

## **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 3(j) of the provisional agenda

##### **Revision of UNECE standards**

### **Revision of UNECE standards – Apples**

**Comments submitted by the WORLD APPLE AND PEAR ASSOCIATION (WAPA)**

#### **WAPA STATEMENT ON UNECE STANDARD FFV-50 – Apples**

##### **Revision of the list of varieties**

WAPA submitted in April 2015 a position paper reflecting WAPA member's views on the revision of the list of varieties under the UNECE FFV-50 standard on apples. In September 2015, an additional input was submitted identifying a list of 62 "international" varieties. With a view of the upcoming sixty-fourth session of the specialized section on standardization of fresh fruit and vegetables, taking place in Geneva from 18-21 April 2016, WAPA compiled additional remarks. It aims at building a compromise, consistent with international apple sector's expectation and operational best practice, reflecting on the latest working document of UNECE secretariat which summarized the input of different delegations of the UNECE membership.

On this background, WAPA recommends to the UNECE the following aspects for the finalisation of a list of varieties and mutants to be included in the annex of FFV-50:

- WAPA confirms its position that the annex need to be structured on the basis of the most internationally traded and not include specific varieties which would only be relevant within a national context or be associated with limited production volume. Volumetric criteria as well as opinion of WAPA, on behalf of the international apple sector, could be a point of reference for UNECE to incorporate a variety in the list. WAPA's position is to limit the amount of varieties on the UNECE standard's list as much as possible to the varieties most traded, as initially suggested with our proposal.
- While the structure of the list should be based in a first column on the basis of the "mother variety", a second column in the annex should identify the associated mutants deriving from the "mother variety" and additional columns identifying as appropriate the respective trademarks, synonyms and colouration specifications.
- Varieties/mutants not specifically listed in the annex should not face any restriction in trade.
- The UNECE list should be "a dynamic one", and be updated in the future based on evolution of the orchards and trade. It could consequently incorporate in the future some new varieties and mutants currently in development. This should be done on the basic of criteria to be clarified. This is also relevant for the inclusion of miniature varieties (clear criteria to verify the miniature specifics of these varieties).

- Within WAPA's approach of simplification and logistic efficiency, the compulsory labelling on the package should be associated to the mother variety. The apple should comply with the colouration set for this mother variety without prejudice of the quality specifications of the customer, the colouration being particularly relevant from a market valuation perspective. However, if commercially relevant for the grower / packer, or an added value for customers or consumers, the mutant could optionally be included on the packaging next to the mother variety name. In this case, the stricter colouration specifications of a mutant will be subject to the official control according to the colouration of the mutant as set in the norm.

On the basis of the above and based on a combination of 210 names covering 123 "mother varieties" and 87 mutants compiled by UNECE , WAPA would recommend UNECE to simply on the following basis:

- Reshuffle the list towards a structure based on the mother varieties, with labelling and colouring control to be made accordingly;
  - Optionally and based on the packer decision, the name of the mutant list in the second column could also be labelled on the packaging, next to the name of the "mother variety, leading to controls made according to the mutant specific colouration requirements;
  - Only varieties and mutants with multiple countries support should be incorporated in the final list leading currently to a total of 80 "mother varieties" and 81 mutants. Possibly volumetric indicators could be used to evaluate the international relevance of the variety.
  - The colouration for starking and starspur should be corrected from C to A;
  - An excel file is summing up the WAPA position (see separate file).
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