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Practical Workshop on International (OECD) Seed Certification

3 - 7 April, 2018

Hyderabad, Telangana State

PROCEEDINGS



Organised by

Telangana State Seed & Organic Certification Authority

Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, Government of Telangana
in collaboration with

Department of Agriculture, Co-operation & Farmers Welfare

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India

&

Indo-German Project on Seed Sector Development

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Dr. K. Keshavulu

Director

Telangana State Seed & Organic Certification Authority

Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.

Shri C. Partha Sarathi, IAS

Chairman, Telangana State Seed & Organic Certification Authority

Agriculture Production Commissioner & Secretary to Government

Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.

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Proceedings of practical workshop on International (OECD) Seed Certification

Seed has always been a key factor in agricultural production that acts as a basic and most vital input for sustainable growth of agriculture. Quality seed is the one which has genetic purity, physical purity, healthy and has good physiological condition in accordance with the prescribed standards of seed certification.

The India with proven capability of producing high quality seeds in wide range of crops especially field & vegetables crops can become a lead supplier of seeds to international market. Therefore, India became a member of OECD Seed Schemes in the year 2008 to boost the seed exports from the country. At present, India is participating in six seed schemes and entitled to attend the annual meetings of OECD for discussion and expressing country's position on Varietal Certification.

We are pleased to inform that Telangana State Seed & Organic Certification Authority has successfully organized the practical workshop on International (OECD) Seed Certification in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, and Indo-German Project on Seed Sector Development, BMEL, Germany by involving OECD seed experts at Hyderabad from April 3-7, 2018.

This workshop was in continuation to the theoretical workshop held in November, 2017. The main aim of the workshop was to impart practical hands on training on field inspections and control plot tests in the context of International (OECD) Seed Certification.

The workshop was conducted successfully for five days comprising one day theoretical session followed by three days practical on control plot tests and field inspections in the OECD seed plots at Hyderabad and Karimnagar districts respectively. About 50 participants from the State Seed Certification Agencies, State and National Seed Corporations, SAUs/ICAR Institutes and private seed industry from different States across the country have participated in the workshop.

INAUGURAL SESSION

3rd April, 2018

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Principal Secretary to Govt. (A&C), Govt. of Telangana on April 3, 2018 in the presence of Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Former Chairman of PPVFRA, R. K. Trivedi, Former Deputy Commissioner (QC), DAC & FW, GOI, Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA, OECD seed experts Mr. Eddie Goldschagg (South Africa), Mr. Gerry Hall (UK) and Dr. S. Sowmini, National Coordinator for Indo-German Project on Seed Sector Development.

The workshop started with the invocation song followed by the lighting of the lamp by the chief guests and all other dignitaries followed by the welcome address by Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA.



Ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Shri Mr. C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Prl. Secretary to Govt. (A&C), Govt. of Telangana State, India.



Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA and convener of the workshop, welcomed the Chief Guest, Guest of honour, all the dignitaries and participants from different States across the country. In his welcome address, he thanked Mr. C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Principal Secretary to Govt. (A&C), Govt. of Telangana for making several reforms in the field of agriculture and making base work in the new State for the betterment of farming community like formation of Rythu Samanvaya Samithi, Input Support Schemes, Strengthening of seed organizations, etc. He reiterated the support and guidance by Mr. C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Principal Secretary to Govt. (A&C), Govt. of Telangana in successful implementation of OECD Seed Schemes

in the State as a co-chairman of the National Task Force team on OECD seed schemes.

Further, he mentioned that prior to this workshop, two sensitizing workshops on OECD seed schemes were conducted by involving around 200 participants from both public and private sectors to create awareness. The third workshop was conducted on theoretical aspects of general procedures and principles OECD seed certification for five days in November, 2017 by involving 56 participants from

both public and private sectors of different States. Then, he highlighted about the present workshop i.e. fourth workshop informing that, the workshop will concentrate more on the practical aspects like field inspections and control plot tests in the context of International (OECD) Seed Certification. While concluding, he briefed the details of the programme of present workshop stating that it consists of one day theoretical session followed by practical sessions for three days on control plot tests and field inspections in the OECD seed plots at Hyderabad and Karimnagar districts respectively followed by valedictory in the last day. At the end, he acknowledged the support of Indo-German project on seed sector development for organizing the workshop.



