

# OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme Activities Report 2022-2023

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The main objective of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme is to facilitate international trade through the harmonization of implementation and interpretation of marketing standards. A further objective is to facilitate mutual recognition of inspections by participating countries. The Scheme is well known for its explanatory brochures on standards, but is also involved in defining inspection procedures that are recognized in many countries, and in sponsoring training courses. The Scheme also organizes peer reviews with the goal of helping the reviewed country improve its quality inspection system.

The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme was established in 1962 (inter-governmental organization). Currently has 28 participating countries and has developed 30+ Explanatory Brochures. The Scheme also develops OECD Conformity Certificates, Guidelines, 10+ Peer Reviews and organises biannual Meetings of Heads of National Inspection Services.

The Scheme recently evaluated the economic impact of marketing standards and the effects of OECD Explanatory Brochures.

The study shows that the publication of OECD Fruit and Vegetables brochures have considerable positive effects on trade in fresh fruit and vegetables. Of the 25 brochures investigated, 14 indicated large and statistically significant effects on trade. In particular, in the years following publication, trade is statistically significantly larger for fruits and vegetables related to these brochures: apples (by 22%), apricots (22%), beans (25%), citrus fruits (27%), cucumbers (22%), figs (18%), grapes (9%), mangoes (29%), melons (24%), onions (23%), pears (25%), potatoes (42%), shallots (18%), and watermelons (34%).

The analysis suggests that publication of OECD FVS brochures and implementation/revision of UNECE standards are associated with substantial increases in international trade across multiple product categories.

Having a common system (same marketing standards, harmonized interpretation and common inspections methodologies) amplifies the positive impact on trade. Farmers/Traders benefit from harmonized inspection methods and clear quality standards classification that promote fair trade. Consumers benefit from quality assurance and fair prices.

New activities for 2022-2023:

E-Learning: Ad-hoc-working Group (AHWG) on exploring how to disseminate information in an interactive and constructive way (short name “on eLearning”) . The Members of the AHWG are Brazil, Belgium, Slovakia, France, Germany, Kenya, South Africa, Spain and COLEACP.

Guidelines Pandemics/Disruptive events:The following countries volunteered to work on the guidelines: France (Chair), Germany, Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain and COLEACP. Study on BREXIT impacts on fruit and vegetables trade. Study on climate change impact on fruit and vegetables quality.