

# OECD FOREST SEED AND PLANT SCHEME

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

The OECD Scheme for the Certification of Forest Reproductive Material seeks to encourage the production and use of forest tree seeds or plants that have been collected, processed, raised, labelled and distributed in a manner that ensures their trueness to name.

The OECD Forest Scheme defines four broad categories of forest reproductive material that are recognised for certification:

- 1. Source-identified** material is collected from a forest area within a delineated region of provenance.
- 2. Material from selected stands** is collected from a delineated population of trees possessing sufficient uniformity.
- 3. Qualified material** is from untested seed orchards.
- 4. Tested material** is from tested seed orchards or stands, which have been proven to produce seed of improved quality.

Certified Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) is intended for use in a variety of forestry and agroforestry functions, including the production of timber and other goods (e.g. fruit, gum, resin, cork), soil protection, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and environmental restoration.

Policy makers, regulators and industry are facing new opportunities and challenges. Whether it is adapting certification processes to include new reproductive techniques and materials or improving traceability to address concerns with fraud, the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme is working with participating countries to adapt to changes.

In addition, Forests will play an important role in both climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. FRM can have a considerable impact on a forest's health and productivity, but also their ability to adapt and survive shocks such as changes in climate or pests and disease.

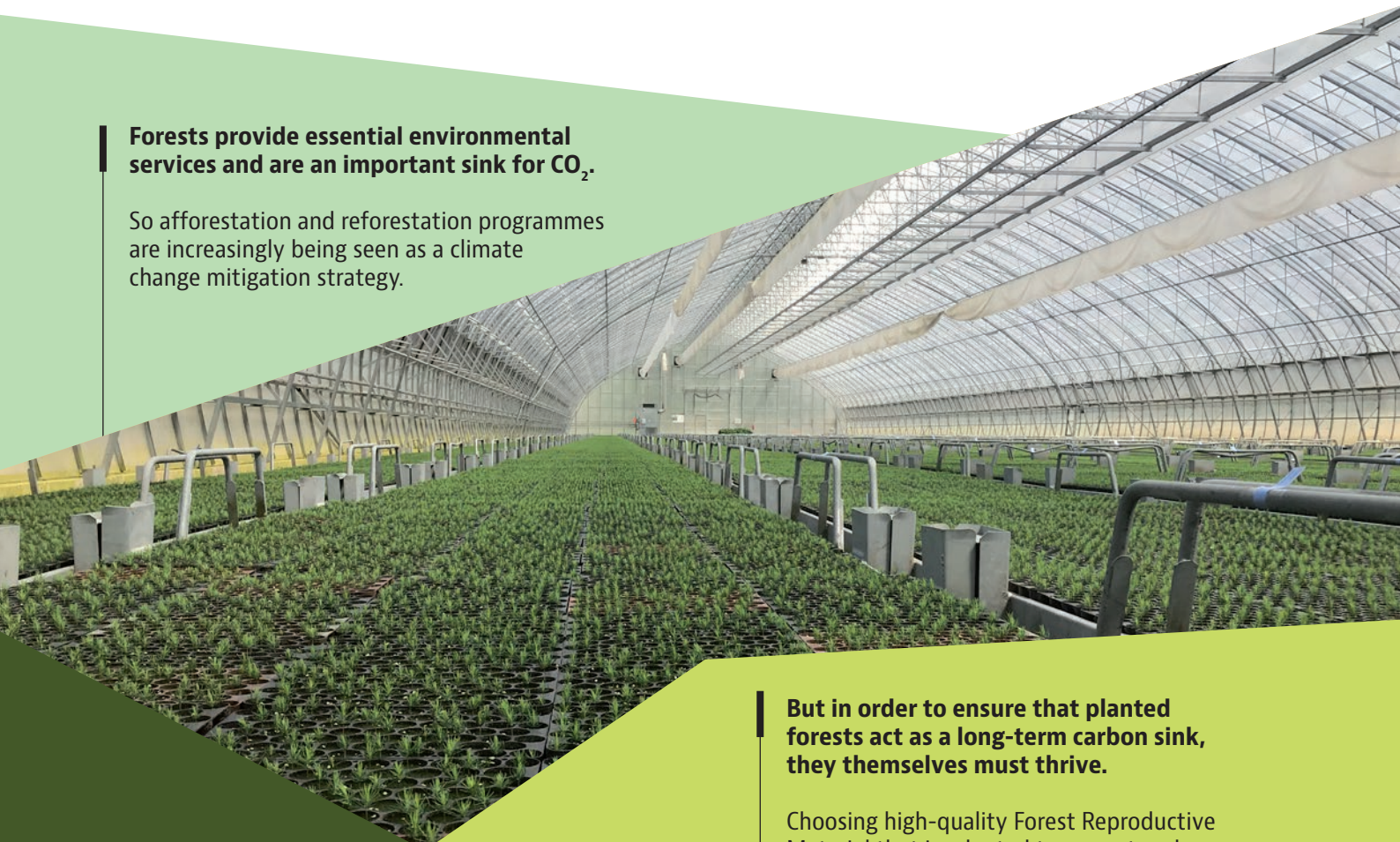
To date, 29 participating countries implement the Scheme, including countries that are developing their certification and trade of forest seeds and plants for agroforestry and reforestation purposes.

### Forests provide essential environmental services and are an important sink for CO<sub>2</sub>.

So afforestation and reforestation programmes are increasingly being seen as a climate change mitigation strategy.