Shri R K Trivedi, former Dy. Commissioner (QC), Ministry of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, GOI, in his message has stated that it is a great privilege for him to be a part of this workshop as he is associated with OECD seed schemes since the time of inception in 2008. He recollected the vision of initiation of OECD seed schemes i.e. making India a global leader in the seed sector by boosting the seed exports from the country. He also stated that time has come to retrospect ourselves on

progress of implementation of OECD seed schemes. He also mentioned that India has strong seed production system and quality regulation mechanism which helps in achieving international standards for exporting seeds. He suggested that technical staff from certification agencies need to be identified and trained on OECD seed schemes and also stated that our domestic seed certification should follow the OECD system so that it will be accepted at international level. He thanked the APC & Prl. Secretary to Govt. (A&C), Govt. of Telangana for giving liberty to TSSOCA and appreciated TSSOCA & RSSOCA for making it reality in implementation of the schemes. At the end he requested the participants to make honest efforts in implementation of OECD seed schemes in their respective states.



Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Former Chairman of PPVFRA, in his message has emphasized on importance of quality seed in the agriculture stating that seed is the central input that acts as a catalyst for boosting the agricultural production. The quality seed availability at right time and right place will alone enhances the yield by 45%. He mentioned that Indian seed industry has grown enormously in last few decades and at present around 102 MT of seed is producing every year. He stated that the Indian seed industry has reached 20,000 crores and is at 5th position in the world. He mentioned that there is great demand for Indian seed in the African, European and SAARC countries and India is the best place in the

world for seed production with Hyderabad as the seed capital and hence there is a great scope for

OECD seed certification in the country. He also highlighted that the Govt. of India is trying for EU equivalence for seed standards for which Dr. K Keshavulu is the coordinator and has assured that very soon our country will obtain EU equivalence. Finally, he appreciated the TSSOCA for taking initiatives in organizing the HRD programmes, registration of area and export of seeds under OECD seed schemes and for establishing the ISTA laboratory.



Mr. Gerry Hall, NDA, OECD seed programmes (UK) in his message has stated that it is a great honour to continue the training on OECD seed certification and thanked the participants for coming back to the workshop. He opined that the detailed procedures given in the training workshop may help in building the capacity and raises the position of India at global level.

Mr. C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Prl. Secretary to Govt. (A&C), Govt. of Telangana, in his remarks once again welcomed all the delegates and thanked the Government of India and Indo-German Project on seed sector development for their support in organizing the workshop. In his message he recognized the presence of Dr. R R Hanchinal and Mr. R K Trivedi as well known seed experts who are actively involved in preparation of seed policies in the country. He also recognized the presence of OECD seed experts Mr. Eddie Goldschagg from South Africa and Mr. Gerry Hall from UK.



He stated that India entered the OECD seed schemes in the year 2008 but much progress was not made till 2016. The Government of Telangana has taken steps forward to make progress in this direction and started registering area under OECD certification from Kharif 2016. He also mentioned about the progress of OECD seed certification in Telangana State that a quantity of 17000 quintals of seed was certified and exported to different countries like Egypt, Sudan, Russia, Italy and Philippines. He felt happy that, few more states like Rajasthan and Uttarakhand have also entered the arena of OECD seed certification. He also stated that the Government of Telangana is striving hard to fulfil the vision of honourable Chief Minister to make Telangana State as Global Seed Hub. He applauded the efforts made by TSSOCA in implementing OECD seed scheme in allotted jurisdiction. He emphasized on Indo-German project on seed sector development and stressed on benefits of OECD seed certification that, OECD seed schemes will help in increasing area under seed production thereby benefits the farmer and helps to improve their skills and competency level in the seed industry. He opined that the system also improves domestic seed certification and enhances share of Indian seed industry in the international seed trade. He indicated that there is a tremendous potential to export seeds to neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, etc. While concluding his remarks, he mentioned that a quantity of 26,000 quintals of seed is expected to be certified under OECD Seed Schemes during the year 2017-18.

Technical Sessions

The technical deliberations were started with the Zero Assessment test of the participants. Mr. Gerry Hall briefed the participants about the zero assessment test that, it is the essential part of the workshop to assess the knowledge level of participants and also informed that there will be one more test at the end of the workshop to assess the improvement.

