

**Report of
The 6th Working Group on Seed Bank
1 December 2014
Istanbul - Turkey**

The Government of the Republic of Turkey hosted the 6th D-8 Working Group on Seed Bank on 1 December 2014 in İstanbul with the participation of delegates from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Turkey. ICARDA and Turkish Seed Union (TURKTOB) also participated in this meeting as an observer. The list of delegations is given in **Annex I**.

1. Opening

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. İsa Özkan, Head of Field Crops Research Department, Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock, General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies. In his remarks, he welcomed members to Turkey and wished them fruitful deliberations.

2. Election of the Chairman and Appointment of the Rapporteur

Dr. İsa Özkan from Turkey was elected as the Chairman and Mr. I Made Jana Mejaya (Indonesia) from Indonesian Centre for Food Crops Research and Development was elected as the rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as enclosed in **Annex II**.

4. Review on the Work Programme and Development based on the 5th Meeting of the Working Group on Seed Bank (WGSB)

The need for the establishment of a Seed Bank was noted. In this regard a seed bank a project has already been prepared and proposed to D-8 Secretariat with an aim of providing funds.

Though establishing a seed bank is of significant importance, the knowledge of seed and supporting activities related to trade were considered as priority subjects.

The significance of harmonization of seed registration and certification system was also noted and emphasized that trade or exchange of seed between countries can be only possible through harmonization of these systems.

5. New Projects & Area of Cooperation

- Mr Sabahattin Durmaz from Variety Registration and Seed Certification Centre, Turkey presented his country report on the subject of “Variety Registration System”, as attached as **Annex III**. In his presentation he mainly focused on the variety registration system and its principles implemented in Turkey also in accordance with international rules (UPOV) and standards.
- Mrs.Havva Aydoğmuş from Variety Registration and Seed Certification Centre, Turkey presented her country report on the subject of National Seed Certification System and ISTA Rules for Seed Certification, as attached as **Annex IV**. The presentation mainly focuses on seed certification system applied in Turkey. She also gave brief information about the history of the certification system and required steps for the certification of a variety and went through the Scope of ISTA Accreditation applied in Turkey.
- Following these presentations committee discussed options and possible ways of harmonizing rules and standards among member countries to make seed trade easier. It was emphasized that further studies and workshops on Seed and Plant Material Registration and Certification program are needed to discuss the harmonization process in more technical detail. It was also stated that funds provide critical support for these workshops ensuring the continuity of studies. Furthermore it is vital to ensure the involvement of private seed sector through these studies.
- A presentation on Seed Import and Export Requirements and Quarantine Measurements in Turkey were given by Emine Melike Aktepe from İstanbul Quarantine Directorate. She has given information on pre-permit process and documentation requirements and rules applied for the importation of seeds, as attached as **Annex V**. Also some information on laboratories, technical potential of facilities and activities carried out by Quarantine Directorate were given.
- Mrs Bengü Koyuncu representing General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies introduced ‘d8seedbank.org’ web page to participants and talked about the contents of it in brief. Functions and menus included along with data can be accessed through the page were demonstrated. Suggestions related and data that should be put to web page were kindly requested. It was suggested that a directory of the page and a new menu item for ‘barley’ should be included under ‘crops’ section. It was decided members will upload country profiles to the web page using Turkey’s example. The information will be uploaded by 31st December 2014.
- Mr. Tayfur Çağlayan representing Turkish Seed Union (TURKTOB) explained the country profile of seed sector including details related to important products of the country, year data of production amounts, production amounts based on groups, value of the production, dynamics and policies applied to seed sector, as attached as **Annex VI**. Importance of research and production on seed and cooperation of the sector with international organizations and governments were also emphasized. Milestones in Turkish seed sector were mentioned in his presentation. Some information on organizational structure of the private seed sector and Seed Union was also included in

the presentation. Turkish Seed Union is working on to establish good collaboration with other countries' private sector.

6. Date & Venue of the next Meeting

The 7th D-8 Seed Bank Working Group meeting has been fixed for May 2015 in Turkey. The subjects to be discussed in the workshop are as follows:

- D-8 Variety Registration and Seed Certification,
- Seed and Plant Health Issues,
- D-8 Seed Council.

7. Any Other Business

- Increasing the efficiency of D-8 Secretariat has significant importance. In this scope, secretariat to prepare midyear reports of countries regarding the progress and activities related.
- Adopting common legislations among member countries of D8 to encourage seed trade is needed.
- Encouraging private sector to take part in activities of D-8 is essential.

8. Adoption of the Report

The Report of the 6th Meeting of the Working Group on Seed Bank was considered and adopted.

9. Closing

Delegations expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the excellent arrangement made for the Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in İstanbul.