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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-fifth session

Geneva, 19 March - 21 March 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

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:
 - (a) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies;
 - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
3. Standard for seed potatoes.
4. Results of the survey on seed potato virus testing methods.
5. Draft survey on bacterial testing methodologies.
6. Draft guide on minituber production.
7. True Potato Seed.
8. Capacity-building.
9. Review of risk-based inspections.

* Delegates attending the meetings are invited to register online at <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=rerLF9> or contact the secretariat by e-mail (Stephen.hatem@unece.org) for a registration form. Documents for the meeting and information will be made available online at http://www.unece.org/ge6_2018.html.

10. Updates and discussion on new and on-going work.
11. Future work.
12. Other business.
13. Election of officers.
14. 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.6/2018/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

(a) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present matters arising from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the 2017 session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Report of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/2)

(b) Recent developments in 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 Specialized Section.

3. Standard for seed potatoes

At its 2017 session the Specialized Section decided to revise Annex IX (Sampling tubers for virus testing) of the Standard. Delegates are invited to review the proposal made by the working group (led by New Zealand, with Australia, France, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, United Kingdom).

At the 2017 session, the Specialized Section also decided to review the definition of “designated authority” as contained in the standard. The proposal (prepared by the delegations from Australia, Finland, New Zealand, United Kingdom and reviewed at the September 2017 Rapporteurs meeting (Emmeloord, Netherlands)) is submitted to the Specialized Section for discussion and adoption.

Documentation: Revision of Annex IX (Sampling tubers for virus testing)
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2018/3)

Revised definition of “designated authority”
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2018/4)

4. Results of the survey on seed potato virus testing methods

The initial findings of the survey on seed potato virus testing methods (adopted by the Specialized Section in March 2017) had been compiled by the secretariat and presented by the Rapporteur (Finland) on behalf of the working group (Australia, Czech Republic, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States) at the 2017 Rapporteurs meeting. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the final report on the survey presented by the Rapporteur.

Documentation: Report on the survey on potato virus testing methods
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2018/5)

5. Draft survey on bacterial testing methodologies

At its 2017 session, the Specialized Section approved the development of a survey of bacterial testing methodologies. Delegates are invited to discuss the draft survey prepared by the working group (led by the United States with Finland, Israel, Netherlands, United Kingdom).

Documentation: Draft survey on bacterial testing methodologies
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2018/6)

6. Draft guide on minituber production

At its 2017 session, the Specialized Section had agreed to prepare a draft guide on minituber production. Delegates are invited to review the draft guide, prepared by the working group (led by Australia with France, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa).

Documentation: Draft guide on minituber production (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2018/7)

7. True Potato Seed

At its 2017 session, the Specialized Section agreed to continue working on True Potato Seed (TPS) and discuss the topic at the Rapporteurs meeting. The working group (Australia, Netherlands, United States) will present a draft statement on TPS and its breeding technology for discussion and adoption by the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Draft statement on True Potato Seed and its breeding technology
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2018/8)

8. Capacity-building

As agreed at the 2017 session of the Specialized Section, delegates are invited to review the capacity-building leaflet (prepared by Germany with Australia, Czech Republic, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States), and discuss a proposal made at the Rapporteurs meeting to develop posters on current capacity-building activities. The secretariat will be asked to update on possible poster layouts.

Delegations are also invited to discuss a proposal made at the 2017 Rapporteurs meeting by the working group (Belgium, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States) on the possible establishment and content of a UNECE-hosted e-learning platform.

Documentation: Draft leaflet on capacity-building (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2018/9)

Proposal on the possible content of an e-learning platform
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2018/10)

9. Review of risk-based inspections

As agreed at its 2017 session, the Specialized Section is to continue its discussions on risk-based inspections.

10. Updates and discussion on new and on-going work

As agreed at the 2017 Rapporteurs meeting, the Specialized Section is invited to exchange views on *Liberibacter*.

The secretariat will provide an update on the final version of the poster on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) prepared by the Specialized Section in 2017.

The delegation from Australia will update the Specialized Section on the Disease Guide App.

Delegations are also invited to discuss the Specialized Section's involvement in the Tenth World Potato Congress to be held in Cusco, Peru, from 27 to 31 May 2018.

11. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

12. Other business

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

13. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its forty-fourth session, it elected Mr. John Kerr (United Kingdom) as its Chair and Ms. Hanna Kortemaa (Finland) and Mr. Nigel Crump (Australia) as its Vice-Chairs.

14. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.

III. Tentative timetable

Monday, 19 March	15:00 - 18:00	Items 1-3
Tuesday, 20 March	10:00 - 13:00	Items 4-6
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 7-10
Wednesday, 21 March	10:00 - 13:00	Items 11-14