Feedback from participants on status of implementation of OECD seed schemes in their respective states

Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Former Chairman of PPVFRA and **Mr. R. K. Trivedi**, former Dy. Commissioner (QC), MoA & FW presided over the interaction session along with the **Dr. K. Keshavulu**, Director, TSSOCA. In this session the chair and co-chair have interacted with all the participants about the progress made in their states and also suggested measures to accelerate the implementation process in their respective states.



The representative from **Assam State Seed Certification Agency** has informed that they have not yet started OECD seed certification. They also mentioned that they have learnt a lot in the last workshop and passed on the information to their fellow officers. They also highlighted the adverse climatic conditions like high humidity and untimely rains which are hindering the quality seed production in the state.



The representative from **Bihar State Seed Certification Agency** has informed that around 50,000 acre of seed production is under certification in the State. They mentioned that, in order to motivate the seed companies for seed production of Maize & Paddy they have conducted a meeting and expecting an area of 10 acres under Basic seed class next year. They indicated that, the varieties developed and suitable for Bihar have better performance in Nepal and also highlighted that there is great scope to export seed to Nepal for which they have already chalking out the plan.

The representative from **Haryana State Seed Certification Agency** stated that, they have not yet initiated the process but are planning for paddy, wheat and pulse seed production under OECD seed schemes.



The representative from **Odisha State Seed Certification Agency** has informed that, they have initiated the process but due to some administrative problems like frequent change of Directors and lack of support they could not progress further in implementation of OECD seed schemes.

They also mentioned that, they have identified some potential crops and planning for seed production under OECD seed schemes in ensuing kharif.



The representative from **Karnataka State Seed Certification Agency** has informed that, he submitted the brief report to the management after attending the theoretical workshop and initiated the process as there is great scope for forage crops & vegetable crops in Karnataka State. He also mentioned that, he had discussion with some companies like Mahyco who is registering areas with TSSOCA. He informed that there are some lacunae like lack of infrastructure, insufficient staff and high level support. He also indicated that, there is great scope for vegetable seed production & need to explore the opportunity in the State.



The representatives from **Maharashtra State Seed Certification Agency** informed that, they are organizing a meeting with seed producers and planning to initiate the process in Kharif 2018. They also highlighted the shortage of manpower to carry out the certification works.

The representatives from **Madhya Pradesh State Seed Certification Agency** informed that, Madhya Pradesh is having potential for Soybean seed production and they are going to organize a meeting with private seed companies.



The representatives from **Chhattisgarh State Seed Certification Agency** informed that Chhattisgarh is having potential for paddy hybrid seed production and annually they are certifying around 9.0 lakh quintals of paddy seeds and stated that though they are producing high quantities of paddy, they could not able to meet their state requirement because of insufficient staff. They are also planning to have a meeting with private seed companies.

The representative from **Uttarakhand State Seed Certification Agency** informed that, they made a step by organizing a introductory workshop in January, 2018 by involving all stakeholders and other states under their jurisdiction. He mentioned that they are planning for next kharif and also felt that there is a need to sensitize at higher level to accelerate implementation of the OECD seed schemes.



Officials from **Tamil Nadu Seed Certification Department and TNAU**, Coimbatore have informed that there is no progress of OECD in their State but assured that they will initiate the process by identifying potential seed companies and will organise a workshop at University level to sensitise the seed producers in the State.



The representatives from **National Seed Corporation** informed that, the management is discussing about export of Redgram seeds to the African countries under OECD seed certification.

The representative from **Andhra Pradesh State Seed Certification Agency** mentioned that the Andhra Pradesh State has more potential to produce seeds of different crops especially paddy, maize, sorghum and jute under OECD seed certification. He mentioned that, he was actively involved in preparation of OECD manual and also undergone exposure visits/trainings under OECD seed schemes. He further mentioned that after completion of practical workshop they will conduct a meeting. They also requested the Director, TSSOCA to involve the APSSCA staff in field inspection of the plots registered in the Andhra Pradesh State under OECD seed schemes so that they will also contribute in successful implementation of the OECD seed schemes.



The representatives from **Uttar Pradesh State Seed Certification Agency** informed that, they are certifying huge quantity of seeds under domestic seed certification and due to sufficient staff, so they could not able to focus on OECD seed certification.

