

WORKING PARTY ON
AGRICULTURAL QUALITY
STANDARDS (WP.7)
Report and Update
2019/2020

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Secretary WP.7



1

Overview 2019-regular and technical sessions under WP.7

- UNECE – FAO Conference on Food (Waste) for Thought - Food loss/waste and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (20 November 2019)
- Seventy-fifth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) (19 - 21 November 2019), Geneva, Switzerland, Room XI
- UNECE Rapporteurs Meeting on Seed Potatoes (23 - 25 September 2019), Bozeman, United States of America
- UNECE Meeting/Workshop on Meat Quality for a Sustainable future: International meeting on eating quality, standards and innovative solutions for trade (1 - 2 August 2019), Potsdam-Berlin, Germany
- Sixty-sixth session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (GE.2) (24 - 26 June 2019), Geneva, Switzerland
- Sixty-seventh session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) (13 - 15 May 2019), Geneva, Switzerland, Room VIII
- Forty-sixth session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes (GE.6) (18 - 19 March 2019), Room VIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

2

Overview 2020-regular and technical sessions under WP.7

- Seventy-sixth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) (16 - 17 November 2020), Room XI, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
- Twenty-eighth session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (GE.11) (12 - 13 October 2020), Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
- Meeting of the Working Group on Code of Good Practice (WCoGP) (2 July 2020), Geneva, Switzerland (on-line)
- Forty-seventh session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes (GE.6) (25 - 26 June 2020), Geneva (online)
- FFV-GE.1 - Online follow-up session2 (18 June 2020), Geneva, Switzerland (on-line)
- Sixty-seventh session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (GE.2) (15 - 17 June 2020), Geneva (online)
- eQuality Certificates – the next steps (2 - 10 June 2020), Geneva, Switzerland (webinar)
- FFV-GE.1 - Online follow-up session1 (19 - 27 May 2020), Geneva (on-line)
- Sixty-eighth session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) (6 - 8 May 2020), Webinar Meeting

3

WP.7 and Numbers 2019 - 2020

- Standards/guides adopted (2019): 19
- Meeting participation 2019: 220 (total)
- Meeting participation 2020: 314 (June 2020 with 2 more to go)
- Diversification of attendance – gender balance
- Inclusion of all countries in WP.7 standardization (example first ever standard drafted by Central Asia – dried melons – today working on dried persimmon, peanuts, and apricot kernels)
- IMPACT ASSESSED
- Lessons learnt – online sessions

4

WP.7 Sustainability reporting: Highlights 2019



Seed potatoes:

- Discussions advanced and Promotional poster is ready in English, French and Spanish
- Promoted at 2018 World Potato Congress in Cusco, Peru and preparation for 2021 world congress in Ireland

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables:

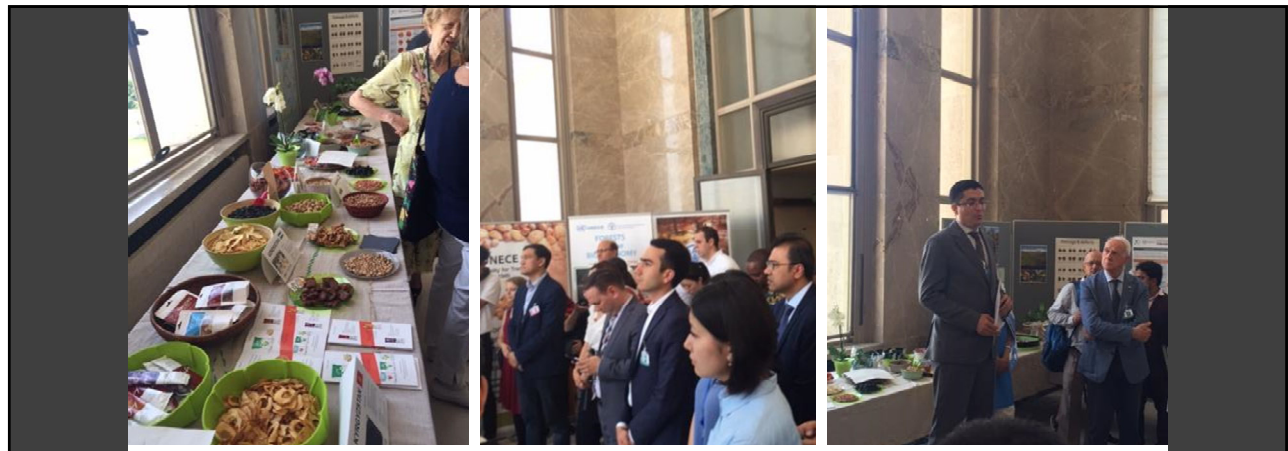
Focus: Sustainable consumption and production practices,
Focus: climate change effect

