



Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab
Head, UNECE Agricultural Standards
Unit



Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)



**Steering Committee on Trade
Capacity and Standards**

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Introduction

Alignment of work of WP.7 completed by the Specialized Sections for:

- Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- Dry and Dried Produce
- Seed Potatoes
- Meat (launched and to be completed in 2018)



Focus: **SDG-12** (“Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns»)



SDG 12 - Focus of WP.7



Food quality and food loss are closely linked

Better quality reduces food loss in the supply chain and ensure that export and domestic markets receive safe and nutritious produce

Food loss occurs for many reasons – WP.7 helps reduce food loss at all pre-shipment stages.



SDG-12 - food loss – what WP.7 does:



- Development of new **basic marketing requirements for the trade of fresh fruit and vegetables**
- Drafting a **Code of Good Practice for Handling Fresh Fruit and Vegetables** along the entire supply chain to reduce losses and ensure that producers, traders, retailers can benchmark their practices against this international best practice.
- Promoting **better quality/certified seed** (potatoes)
- **Quality development and food waste reduction measures** (UNDA project led by UNECE with 4 regional commissions) – quantifying food lost, developing mitigating actions and innovative IT tools, building capacities to bring about **real impact** in a food system in need of becoming more sustainable to face climate change, population growth, declining resources.



Key messages:



Food quality, food security, sustainability, less food loss and market access are **LINKED**

To increase sustainability, WP.7 helps:

- **improve quality and monitor it along the entire food chain**
- **safeguard quality of food to keep it fit for consumption and with the necessary nutrients to reduce health risks**

WP.7 involves everyone in this work - **from farm to supermarket in partnership with other UN and international organizations, private sector, donor agencies and civil society**



Some figures – WP.7

In 2017, UNECE's WP.7 team manages an active pool of 600 experts (with a further 1000 on consultative lists)

- Organized 5 regular meetings (Geneva) (total attendance over 200)
- Organized 4 training workshops and a technical meeting with close 200 participants (past 10 years – trained over 1800 experts)
- Organized 3 advisory missions
- Published around 20 new standards in 3 languages (revised all UNECE Fresh Fruit and Vegetables standards)
- Organized 1 conference and a special event on food loss.



Meetings and Training workshops 2018

Annual session: Seed potatoes: 19-21 March 2018

Annual session: Fresh Fruit and Vegetables 30 April – 2 May 2018

Annual session: Dry and dried produce: 2-4 July 2018

Special event on Central Asia and the sustainable trade of nuts and Dried fruit

Annual session: Meat: 2-4 July 2018

Symposium on electronic trade in meat

Annual session: Working Party: 12-14 November 2017

Conference on sustainable food production and consumption

- **Training: Sustainable quality for agri trade in Central Asia, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, September 2018**
- **Training – more to be announced in June 2018**



THANK YOU
Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, UNECE
liliana.annovazzi-jakab@unece.org

