

13th International Training Course



„Harmonisation of Fruit and Vegetables Quality Assessment“



REPORT

The 13th International Training Course OECD „Harmonisation of fruit and vegetables quality assessment“ was held from 22 to 24 September 2008 in Mojmirovce (Slovak Republic).

Programme of the ITC was focused on quality standards interpretation and their application in practice. They were presented following OECD / UNECE quality standards: cabbage (Günter Jessl, Austria), cucumbers (Milos Hlista, Slovakia), citrus fruits (Yael Armitage, Israel) and water melons (Istvan Ecsedi, Hungary).

OECD (Csaba Gáspár) and UNECE (Claudio Meza) secretariats informed about latest development in their organisation.

Two participating countries introduced their national inspection services for fresh fruit and vegetables quality control: Kenya (Rachel Ntoyai) and USA (Dorian La Fond and Nathaniel Taylor).

Following presentations on quality standards application were introduced:

1. New concept of the OECD brochure - Yael Armitage, Israel
2. Conformity control in Romania at the import stage for the agreed 3rd countries - Daniela Ciolacu, Romania
3. Import controls in UK – John Dean, UK
4. Citrus fruit post harvest treatment – Bärbel Jakobs, Germany
5. EC fruit and vegetables sector reform, Sandrine Valentine, EC
6. Integration requests and changes in Hungarian fruit and vegetables inspection, Lajos Nemeth, Hungary
7. Fruit and vegetables internal defects and assessment – Mat Kersten, The Netherlands

During the technical visit delegates visited Zelstar company in Zemne, cucumbers grower and 4 FRUIT company in Zlatna na Ostrove, tomatoes grower.

ITC was attended by 86 delegates from 20 countries (Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria, The Netherlands, Cyprus, United Kingdom, Israel, Germany, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, USA, Finland, Bulgaria, Kenya, Albania, France, Poland and Slovak Republic). Representatives of OECD, UNECE and EC were presented on the ITC. Private sector was represented by SGS Company (Switzerland).

Thanks to voluntary contribution of the Slovak Republic to the OECD participation of Kenya and Albania was possible on the ITC.

All participants successfully passed final test on quality assessment of covered produces and took over Certificate of attendance during the reception given by Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic.

14th ITC will be held in June 2009. The programme of the next ITC will take into consideration comments and recommendations of all participants as well as request from OECD Scheme member countries and UNECE WP.7 participating countries.