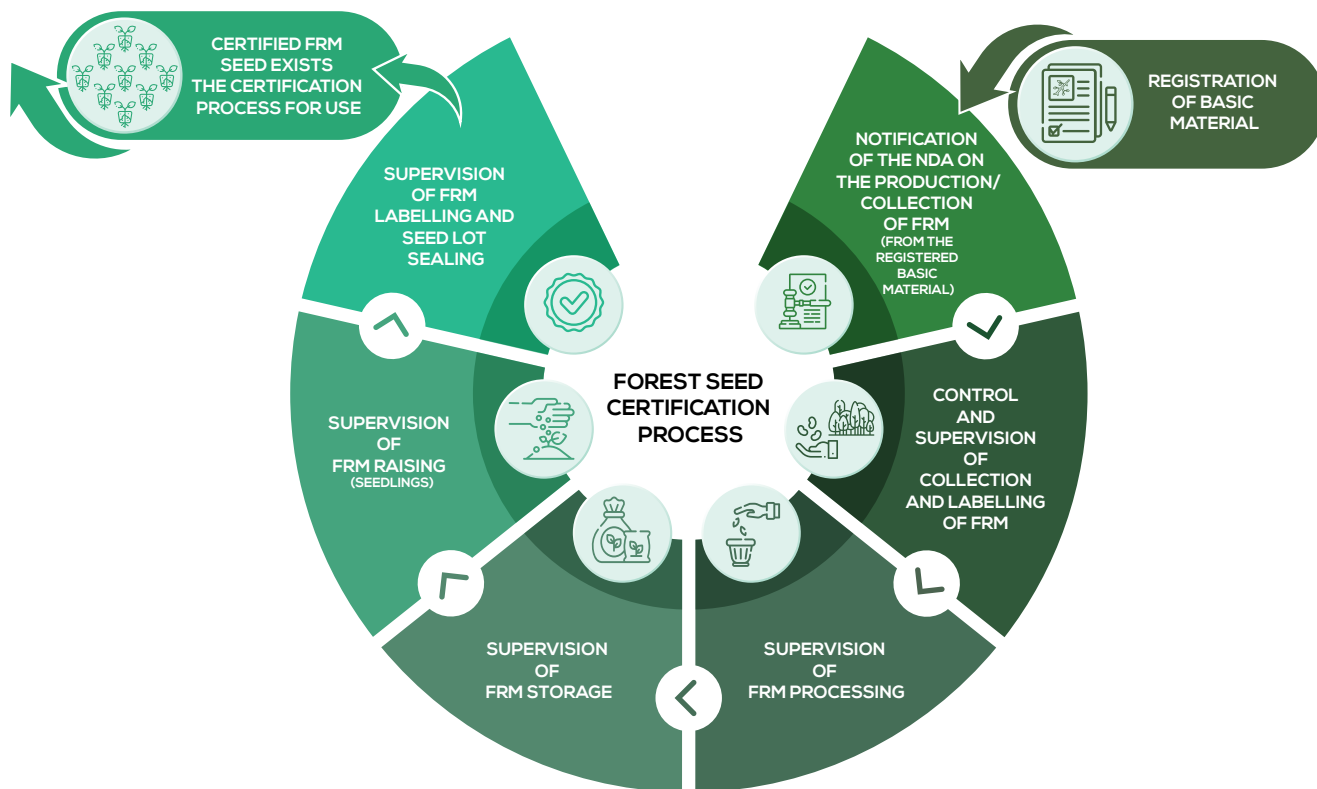
### But in order to ensure that planted forests act as a long-term carbon sink, they themselves must thrive.

Choosing high-quality Forest Reproductive Material that is adapted to current and future climates is critical to their survival.



# HOW DOES THE FOREST SCHEME OPERATE?

The OECD Forest Scheme ensures the implementation of a set of procedures, methods and standards which verify the origin and quality of FRM.



## WORKING IN NEW REGIONS: THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF FOREST SEED AND PLANT CERTIFICATION IN TROPICAL REGIONS

There is increasing awareness of the potential benefits of the OECD Forest Scheme in the context of harmonising regulations and facilitating international trade in tropical areas.

Many countries from Africa, South America and Asia have expressed interest in the Scheme, especially when developing their own national certification system for forest seeds & plants. Burkina Faso, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda and Uganda currently participate in the scheme.

The OECD Guidelines on the Production of Forest Reproductive Materials primarily focus on production procedures of forest reproductive materials for moderate climate zones. To better adapt the Scheme to conditions in tropical regions, the Guidelines and the Rules and Regulations are regularly reviewed to reflect, for example, the increased use of multifunctional trees for national afforestation and reforestation programmes in tropical regions and the importance of Agroforestry production models.

## HOW TO JOIN

The following are the key stages when applying to join the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme:

- An official request to join is sent to the OECD Secretary General accompanied by the relevant documentation;
- This is followed by an evaluation process, usually involving a short mission to the applicant country;
- The evaluation report is circulated to the authorities of the participating countries and discussed and approved at the OECD Annual Meeting;
- The final step is an internal OECD process resulting in a Council Decision. The whole procedure takes about one year.

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The OECD Forest seed and Plant Scheme is developed and regularly updated in collaboration with governments, relevant international organisations and representatives from the forestry industry. This multi-stakeholder approach is the real strength of the OECD forest seed and plant scheme, creating a benchmark in the forestry sector.

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