



**Summary report of the meeting of the Expert group on legislation of seed and plant propagating material - Working Group on a EU temporary experiment on field inspection  
18 September 2015**

Chairperson: P. Mannerkorpi

Experts from the following Member States were present: AT, DE, DK, FR, NL and UK. NO participated too.

1. Results of the experiment at EU level for 2014 presented by France

The aim of the experiment was recalled: to investigate certification under official supervision for pre-basic and basic seed productions and to find out the appropriate level of official check testing.

FR, which is coordinating the experiment, presented the 2014 results. 8 MS (AT, DE, DK, FR, IT, PT, ES, UK) and NO have now implemented the Decision 2012/340/EU (one MS more than in 2014). However, in DE seed companies have had no interest so far to participate in the experiment. The results show that field inspection under official supervision works overall very well: only 0.6% deviations in 8768 crops inspected (3058 official check inspections). The experiment mostly covers seed of cereals (8 MS) and forage crops (8 MS), and to a lesser extent seed of oil and fibre plants (5 MS). Only DK has included seed of sugar beet in the experiment and there has been no interest in vegetable seed. Discussion took place on the level of official check testing (compared to planning), procedure of licencing inspectors, post-controls (pre-controls) and experience gained. FR will present the final report in the Standing Committee meeting on 28 September 2015.

2. Discussion on 2015 results and intentions of participation for 2016

The questionnaire to collect the results for 2015 will be sent out by FR. The MS should send their input before 31 December 2015 to FR. The expert group will meet at the end of February 2016. Some Member States will reduce the level of official check testing step by step as planned. IT and DE will start with lowest level of 5 % while BE is keeping 100% level. It could be useful to exchange information on official post-control procedures as well.

3. Presentation of licencing procedures for field inspectors in France and in some other Member States

FR, UK and AT presented their system of authorising field inspection under official supervision: application, criteria/requirements, training, decision making, personal swearing in or agreement by signature, IT tools and procedures, follow-up training, audits, co-operation with the company etc.

#### 4. Discussion on field inspector licensing procedures

It was clear that there are some differences among the Member States. NL informed that they are rather authorising and auditing the whole company though including an individual licencing of field inspectors. On the issue of official check testing, some Member States informed that there are problems in keeping up the expertise if only few field inspections are carried out officially while other Member States train and use a high number of administrative employees from e.g. agricultural chambers or extension services in the country. It was decided to continue exchanging information and NL will give a presentation of its system in 2016.