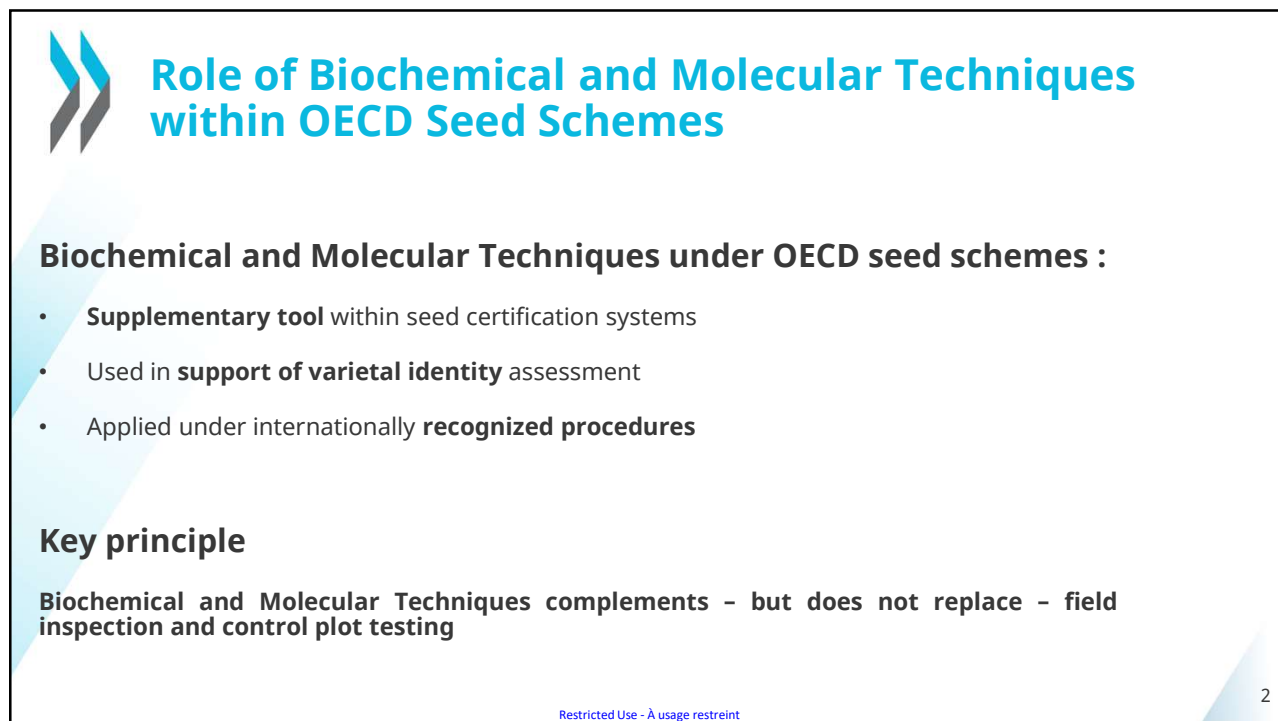
Christophe ROUILLARD
Chair of the OECD Advisory Group on BMTs

2026 UPOV



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Role of Biochemical and Molecular Techniques within OECD Seed Schemes

Biochemical and Molecular Techniques under OECD seed schemes :

- **Supplementary tool** within seed certification systems
- Used in **support of varietal identity** assessment
- Applied under internationally **recognized procedures**

Key principle

Biochemical and Molecular Techniques complements – but does not replace – field inspection and control plot testing



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OECD Seed Schemes – Biochemical and Molecular Techniques framework

- Advisory Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques established in 2022
- OECD List of internationally recognized Biochemical and Molecular Techniques
- Defined listing principles and procedures
- Possibility for official and authorized laboratories
- Continuous update process

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Strong convergence already exists

Existing complementarities between organizations

OECD	UPOV	ISTA
Certification systems	DUS examination	Seed Testing
Operational implementation	Molecular guidance	Method validation
OECD BMT list	TWM activities	Varietal Committee

Key observation

- Significant technical convergence already exists

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Remaining challenges

Challenges still limiting full operational integration

- Terminology and definitions
- Alignment of implementation approaches
- Regulatory consistency
- International interoperability
- Absence of common marker sets for key species

Risk

- Fragmentation of future developments

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Why a joint initiative ?

