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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

Forty-third session

Geneva, 31 August (pm) – 2 September 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Revised provisional agenda and annotations^{*} ♦

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising since the last session
3. Information on the Bureau and Rapporteurs' meetings held in 2015 and 2016
4. Guide to Seed Potato Tuber Inspection
5. Guide to Operating a Seed Potato Certification Service
6. Guide on tissue culture and minituber production
7. PCR (polymerase chain reaction) techniques for virus testing
8. Survey of bacterial testing methodologies
9. Risk-based inspections

^{*} Delegates attending the meetings are invited to register online at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41414#/> or contact the secretariat either by e-mail (Stephen.Hatem@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0629) for a registration form. Prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves, with a valid identification card/passport, at the UNOG Security (Pregny gate) to obtain the security badge (in case of a problem, please call 022 917-1514). Documents for the meeting and information will be made available online at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41414#/>

♦ Revised to accurately reflect the material to be considered under items 5-18.

10. Sample sizes
11. Survey of national certification schemes for seed potatoes
12. True potato seed
13. Promotion and capacity-building
14. Food loss/waste and standards
15. Future work
16. Other business
17. Election of officers
18. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Specialized Section will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2016/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

(a) UN, UNECE and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present matters arising from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Report of the Working Party (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2014/2)
Report of the Working Party (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/2)

(b) Other organizations

Representatives of other organizations and country delegations will inform the Specialized Section about activities taking place in their agencies that are of relevance to the work of the Section.

3. Information on the Bureau and Rapporteurs' meetings held in 2015 and 2016

The Specialized Section will review the reports of the Bureau and Rapporteurs' meetings, which had taken place in Oulu Finland (September 2015) as well as Kimberley, South Africa (March 2016)

Documentation: Report on the Meetings of the Bureau and Rapporteurs 2015 and 2016 (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2016/3)

4. Guide to Seed Potato Tuber Inspection

The Specialized Section is invited to review the draft Guide which had been discussed the 2016 Bureau and Rapporteurs meetings.

Documentation: Draft Guide – Seed Potato Tuber Inspection
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2016/4)

5. Guide to Operating a Seed Potato Certification Service

The Specialized Section is invited to review the draft Guide which had been discussed the 2016 Bureau and Rapporteurs meetings.

Documentation: Draft Guide - Operating a Seed Potato Certification Service
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2016/5)

6. Guide on tissue culture and minituber production

At the 2016 Bureau and Rapporteurs' meeting, experts proposed to draft a discussion paper on the need for a guide on tissue culture and minituber production with particular reference to ISPM 33. The rapporteur (New Zealand) together with Australia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States will present their findings for review by the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Discussion paper on the need for a guide on tissues culture and minituber production (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2016/6)

7. PCR (polymerase chain reaction) techniques for virus testing

At the 2016 bureau and rapporteurs' meeting, Finland presented the work of the working group on the PCR survey. The Specialized Section is invited to review the revised version of the document prepared by the rapporteur (Finland) Australia, Czech Republic, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

Documentation: Survey- PCR Techniques for virus testing
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2016/7)

8. Survey of bacterial testing methodologies

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss if they would wish to conduct a survey of bacterial testing methodologies to follow on from the work on virus methods as suggested at the 2016 meeting of the Bureau and Rapporteurs.

9. Risk-based inspections

The Specialized Section is invited to review information provided by the delegation from the Netherlands on risk-based inspection methods.

Documentation: Update on risk-based inspection methods (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2016/8)

10. Sample sizes

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposed new table for field inspection sample sizes to be added in Annex IX of the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes developed by the working group (Rapporteur - New Zealand; European Commission; United Kingdom and United States)

Documentation: Draft table for field inspection sample sizes (Annex IX, UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes) (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2016/9)

11. Survey of national certification schemes for seed potatoes

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposed Survey of national certification schemes for seed potatoes and provide comments and updates.

Documentation: Survey of national certification schemes for seed potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2016/10)

12. True potato seed

The Specialized Section will discuss updates provided by the delegations of the European Commission and the Netherlands on developments regarding the listing and marketing of potential varieties derived from true potato seed, which are currently not covered by the scope of the UNECE standard

Documentation: Update on true potato seed (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2016/11)

13. Promotion and capacity-building

The delegations and the secretariat will exchange information about their promotional and capacity-building activities.

(a) Possible organization of a regional workshop on harmonizing certification standards to be held in Kenya.

(b) Other activities

14. Food loss/waste and standards

The Working Party at its 2014 and 2015 sessions asked the Specialized Sections to look into food loss/waste issues that could be related to the use of standards. At its 2015 session, the Working Party decided to organize a conference on this topic which will be held in November 2016.

15. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

16. Other business

Any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section can be discussed under this agenda item.

17. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its forty-second session, it elected Mr. John Kerr (United Kingdom) as its Chair and Ms. Hanna Kortemaa (Finland) and Mr. Willem Schrage (United States) as its Vice-Chairs.

18. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.

III. Tentative timetable

Wednesday, 31 August	15:00 - 18:00	Items 1- 7
Thursday, 1 September	10:00 - 13:00	Items 8 -9
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 10 -14
Friday, 2 September	10:00 - 13:00	Items 14 (cont.) - 18