The representative from **Rajasthan State Seed Certification Agency** mentioned that they have initiated the schemes, during the year 2016-17 with an area of 120 acres under Canola and a quantity of 477.00 quintals seed was certified and shifted to Telangana State for further process. During the year 2017-18 an area of 300 acres of Canola was registered and a quantity of 2000 quintals is expected. He also indicated that there is market potential for maize and wheat seeds in Afghanistan and in this regard, the National Seeds Corporation should be given responsibility to tap the market opportunities in the Afghanistan.



The representatives from **Kerala Seeds Development Corporation** informed that, there is no progress under OECD seed certification in the State but in the ensuing year they will organize a meeting to create awareness among the seed producers.



Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA presented the progress of OECD seed certification stating that the schemes were initiated from Kharif 2016 with an area of 20 acres and during the Rabi 2016-17 an area of 2200 acres was registered and a quantity of 17000 quintals of seed was

certified and exported to different countries. During the year 2017-18 an area of 2500 acres was registered and a quantity of 25000 quintals is expected to be produced. He also mentioned that several workshops and training programmes were conducted to create awareness and planning to



have workshops/trainings in all the Designated Authorities across the country in future.

Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Former Chairman of PPVFRA, has appreciated the Seed Certification Agencies who have already initiated the process and also those seed companies who are involved in it. He also stated that out of 15 States, five States have initiated the process which is good sign of progress and instructed other States to focus on OECD seed certification along with their National seed certification process. Further, he made following suggestions to speed up the implementation of OECD seed schemes in the country for accelerating seed exports from the country.

- Appreciated TSSOCA and RSSOPCA for taking initiation and also requested to guide the other Designated Authorities in implementation of the OECD seed schemes in their respective jurisdiction.
- Several capacity building activities /trainings /exposure visits have to be conducted and establishment of seed testing laboratories with international standards to supplement the seed exports.
- Need to create awareness among the potential seed companies who are involved in seed exports to promote them to export seeds under OECD seed schemes
- Involvement of SAUs/ICAR institutes in identifying export potential varieties and promotion of such varieties under OECD seed schemes

In the afternoon session **Mr. Eddie Goldschagg** presented on varietal descriptions of Maize, Sorghum & Sunflower for post control tests and field inspections. In this presentation, he covered the aspects like general procedures of Post control tests, field inspections, taking of field counts, offtype counting, requirements like previous cropping and isolation.



He also highlighted the procedures to be followed for crop inspector during the inspection of control plots and seed fields.



Mr. Gerry Hall presented on Management and Organization of field inspections and post control plots under OECD Seed. Wherein he covered the aspects like application for field inspection, detailed procedure of field inspection, seed source verification, isolation, crop condition, quadrat

determination and method of taking plant counts. He stressed more on checking of varietal identity and purity, which are confirmed through field inspections and control plot tests. He also opined that there should be a well coordination between the NDA, DA and maintainer of the varieties for success of the OECD seed schemes.



Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA has presented on varietal description of paddy for field inspections and control plot tests. In this presentation, he highlighted various characteristics which are to be observed at different stages like stem characters, leaf characters, flowering, panicle and grain characteristics. He also highlighted the importance of post control and field inspections in maintaining the integrity of the OECD seed schemes.

The day one ended with general discussion session wherein participants clarified their doubts on various issues regarding the subjects dealt in the day.

Day 2: April 4th, 2018

Theme : Practical on control plots

As part of the workshop, the practical hands-on-training on control plot test was organized at R & D farm of Hytech Seeds India (P) Ltd. at Aliyabad, Medchal district. Maize, Sorghum and Sunflower hybrids were raised exclusively in the control plots for training purpose according to the OECD seed schemes procedures wherein three different seed lots of three different hybrids for each crop in two replications (total 72 control plots) were raised.

The participants were divided into six batches and allotted 4 plots each for inspection. The OECD seed experts Mr. Eddie Goldschagg and Mr. Gerry Hall guided the participants in identifying, counting and reporting the impurities and dealt on several precautions to be taken while inspecting the control plots.

In addition to the practical training on control plots an exposure visit was also organized to the state-of-art cob drying and processing facilities of M/s Ganga Kaveri Seeds at Kodakandla, wherein the participants were exposed to advance cob drying and processing facilities.

- ICAR in India may be assisted to evolve a basic seed maintenance plan in relation to DUS characters to have pure seed in order to meet the OECD requirements.

