Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

28-29 May 2019
Palais des Nations
UNECE’s Agri Quality Framework

- Over 100 voluntary marketing/quality standards and close to 1000 experts
- Many governments introduced quality standards for domestic markets as well as import and export
- Private sector trade uses the standards worldwide

UNECE
Quality for trade since 1949

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts, dried fruit, meat, eggs, seed potatoes
### SUSTAINABLE TRADE: QUALITY AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Safety</th>
<th>Plant Health</th>
<th>Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ensuring health is to protect plants from the following risks:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Quality is a combination of minimum characteristics to ensure the criteria of ordered and the determine the degree of satisfaction of a produce.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pests: sudden, multitudinous irruption of insects, animals or other organisms of the same species that cause various types of damage. Diseases: factors that determine an adverse change in the shape, function or integrity of the plant and can lead to its partial incapacity or death of the plant.</td>
<td>Minimum Appearance (color, shape, size, defects). Texture (firm, juicy, fibrous, etc.), Taste (sweet, sour, astringent, with or without aroma). Nutritional values (minerals, vitamins, carbohydrate, protein, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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### Countries may adopt sanitary and phytosanitary measures necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health (Article 2 of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures).

- **Who?** Codex / EU: DG Santé / USA: FDA.
- **How?** Traceability, labelling, Maximum Residue Limits, Contaminants, Additives.

- **Who?** EU legislation & UNECE standards / USA: Agricultural Marketing Standards.
- **How?** Quality inspections, labelling, specifications that products, services, processes meet consistently to ensure quality matches expectations, fit for human consumption, meets purpose and needs of buyers/users.
2018-2019 Review

The numbers: active pool of 600 experts (1000 in total)

2018:
- 12 new or revised standards adopted and published
- 4 regular sessions
- 3 technical meetings (rapporteurs sessions) in Italy, Turkey and Netherlands
- 3 special events focused on sustainability (2 co-organized with FAO)
- 4 training workshops (co-financed)
- Total attendance over 600 participants

2019:
- 2 regular sessions
- 13 new or revised standards proposed for adoption
- 1 technical meeting scheduled for September 2019
- 3 special events scheduled for June, August and November 2019
- (2 co-organized with FAO)
Redefining the Food Loss Challenge for Sustainable Impact:
Prevent | Reuse | Repurpose | Redistribute
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food loss and waste</td>
<td>1.6 Billion Tons</td>
<td>FAO, BCG Flow model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue loss</td>
<td>$1.2 Trillion</td>
<td>FAO, BCG Flow model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunger</td>
<td>870 Million</td>
<td>UN FAO, BCG Flow model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse gas emission caused by wasted food</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>UN FAO, World resources institute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example: Food loss/waste in Fruits and Vegetables

Food loss refers to any food that is lost in the supply chain between the producer and the market (FAO) –

Food waste, on the other hand, refers to the discarding or alternative (non-food) use of food that is safe and nutritious for human consumption (FAO)

IMPORTANT:
• Happens along the entire supply chain
• In all countries
• For various reasons: Shortage of access to data on production, price; Logistics issues; storage problems; Last minute order cancellation; Improper planning production and distribution without knowing the market demands, quality requirements (Ex Class 1, Class 2); production without knowing the demands and pricing; Stringent buyer requirements; Rate fluctuations or “Natural overproduction” due to favorable growing conditions
What is the solution

• Awareness – Campaign and advocacy
  • Knowledge and appreciation that this is a problem

• Make it visible (target audience) - Public and private entities
  • Tools to make food visible to various actors for intervention

• Interventions (action) – Actors in the supply chain
  • Purposeful approach to reduce food loss/waste
Focus: Sustainable Development Goal 12

Examples of what WP.7 does:
1. Development of Code of Good Practice to address handling practices
2. Development of (Voluntary) Minimum marketing quality guidelines

Web page: UNECE and the Food Loss Challenge
http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/unece-foodlosschallenge.html

Meeting participation:
• Meeting on Quality Control of Fruit and Vegetables, Germany, March 2019 (Facing the Food Loss Challenge - UNECE’s work and initiatives)
• REFRESH workshop Integrated Policies for Food Waste and Sustainable Food Systems in the Circular Economy

Aim: Real, measurable impact on food-loss prevention and reduction
Initiatives, Contributions, Discussions

Food waste in cities UNECE session- April 2019

Goals on the Road – SDG 12 Container – UNECE Food Loss work (April to December 2019 around the globe)
UNECE Blockchain – enhanced Food Loss Marketplace Application

Food Loss management system

Making invisible food available

Strong partnerships at local, national levels to ensure continuity and sustainability
Food Loss Marketplace

Financing: project financed (cross-regional project) plus in-kind contributions

Project team: UNECE; UN-OICT (Bangkok); advisers in pilot countries

- Design grid and mock-up;
- Development of a simple food loss recording methodology at all stages of the supply chain (to be integrated into APP and used separately);
- Close collaboration with pilots (4 pilot countries in UNECE region and beyond) and liaison with partners to establish public-private collaborations.
Initiatives, Contributions, Discussions - **Secretariat:**

**FAO-UNECE collaboration: long-standing**

- FAO invited UNECE to participate in the Community of Practice on Food Loss Reduction
  - global convener and an integrator of knowledge related to post-harvest loss (PHL) reduction.
  - Common events in October 2019 and at WP.7 session in November 2019

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**45%**

**FRUIT & VEGETABLES FOOD LOSSES**

Along with roots and tubers, fruit and vegetables have the highest wastage rates of any food products; almost half of all the fruit and vegetables produced are wasted.

