

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-seventh session

Geneva, 13-15 May 2019

Item 2(b) of the provisional agenda

Matters arising since the last session (Recent developments in other organizations)

Information on recent activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Submitted by the secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

INFORMATION ON RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV20) was held in Kampala, Uganda (2 – 6 October 2017). The relevant recommendations of CCFFV20 were further considered by the 41st session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC41) held in Roma (2 -6 July 2018). The following matters were discussed and decided:

1. Draft Standard for Aubergines

CAC41 adopted the draft standard for aubergines submitted by CCFFV20 noting the reservations of Colombia, EU and its Member States, Norway, Switzerland and Thailand on allowing a tolerance for decay in “Extra” class.

2. Draft Standard for Garlic

CCFFV20 agreed to further revise the draft standard, and some critical issues identified for example the inclusion of smoked garlic, sizing, would be further considered.

3. Draft Standard for Kiwifruit

CCFFV20 recognized that there were no outstanding issues to be resolved with the exception of allowance for tolerances for decay, soft rot and internal breakdown in “Extra” Class and Class I, which would be considered at its next session.

4. Proposed Draft Standard for Ware Potatoes

CCFFV20 noted some issues especially minimum requirements and Table of tolerances needed to be further discussed at its next session. CAC41 agreed to advance the proposed draft standard in the Step process as submitted by CCFFV20.

5. Proposed Draft Standard for Fresh Dates

CCFFV20 agreed to continue the revision of the proposed draft standard, noting the proposed draft standard still required further review in order to address the concerns raised and was not ready for advancement in the Step process,

6. Proposals for New Work on Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

CCFFV20 considered five proposals for new work on Yam; fresh Curry leaves; Shallots; Onion and Black berry respectively. CCFFV20 agreed to recommend approval of new work on three proposals: yam, onions and shallots and berry fruits. CAC41 approved the three new work proposals.

7. Proposed Layout for Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

CCFFV20 could not agree on the inclusion of tolerances for decay, soft rot and internal breakdown in “Extra” Class nor on the tolerance percentages.

CCFFV20 noted that the layout document did not have any status in Codex (i.e. it was not a Codex text) and thus did not require approval or adoption by CAC but only the agreement of CCFFV. Amendments to the layout could be considered by CCFFV at any time as appropriate.

8. Glossary of Terms

CCFFV20 agreed that the United States of America would develop the discussion paper on glossary of terms associated with the proposed standard layout as well as other terms used in Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables for consideration at its next session.

9. The 21th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables has been postponed to 7-11 October 2019 and the exact venue will be announced in due course.

Reports of the meetings are available from the Codex website at:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/detail/en/?meeting=CCFFV&session=20>

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