Practical on Control Plots



Day 3 & 4 : April 5th & 6th, 2018

Theme : Practical on field inspections

Practicals on field inspection were organised in paddy hybrid seed plots of M/s UPL Advanta seeds at Bethgehal village of Karimnagar district. The participants carried out field inspections under the guidance of OECD seed experts Mr. Eddie Goldschagg and Mr. Gerry Hall.



In addition to the practical training on control plots an exposure visit was made to the state-of-art processing facilities of M/s Kaveri Seeds Ltd at Molangur Cross, Karimnagar, to have exposure on advance processing facilities.



An interaction meeting with the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Mr. Etela Rajender ji was organized at Huzarabad. Wherein the Hon'ble Minister has addressed the participants and highlighted about the Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision of making Telangana a global seed hub. He also underlined the favorable agro-climatic conditions prevailing in the State especially in Karimnagar district for quality seed production and also requested the local seed producers to exploit these opportunities through OECD seed certification and enhance seed exports from the Telangana State.

As part of the workshop, official dinner was arranged by the organizer for Foreign Delegates and participants.

Day 5: April 7th, 2018

Theme : Workshop conclusion



The valedictory session was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. K. Pattanayak, IAS, the Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of India. The dignitaries like Mr. C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Principal Secretary to Govt. (A&C), Govt. of Telangana, Dr. Jagan Mohan, IAS, Commissioner and Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Telangana and MD TSSDC, Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA, Shri L. Venkatrami Reddy, Commissioner of Horticulture, Mr. M. Prabhakar Rao, President, NSAI, Mr. Bhasker Rao, Council Member of NSAI, International OECD experts Mr. Eddie Goldschagg, Mr. Gerry Hall and Mr. Ekkehard Schroeder, Team Leader Indo-German project on Seed Sector Development and all the participants, officials of Agriculture Department, State Seed Certification Agencies, Directors and Scientists of State Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes and several distinguished personalities from the seed industry were present.

Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA in his welcome address briefed about the workshop and mentioned that TSSOCA is first in the country to implement OECD seed Certification and has been conducting series of capacity building programmes not only confining to Telangana State but also to other States. Further, he highlighted that this workshop is 4th of its kind and was a great success not only for gaining knowledge on International Seed Certification but also helped in building capacities in the context of international seed trade. He expressed that TSSOCA is willing to support other Designated Authorities in implementation of the OECD seed schemes in their respective jurisdiction.





Mr. C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Principal Secretary to Govt. (A&C), Govt. of Telangana summarized the workshop stating that Govt. of Telangana is grateful to Dr. S. K. Pattanayak, Secretary (Agriculture), GOI for being the one to sow the seed of OECD Seed Scheme in India during the year 2008. He expressed that the sown seed remained dormant until 2015 and yielded fruits now under the leadership of Telangana Government with the help of OECD seed experts. He opined that, India's share in International seed market should increase to at least 10% by promoting seed exports under the OECD seed schemes. He thanked GOI for planning to have EU

equivalence for Indian Seed Standards in near future for which Dr. K. Keshavulu has been nominated as a coordinator. He also mentioned that, the Govt. of Telangana has initiated the road map towards Global Seed Hub as per the great vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister. He also submitted his gratitude to Shri R K Singh and Dr. B. Rajender former Joint Secretaries (Seeds) for enlisting 230 varieties under OECD National list. Further, he emphasised on need of more capacity building programmes under OECD seed certification and stated that small countries of the World are doing better in International seed trade and in this regard, India should also increase seed exports. He stressed on updating of OECD and National seed certification manuals and drafting of action plan for next five years. While concluding his remarks, he made an appeal to GOI to form a high level committee to review OECD Seed Schemes.

Mr. Eddie Goldschagg, OECD seed expert from South Africa, in his message presented short over view on OECD seed schemes and emphasised that India's participation in OECD seed schemes is utmost important to enhance its share in international seed trade. Though it was started late it should to continue its participation in all meetings of OECD to ensure its continuous participation. In his presentation, he covered certain aspects like existing members of OECD seed schemes, quantity of seed certified under OECD seed schemes i.e. 1.1 bn kgs, leading crop species certified under OECD viz., maize, wheat, sunflower, barley, soybean, etc. and also continental wise share in the OECD seed certification. He stated that despite Asia being the biggest continent with the highest population in the world, it produces least amount of seed being exported under the OECD Seed Schemes among all the continents. India, with Telangana State as seed hub, has the necessary capability to take the lead in Asia on OECD Certification. Apart from above points he also made the following points for immediate action;



- Action plan for implementation of OECD Seed Scheme: The action plan for next five years is being prepared at global level. Similarly, the Government of India should consider preparing a long term plan for the implementation and smooth functioning of the OECD Schemes. In this regard, he proposed the name of Dr. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA who initiated the implementation of OECD Seed Schemes for the first time in India and

suggested that he shall be nominated for his continuation of participation in the OECD meetings for the next 5 years.