**UNECE**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
UNDA project: Increased policy coherence and sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in North-South and South-South agriculture trade” 2018-2021

3rd Workshop on “Quality matters – sustainable trade of fruits, vegetables and nuts” - Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Sept, 2018 (Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)
co-financed/organized UNDP, GIZ Hilfswerk Austria International; FAO, UNCTAD.
Participants: 90 (40 for intensive produce training).
People first focus: Increase women's employment opportunities and peace-building

IMPACT and RESULTS: Central Asian trainers, preliminary sales contracts, new produce standards, contacts with standardization agencies and request for inspection training (private and public)

Relevance to regular work: high; increased participation and advances in regular UNECE work
Workshop on “Quality matters – sustainable trade of fruits, vegetables and nuts” - Tashkent, Uzbekistan
The Central Asian Working Group CWG (regional initiative) - UNECE’s sustainable support group in Central Asia

Established 2 years ago – includes: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan (UNDP, GIZ, Hilfswerk Austria International)

UNECE: advisor, supports work and organizes trainings

Background (production and trade of fruit and vegetables):

• **high social and economic importance (employment for women and youth)**

• Engages substantial labor resources and is largely export-oriented.

• Compliance with international standards and assisting local producers in ensuring compliance with e.g. UNECE commercial standards is key to diversify the exports.

The CWG coordinates use and implementation of UNECE agri quality standards; drafts new ones; trains producers, traders.
The Central Asian Working Group (regional initiative) - UNECE’s sustainable support group in Central Asia

The Central Asian Working Group coordinates solutions to issues related to the implementation of UNECE agri quality standards.

- Introduced amendments to e.g. UNECE DDP 15 standard and promoted its implementation among regional producers;
- Developed a standard for dried melons (20 participants at DDP session)
- Determined the countries’ policy with regards to agricultural produce;
Specialized Section specific and Promotional activities

UNECE Specialized Section Participation in the World Potato Congress, Cusco, Peru, May 2018
Specialized Section specific technical and promotional activities

UNECE Sampling Plan for nuts and dried fruit
(Naples, Italy and Izmir, Turkey)
Activities funded by partner organizations and contributions

• **Seed potato App (Australia) for free**

• Translation of Seed Potato Disease Guide into Spanish for South American countries (Potato USA)

• Funding of production and printing UNECE explanatory Guide for Walnut Kernels (California Walnut Board)

• Translation of UNECE dried apricots posters into local languages (Hilfswerk Austria International, GIZ)
WP.7 – Cross-sectoral work

• Cooperation with Transport Division on ATP Agreement’s provisions on perishable goods (fresh fruit and vegetables)

• eQuality project: Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables in cooperation with and elaborated by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) agriculture domain
  Result: 3 pilot implementation countries identified by WP.7

• Nexus work – natural resources
Meetings and Training workshops 2019

Annual session: Seed potatoes: 18-19 March 2019
Annual session: Fresh Fruit and Vegetables 13-15 May 2019
Annual session: Dry and dried produce: 24 - 16 June 2018
Special event on natural resources Central Asia and the sustainable trade of nuts and Dried fruit – 25 June 2019
Symposium on Meat Quality for a Sustainable Future, Potsdam, Germany 1-2 August 2019
Annual session: Meat: 19 November August 2019
Conference on sustainable food production and consumption 20 November 2019
  • Training: 2019 UNDP Regional Symposium on Trade (including Agri trade) for Central Asia; September 2019
  • Food loss action and prevention– 2 Workshops Fall 2019
  • E-coaching on a rotational basis
  • Direct coaching Central Asia – Fall 2019
  • Study tours in UNECE for Central Asia, and other regions   - Fall/Winter 2019
WP.7 – 2018/19 and its Specialized Sections - New Terms of Reference - FOR DECISION

Mission Statement: WP.7 develops, interprets and promotes the application of internationally agreed commercial quality standards for meat and eggs, seed potatoes, fresh fruit and vegetables, and dry and dried produce and guidance material for agricultural produce to facilitate national and international trade of agricultural products. The Working Party takes account of the needs of Governments and the private sector to deliver the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Working Party shall:

• Develop internationally agreed commercial quality standards for agricultural produce
• Revise existing standards to include changing production, trading, marketing and SDGs
• Harmonize international application of its standards through guidance material.
• Collect, communicate, and analyze, production, trade and inspection practices and other SDG relevant areas.
• Training for public and private sector for sustainable production and trade.
• Promote uniform quality-control procedures
• Cooperate with other international organizations and standard-setting bodies
• Facilitate communication between private and public stakeholders with an interest in the standards for transparent, fair and sustainable trade.
Aim - develop:

• **(a) Market transparency - define a common trading language**, with minimum quality requirements for agricultural produce that facilitate fair and sustainable trade, prevent technical barriers to trade and contribute to economic growth [SDG 8];
  Specialized section’s continuing work on standards

• **(b) Food security - Promote the sustainable production and consumption of quality agricultural produce, including the prevention of food loss** [SDG 2, 12];
  Cross-cutting themes for all Specialized Sections (e.g. traceability, food loss, better quality production to prevent and reduce food loss, sustainable food production and standards).

• **(c) Collaboration – capacity building activities** with other public and private sector international bodies (in support of previous activities) [SDG 17]. During period 2019-2020, 2 training activities with Specialized Sections (if funds) and foster the nexus approach.
THANK YOU

Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab

liliana.annovazzi-jakab@unece.org