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International Workshop on Seed Potatoes for Countries of Africa and the Middle East

UNECE is organizing an international workshop on seed potatoes in Cairo on 16-19 March, the main purpose of which is to encourage growers in North Africa and the Middle East to apply the UNECE international commercial Standard for Seed Potatoes.

The workshop will gather together government agencies, research institutes, producer associations and growers from some 14 countries to exchange experiences and technical knowledge. Many of these countries already export or have the potential to export early potatoes to Europe. Applying the UNECE Standard would help them grow healthy potatoes, limit the risk of spreading diseases and pests, and increase early potatoes export volumes.

The event is being jointly organized by UNECE, the Central Administration for Seed Testing and Certification of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt (MARL-CASC), and the Fédération Nationale des Producteurs de Plantes de Pommes de Terre (FNPPPT) of France. This workshop is the second in a series of UNECE activities for development, financed from the United Nations Development Account. The next workshop takes place in Kenya in April.

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UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes

The quality of seed potatoes determines the yield and health of the harvest. The UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes sets common terminology and minimum commercial quality requirements for the certification of high quality seed intended for marketing internationally. It is a unique international frame of reference, covering all aspects related to seed-potato certification. The Standard takes into account issues falling under the World Trade Organization Agreements on Technical barriers to Trade and on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

معايير الأمم المتحدة الدولية لاعتماد وتمييز تقاوي البطاطس

يتم تحديد نوعية تقاوي البطاطس حسب الحالة الصحية والإنتاجية للمحصول الناتج، وقد قسمت تقاوي البطاطس وبيعها حسب معايير (UNECE) (International Standard for Seed Potatoes) المتعددة الجنسيات التي وضعتها منظمة التجارة العالمية بالتعاون مع منظمة الصحة العالمية.

وبعد هذا المعيار أشار جميع خبراء البطاطس في جميع أنحاء العالم إلى أن تطبيق المعيار (UNECE) (International Standard for Seed Potatoes) سيساعد على تحسين الإنتاجية وبيع تقاوي البطاطس في الأسواق العالمية.

مشتقات الجودة

ويتمثل الهدف الأساسي من هذا المعيار هو تحسين الإنتاجية من التقاوي التي يتم استخدامها في الزراعة، وذلك من خلال تطبيق المعيار (UNECE) (International Standard for Seed Potatoes) الذي يحدد الحد الأدنى من متطلبات الجودة التي يجب أن تلبيها تقاوي البطاطس التي يتم استخدامها في الزراعة.

وتتضمن المعيار (UNECE) (International Standard for Seed Potatoes) ما يلي:

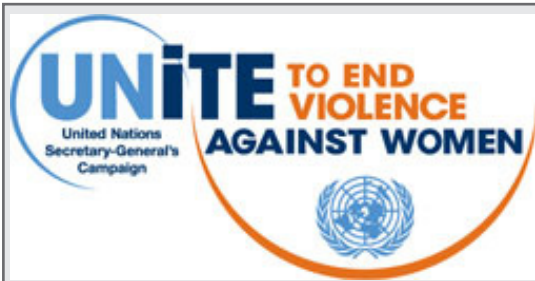
- تحديد الحد الأدنى من متطلبات الجودة التي يجب أن تلبيها تقاوي البطاطس التي يتم استخدامها في الزراعة.
- تحديد الحد الأدنى من متطلبات الجودة التي يجب أن تلبيها تقاوي البطاطس التي يتم استخدامها في الزراعة.
- تحديد الحد الأدنى من متطلبات الجودة التي يجب أن تلبيها تقاوي البطاطس التي يتم استخدامها في الزراعة.

المعيار (UNECE) (International Standard for Seed Potatoes) متاح في اللغة العربية، الفرنسية، الإنجليزية، الروسية، والصينية.

يمكن تنزيل المعيار (UNECE) (International Standard for Seed Potatoes) من الموقع الإلكتروني: http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/potatoes/pot_e.htm

The International Standard for Certification and Marketing of Seed Potatoes is available in English, French, Russian and Arabic. It can be downloaded from http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/potatoes/pot_e.htm.

International Women's Day



The first International Women's Day was launched in 1911 on 19 March (not 8 March). In 1913 it was transferred to 8 March and this day has remained the global date for International Women's Day ever since.

The principle of equality between women and men was adopted for the first time at the international level in the Preamble of the United Nations Charter in 1945. Since then, a significant number of international standards have been adopted within the framework of the United Nations in favour of the concretization of this principle.

In 1977, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 32/142 inviting Member States to dedicate a day, once a year, to mark the "United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace". The United Nations designated 1975 as 'International Women's Year', and gave official sanction to and began sponsoring International Women's Day.

For many years the United Nations has held an annual IWD conference to coordinate international efforts for women's rights and participation in social, political and economic processes. The theme of this year's International Women's Day was "Women and Men United to End Violence against Women and Girls". This was chosen to draw attention to the Secretary-General's wider "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" campaign launched last year and which runs through 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. A variety of events were organized by the United Nations at Headquarters and around the world to mobilize against gender violence.

For more information see <http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2009/>.

Not an official record - For information only

The Philippines adopts UNECE regulation on helmets

The Philippines has adopted UNECE Regulation No. 22 on helmets as a Philippine National Standard.

Regulation No. 22 of the 1958 Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform technical prescriptions for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts gives standard specifications and test methods for protective helmets and their visors for motorcycles and mopeds drivers and passengers.

According to the World Health Organization, nearly 1.2 million people die of road-traffic accidents every year, with young motorcyclists (mostly under 25) making up a significant percentage of fatalities among road users in Asian countries. WHO reports that a majority of motorcycle deaths are a result of head injuries.

While wearing a helmet correctly can cut the risk of death by almost 40%, and the risk of severe injury by 72%, many countries do not strictly enforce laws covering the use of quality protective helmets.

The Philippines is not yet a Contracting Party to the Agreement but the work of the UNECE World Forum for Harmonization has an impact not only in the UNECE region and not only in countries that have signed the agreements, but far beyond. ✨

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UNECE countries in figures

Do you wonder what the capital city, currency or official language(s) of a particular country in the UNECE region are? Would you need a quick overview of the social and economic situation of each country, presenting easy-to-understand graphs and tables? Then *UNECE Countries in Figures 2009* might just be what you are looking for.

This booklet provides a one-page overview of the 56 member countries of the UNECE situated in Europe, North America, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Profiles include key facts and a map of each country, demographic data and indicators of gender equality, employment, national accounts, prices, trade and transport.

Among other data you will discover that:

- in Slovenia, women held 75% of all judge positions in 2006, but only 12% of the seats in parliament
- in the Republic of Moldova, women are on average 22.5 years old at the birth of their first child, which is the lowest age within the UNECE nations
- industry accounts for 64% of GDP in Azerbaijan but only 10% in Luxembourg and Cyprus.

UNECE Countries in Figures is published every two years. Data are updated permanently and available on-line through the UNECE Statistical Database (<http://www.unece.org/stats/data.htm>).

UNECE Countries in Figures 2009 can be purchased via the United Nations Publications Sales and Marketing network, and the UN Bookshops in New York and Geneva: <https://unp.un.org/>.

For more information and sample country profiles visit: <http://www.unece.org/stats/profiles2009>, or contact Anne-Christine Wanders (support.stat@unece.org).