Done: Development of Code of Good Practice to address handling practices and prevent food loss.

Done: Development of a simple food loss measuring methodology

Development of (Voluntary) Minimum marketing quality guidelines

5



Nuts and Dried Fruit:


Special dedicated symposium on sustainable trade of forest nuts – the link between natural resources, biodiversity, economic linkages, trade and livelihoods of local communities

Nuts and Dried Fruit Expo
Geneva, June 2019





SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES
AND THEIR VALUE CHAINS - NUTS

6



2019 Special dedicated symposium on sustainable meat trade
 Focus: Sustainable livestock production and trade
 Focus: women in meat business



Meat Quality for a Sustainable future – Eating quality, standards and innovative solutions for trade, Potsdam, Germany, August 2019

7

WP.7 Sustainability reporting
Food Loss and Waste

Making invisible food available





FeedUP@UN

Pilots, partners and roll-out imminent
Food loss analysis on-going
COVID-19 emergency actions on-going

8


8

WP.7 COVID-19 crisis reporting


Food Outlook, campaigns, IBC Food



<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/foodoutlook.html>

Food Outlook



<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=54338>

IBC on Sustainable Food Systems

9

9

Overview 2019-2020

Capacity-building and promotional activities

- Workshops and other activities under the UN Development Account project (UNDA-11)
- Activities funded by partner organizations
- Specialized Section specific and Promotional activities
- Impact assessment – Central Asia
- **Relevance to regular work:** high; increased participation and advances regular work

10



UNECE-UNDP training on "Sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in agriculture trade" (23 - 24 September 2019), Tashkent, Uzbekistan, co-financed and organized with UNDP.

For Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan co-financed and organized with UNDP.

11

Training - Tashkent, Uzbekistan



12

Long-lasting impact: The Central Asian Working Group (regional initiative) - UNECE's sustainable support group in Central Asia

Established 3 years ago – includes: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan (UNDP, GIZ, Hilfswerk Austria International- EU project)

UNECE: advisor, supports work and organizes trainings

Why? production and trade of fruit and vegetables have

- High social and economic importance
- Engages substantial labor resources and largely export-oriented.
- Needs compliance with international standards

Assisting local producers in ensuring compliance with e.g. UNECE standards is key to diversify the exports.

Driven by the business community in the region developed, and supported by government

National and regional chapters

Meets 2x per year



13

Overview 2019

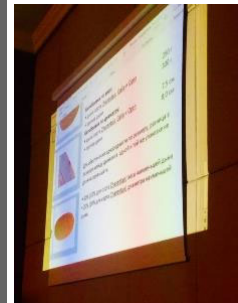
Central Asian Working Group on quality standards CAWG (25-26 September 2019) Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 55 participant; 20 more experts

- Produced (UNECE poster format)/ work on posters for lemons, onions, fresh persimmon, prunes, plums, melons, dried melons, grapes plus dried apricot brochure (more items proposed to UNECE)
- Decided to expand the CAWG and its national technical groups NTG composition with representatives of science and education sectors; consumer rights unions and institutions.
- Work on setting up control and quality assurance (probably combine food safety and quality controls)

Organized 2 field visits to Turkey in 2019

Translated UNECE guides and posters into local central Asian languages and Russian (HWI, GIZ)

Trained farmers, producers and packers. In Tajikistan alone in 2018/19, 32 events and 18 targeted trainings.



