

25 August 2016

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

Items 6 and 13 of the provisional agenda

Comments by ESA potato section SPO

The following comments were submitted by ESA potato section SPO.

Agenda item 6. Guide on tissue culture and minituber production:

The use of tissue culture and minituber production in potato seed companies is common practice, at least as far as ESA SPO membership concerns. Companies have developed their own recipes and procedures. We question however if it is appropriate to engage into developing a guide on tissue culture and minituber production and believe that this should be left to the private sector.

Agenda item 13. Promotion and capacity building:

ESA SPO very much supports the proposed regional workshop to be held in Kenya. SPO members have reported several issues regarding exports of seed potatoes to the area. A workshop in the area should help to clarify and resolve those issues. Subject to the agenda and dates ESA SPO members are prepared to contribute to this workshop.