- India became the Member of OECD Technical Committee: India has been included as one of the Members of an Ad Hoc Technical Committee of OECD to promote International Seed Trade. Dr. Keshavulu, shall be involved in OECD programmes and OECD need India's help in preparation of directives for Rice/Paddy seed certification.
- Dr. Csaba Gaspar, Programme Manager of OECD Secretariat and Dr Pedro Lavignolle, Chair of the Technical Working Group of the OECD Seed Schemes requested the Joint Secretary (Seeds) & NDA, GOI to continue the participation in all the meetings of the OECD seed schemes regularly. Hence, in order to ensure the continuous participation by India, one Designated Authority has to be nominated at least for five years besides the Ministry of Agriculture, GOI for effective implementation of the programmes.
- Capacity building/training activities: Regular capacity building activities on the OECD seed certification are required, which includes exposure visits to countries for technical staff involved in OECD seed certification in order to build up the expertise in the country.
- Coordination of OECD activities in South Asia: OECD secretariat requested the Joint Secretary (Seeds) & NDA, GOI to take lead in the South Asian region to coordinate OECD activities in countries like Bangladesh & Myanmar and also help these countries to become the member of OECD seed schemes. This would also help in regional cooperation on seed movement between the countries in the region.

Mr. M. Prabhakar Rao and Mr. G.V. Bhaskar Rao, representatives from National Seeds Association of India expressed their gratitude to the Govt. of India and Govt. of Telangana State for taking initiative in implementing OECD Seed Schemes and requested the Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of India to support the marketing of seed produced under OECD Seed Scheme. They also mentioned that Indian seed sector has the potential to raise it's share in Global seed market and requested to establish Seed Export Promotion Council in similar lines like pharma, textile and agro chemical industries.



The participants during the interaction session have expressed their gratitude to Govt. of Telangana for conducting workshops and also informed that they have gained knowledge through the theoretical and practical sessions of the OECD workshop and has given assurance of sharing their experiences in their respective States.

Dr. S. K. Pattanayak, IAS, the Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of India, in his remarks recollected the memories of participation of Indian delegation under his leadership at OECD annual meeting in Chicago during the year 2008, where the Indian participation was accepted unanimously by all the participating countries. He felt happy to see the fruit of his efforts put forth in the year 2008. He complemented the efforts made by the TSSOCA and Govt. of Telangana in initiating and spreading the awareness on OECD seed schemes. He instructed the representatives from other States to go



ahead in the OECD seed schemes under the leadership of Telangana. He felt happy for progress made on seed exports by TSSOCA and advised other DAs to sensitize their seed producers and farmers to take advantage of this opportunity of producing seeds under OECD Seed Scheme to earn more income which helps in realizing Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of doubling the farmer's income. He also complemented the Govt. of Telangana for establishment of ISTA Lab with state-of-art facilities and suggested that these initiatives should be replicated in other States also. He also highlighted the idea of Seed Export Promotion Council and stated that there is a need to act on this immediately by taking advantage of new technologies like block chain technology which will provide single platform to seed growers, producers and farmers. While concluding his remarks, he gave assurance on formation of high level committee, establishment of one more NSRTC at Hyderabad, EU equivalence and financial assistance to State Seed Certification Agencies/DAs for effective implementation of OECD seed schemes in the country.

Interaction meeting on Promotion of seed exports under International Seed Certification

In the afternoon session, the Interaction meeting on “Promotion of seed exports under International Seed Certification” was held in the Conference Hall of TSSOCA, Hyderabad by



involving seed industry personnels under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. K. Pattanayak, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of India, where in Shri C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Principal Secretary to Govt. (A&C), Govt. of Telangana, Dr. Jagan Mohan, Commissioner and Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Telangana, Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA, Shri Ajeya Kallam, IAS (retd.), Former Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh and Shri V. Nagi Reddy, (retd.) Former State Election Commissioner and also OECD seed experts Mr. Eddie Goldschagg (South Africa) and Mr. Gerry Hall (UK) were present. The meeting was conducted with an objective to discuss various issues related to International seed certification and to sensitize the seed industry to increase the seed exports under International Seed Certification system.

