

Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Sixty-fourth session

Geneva, 18 -21 April 2016

Item 2(b) of the provisional agenda

Recent developments in other organizations

ACTIVITIES OF THE OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME

RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE UNECE

1. In 2015 and early 2016, the OECD published explanatory brochures on Fresh Figs, Cherries and Chinese cabbage. The brochures are available in both electronic and hard copy format. In 2016, the OECD will publish electronic updates on the draft brochure on Apples, Table grapes, Pears, Plums and Chicory. There is ongoing work on the explanatory brochures on tomatoes and leeks. The Garlic brochure has been finalized. This brochure will first be available in electronic format only. Once the Garlic Standard has been updated at UNECE level, then Spain will incorporate the new amendments into the brochure and present it at the Technical Working Group next December 2016. Once the amended brochure is approved, then the hard copies of the Brochure will be published.
 2. The priority list for future work on brochures was also updated to include Passion Fruit, Root Vegetables, Berry fruit, Bananas, as well as electronic updates for the an update of the Draft brochures on Mangoes and avocados.
 3. The Scheme approved the Draft Strategic Plan. The plan will guide the work of the Scheme in the coming years.
 4. The Scheme undertook a peer review on the French Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection in 2015. The report will be published in the coming months. The scheme is currently revising the format of the Peer Reviews and preliminary discussions will take place at the next Plenary Meeting in December 2016.
 5. The Scheme adopted the Draft OECD Guidelines on Conformity Checks of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. The Guidelines will be updated and amended as needed. The tolerances for decay will be aligned to this document once agreed at the relevant OECD and UNECE Specialized Section and Working Party meetings.
 6. The 17th OECD Meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services will be hosted by Italy in Rome (12-14 October 2016). The Meeting will focus on traceability, tolerances, management of food after a nuclear accident, conformity checks for internet sales, risk based inspection methodologies, as well as Optoelectronics and Biophotonics for quality of fruit and vegetables. The Italian fresh fruit and vegetables sector will also be presented at the Meeting. Italy also organised a technical visit to see Kiwi production and inspection.
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