Potential added value of enhanced OECD / ISTA/ UPOV coordination

- Consolidate existing work
- Improve coherence between systems
- Facilitate operational implementation
- Support international acceptance
- Avoid duplication of efforts

Objective

- Move from technical convergence to operational alignment

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Possible Pilot areas

Possible priority species for pilot activities on common marker sets

- Maize
- Wheat
- Oilseed rape
- Soybean
- Grass species (e.g. *Lolium* spp.)

Selection criteria

- Economic importance
- Existing technical groundwork
- Operational relevance
- Feasibility of short-term consensus

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Conclusion / Discussion

Conclusions

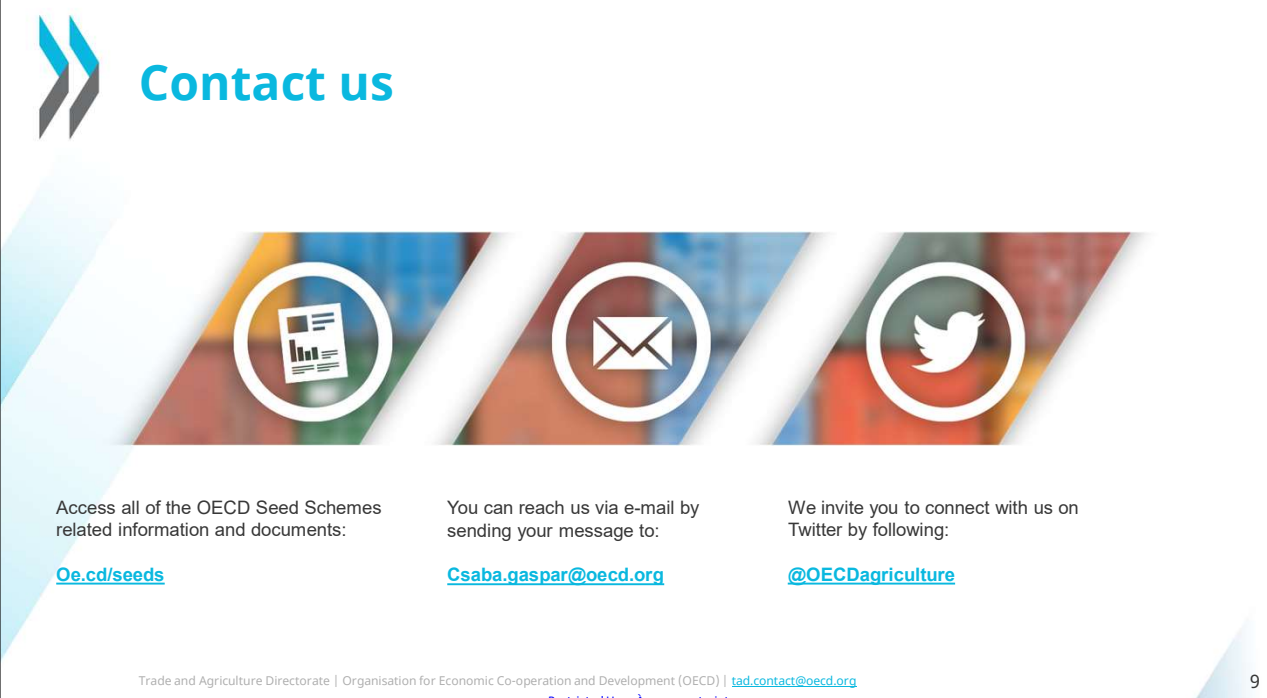
- OECD Biochemical and Molecular Techniques is now well established
- Strong complementarities exist with UPOV and ISTA
- Further harmonization appears both :
 - Necessary
 - Feasible
- Opportunity for progressive and pragmatic cooperation

Discussion welcome

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Contact us

Access all of the OECD Seed Schemes related information and documents:
Oe.cd/seeds

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We invite you to connect with us on Twitter by following:
[@OECDagriculture](https://twitter.com/OECDagriculture)

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