Mr. C. Partha Sarathi, IAS, APC & Principal Secretary to Govt. (A&C), Govt. of Telangana gave a brief presentation on the status of implementation of OECD seed certification in India and also the progress made by Govt. of Telangana. He covered aspects like genesis of OECD seed schemes in India, initiation of the schemes, progress made and several initiatives taken by Govt. of Telangana to boost seed exports under OECD seed schemes and also way forward to enhance the seed exports. He also stated that the OECD seed schemes benefits the farmers by increasing the area under seed certification and improves the competency among seed growers and also helps to improve the standards of the National seed certification. At the end of his remarks, he requested Dr. S. K. Pattanayak, Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of India to provide annual budget to SSCAs to improve their efficiency and to build up expertise in the seed certification.

The representatives from Seed Industry thanked the Govt. of Telangana for organising the interaction meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Agriculture), GOI by involving eminent policy makers and the seed industry personals. Further, they requested to establish Seed Export Promotion Council and also to provide incentives to the seed companies for exports in initial years so that they can explore the opportunities under OECD Seed Scheme. They also suggested



advance planning for seed production for State Seed Corporations so that quality seed would be produced and supplied to the farming community.

Dr. Yogeshwar Rao, eminent seed expert from Telangana State suggested that Indian seed companies may have joint ventures with multinationals, which would help in custom seed production and exports. He opined that the Indian varieties/hybrids have good demand for export to other countries especially SAARC Countries, hence seed export zones based on the potentiality of seed production need to be delineated. He also suggested the establishment of Centre of Excellence/Nodal agency to support seed production, processing, seed testing and marketing.

Mr. Nagi Reddy, IAS (retd.), Former State Election Commissioner suggested that with the formation of seed export promotion council, India can attain much better place than the existing 24th place in seed exports.

Mr. Ajeya Kallam, IAS (retd.), Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in his message has suggested having seed vouchers to farmers containing information like “what to purchase, from who to purchase” in similar lines with the educational vouchers provided in developed countries. He also highlighted the need of a Nodal Agency for seed exports and also there is a need to develop base document regarding scope and demand of seeds so that production can be carried out based on the requirement. He also advised to use modern IT technologies such as drones, GPS, Geo tagging to ensure transparency, accountability and also to monitor the seed production activities.

Dr. S. K. Pattanayak, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of India has interacted with the seed industry personnel and discussions were held in detail to resolve the way forward to promote the seed exports under International seed certification. In his concluding remarks, he recommended the following proposals for smooth functioning of OECD Seed schemes and for promotion of seed exports;

1. Establishment of Seed Export Promotion Council to have a single window system for seed export
2. Establishment of comprehensive Nodal agency/Centre of Excellence for International Seed Certification
3. Constitution of high level committee to study the seed demand, quality requirements and regulations in other countries. In this regard, he instructed to come up with proposal at the earliest
4. Instructed Dr. K. Keshavulu, Director, TSSOCA to expedite the process of EU equivalence for Indian Seed Standards
5. Assurance of financial assistance to the State Seed Certification Agencies / DAs for implementation of OECD seed schemes
6. Strengthening and upgrading the existing Seed Testing Laboratories to International (ISTA) standards and also regular auditing of Seed Testing Laboratories
7. Establishment of one more Central Seed Testing and Research Centre like NSRTC at Hyderabad
8. Preparation of Action plan for next five years to speed up the implementation of OECD Seed Schemes
9. Delineation of potential seed production areas exclusively for export purpose and development of those area into Seed Valleys
10. Facilities for testing of Indian varieties and hybrids having export potential in other OECD member countries
11. Preparation of OECD and National Seed Certification manuals and in this regard, instructed the Director, TSSOCA to start the work immediately.
12. Financial support for organizing ISTA Congress-2019 at Hyderabad.
13. Instructed to write a letter on pending issues at the Govt. of India regarding the seed certification

Felicitation



Felicitation



Felicitation



TSSOCA New Webpage Launching by **Dr. S. K. Pattanayak, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of India**





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