14



IMPACT Assessment Central Asia capacity-building 2015 – ongoing (2020)

UNECE-UNDP-GIZ-Hilfswerk International (HWI)

15

15

90% training led to positive changes for producers and traders - better quality control, improved produce quality

IMPACT ACHIEVED

Increased sales opportunities

- Expanded the destination markets and customers' network, entered new markets with improved product quality
- Increased export volume, as a consequence of improved product quality
- In 2018, more than 200 tons of fresh plums were sold to EU countries and Russian Federation

Increased productivity

- Increased adherence to international food quality requirements
- Improved productivity and acquired modern equipment
- More than 1,000 farmers certified according to the EU organic regulation and Naturland Standards

Improved produce quality

- Improved the quality of the produce, following also the installation of new equipment
- Enhanced focus on food safety
- Introduced HACCP principles

Increased production

- Produced 1,000 tons of products per year, as opposed to less than 500 tons five years ago
- Increased responsibility to customers throughout the production process
- Reduction in the level of defects in dried fruit production

16

Impact Example – Uzbekistan

- ✓ Expansion of (SME) business; increase in company’s revenue as a result of UNECE agricultural quality standards
- ✓ Offered sustainable employment to 20 staff, mostly women
- ✓ New sales contracts with local supermarkets and export contracts to diversified destinations
- ✓ Eligibility for funding and loans from international donors and development banks
- ✓ Procurement of modern drying and packaging equipment which led to improved quality of produce and longer shelf life
- ✓ Planning to further expand production and export to more EU countries in 2020
- ✓ Expanded networking opportunities in the region through the Central Asia Working Group



17

UNECE

Code of Good Practice for Reducing Food Loss in Handling Fruit and Vegetables

UNECE

Simply Measuring - Quantifying Food Loss & Waste: UNECE food loss and waste measuring methodology for fresh produce supply chains

Publications 2020

18

18

Partner funded publications - 2019

- Seed potato App (Australia)
- Translation of Seed Potato Disease Guide into Spanish (Potato USA)
- Translation of UNECE guides and posters into local central Asian languages and Russian (Hilfswerk International, GIZ)

19

Liaison and promotion of work at intergovernmental level
Cooperation with FAO Geneva and Budapest

Food Loss and Waste : 4 consecutive events organized with FAO Geneva

Events on Nuts and Dried fruit
 GFFA Berlin, January 2020

WTO Public Forum 2019

Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition,
 December 2019

20

<p>Liaison and promotion of work at intergovernmental level</p> <p>Examples 2019/20:</p> <p>ASEAN Business Forum – Zero Waste – Bangkok, Thailand, June 2019</p> <p>UNCTAD- Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, Geneva, July 2019</p> <p>Commonwealth - Connectivity Week – productive capacity cluster, London, September 2019</p> <p>WTO-Public Forum, Geneva, October 2019</p> <p>UNDP - High-level Regional Conference on Productive Capacities, Trade and SDGs in Central Asia, Tashkent, 25 November, 2019</p> <p>ESCWA - Green Technologies for Addressing Food Loss and Waste Session, Regional Meeting Arab Region”, Amman, 27-28 November 2019</p> <p>GFFA Berlin – Expert Panel, Berlin, January 2020</p>	
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21

<p>Nexus, inter-divisional and intra-divisional work</p> <p>EXAMPLES:</p> <p>Nexus on natural resources</p> <hr/> <p>Intra-divisional work on e-quality certificate</p> <p>Inter-divisional work with Transport on ATP Convention; forest and forest products, energy and biomass from food waste</p> <p>Agri Unit regularly contributes to the UNECE Regional Forum, the ECE session and other events</p>	
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22



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