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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development
Fifty-seventh session, 12-14 November 2001, Geneva

Item 15 of the Provisional Agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note by the secretariat

This document presents the draft updated programme of work prepared on the basis of reports of recent sessions of the Working Party and its Specialized Sections. Further proposals for additions or amendments are invited. The document also contains the proposed calendar of meetings for 2002.

1. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2002 - 2003

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 04: TRADE FACILITATION AND AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS

04 (B) STANDARDIZATION OF PERISHABLE PRODUCE AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

04 (B).1 Activities of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Description: The Working Party prepares and revises standards, recommendations and interpretative brochures for the marketing and control of commercial quality of selected perishable produce moving in international trade between and to UN/ECE member countries.

Work accomplished:

- All UN/ECE Standards for perishable produce have been published on the home page.
- Up-to-date complete meeting information is available on the home page.
- Several standards for fresh fruit and vegetables, dry and dried produce and the Standard Layout for dry and dried produce were revised.
- The Standards for early and ware and seed potatoes were revised.
- The Standard for bovine carcasses and cuts was finalized.
- [- A workshop on food quality was held in Croatia]

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) Elaboration of new standards for dry and dried produce, fresh fruit and vegetables, and meat.

Duration: Continuing according to the needs of participating countries.

- (b) Revision of selected standards and recommendations.

Duration: The revision and updating of standards is a continuing task to adapt standards to developments of the market and to harmonize with other regulations and standards.

- (c) Review of the status of the acceptance and application of UN/ECE Standards

Duration: Continuing.

- (d) Operational activities: workshops on harmonization of standards and control procedures for perishable produce in countries in economic transition

Duration: Workshops will be planned according to the needs of countries. It is expected that a workshop will be held in India in cooperation with UN/ESCAP in 2002.

- (e) Interpretation of the provisions concerning quality tolerances in the standards for fresh fruit and vegetables

Duration: Continuing. Discussions on the possibility to develop explanatory material will continue.

- (f) Investigation of quality assurance systems for perishable produce

Duration: Continuing.

- (g) Updating of the home page of the agricultural standards unit containing all standards and up to date information on the work of the Working Party.

Duration: The system will be continually enlarged and updated.

- (h) Co-operation with other organisations dealing with standardization of perishable produce to ensure harmonization and avoid duplication of work.

Duration: Continuing.

- (i) Work on the review of the Geneva Protocol, the standard layout and the working procedures.

Duration: 2002-2003

- (j) Identify and evaluate possibilities of cooperation with the other regional commissions.

Duration: 2002-2003

- (k) Identify and evaluate possibilities for cross sectorial activities with UN/EDIFACT, Transport Division and Environment Division.

Duration: 2002-2003

04(B).2 Activities of the specialized sections of the Working Party

04(B).2.1 Specialized Section on the Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- C Review and revision of standards (currently being revised; others can be proposed):
 - Annonas
 - Draft UNECE Standard for Apples
 - Draft UNECE Standard for Pears
 - List of varieties for the existing UNECE Standard for Apples and Pears
 - Avocados
 - Citrus Fruit
 - Kiwifruit
 - Peaches and Nectarines
 - Table Grapes
 - Strawberries;
 - Leeks

- C Elaboration of new UNECE Standards for Pineapples and Lambs Lettuce

- C Trademark issues

- C Use of code marks

- C Electronic exchange of non-conformity cases

- C Application of quality control, including the harmonization and overview of certification, quality control and inspections, in cooperation with the OECD Scheme on the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables. Investigation of a quality assurance system

- C Development of harmonized trade descriptions and classification codes

- C Review of the numbering system in the standard layout

04(B).2.2 Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

- C Review and revision of standards (currently being revised; others can be proposed):
 - Almonds
 - Pistachio nuts

- C Review of the Standard Layout for Dry and Dried Fruit

- C Review of a multi-lingual Dictionary of Defects

- C Elaboration of a sampling plan.

04(B).2.3 Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

- C Publication of the UNECE standard for beef carcasses and cuts and preparation of an interpretative brochure
- C Ongoing maintenance work on the bovine standard
- C Finalization of the ovine and chicken standards
- C development of colour chips/ marketing cards with the goal of achieving a harmonized standard in the future;
- C Electronic Commerce and Trade Standards
- C Pilot study on implementation of the bovine standard; evaluation of possibilities to facilitate conformity assessment
- C Detailed review of the porcine standard including a new coding system
- C Evaluation of the possibility to elaborate standards for other species (e.g., Turkey, Veal, Lama, Camel)
- C Evaluation to include products with added ingredients and size reduction in the standards.

04(B).2.4 (a) Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes,

- C Review of the UNECE Standards for Early and Ware potatoes especially sizing tolerances
- C Comparison of inspection and sampling methods and national legislations
- C Review of the definition of long varieties
- C Discussion on the UNECE Conditions of Sale and RUCIP 2000;
- C Information on the progress of the OECD explanatory brochure for Early and Ware potatoes

(b) Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

- C Review of the standard; rewrite the introduction to better reflect its purpose and scope; destination tolerances to control tuber rots; elaborate a list of quality diseases for inclusion in the standard.

- C Compile the results of the questionnaire on national seed potato schemes,
- C Definition of the complete control procedure for the certification of seed potatoes
- C Standardization of methods
- C Investigate further the problem of superficial necrosis and the mop top virus
- C Discuss issue related to GMO
- C Discuss quality assurance
- C Create visual aids for the standard
- C Compare the UNECE and other standards
- C Establish working relationships with WTO, IPPC, EPPO and NAPPO

[04(B).2.5 Standardization of eggs and egg products

No activities planned.

04(B).2.6 Standardization of cut flowers

No activities planned.

04(B).2.7 General conditions of sale for fresh fruit and vegetables and for dry and dried fruit

No activities planned.

NOTE: For the above activities (04(B).2.5.-04(B).2.7) the regular sessions of the Specialized Sections have been discontinued. Review, revision and updating of existing standards and conditions of sale may require sessions in future as needed.]

2. **TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2002**

Specialized Section	Session	Location	Date	10 week deadline for documents
Seed Potatoes (GE.6)	32	Geneva	4 - 6 March	18 December 2001
Meat (GE.11)	11	Geneva	8 - 10 April	28 January
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1)	48	Geneva	23 - 26 April	11 February
Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2)	49	Geneva*	21 - 24 May	11 March
Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7)	58	Geneva	12 - 14 November	27 August

* Note by the secretariat: should this meeting be held outside Geneva, delegations will be informed as soon as possible.
