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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

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Item 15 of the provisional agenda-
Other business

Proposal by Australia on clean seed potatoes

The following document, submitted for review, was received from the delegation of Australia. It contains a proposed information flyer on benefits of clean seed potatoes, as suggested at the 2019 Rapporteurs meeting (Montana, USA).

Possible considerations for achieving clean seed potatoes may include:

- Understanding the importance/awareness of clean seed (with or without certification?)
- Recognition of clean seed suitable for planting
- Structured certification scheme with labelling
- Do certification systems make the availability of clean seed easier?

Benefits of high health "clean" seed potatoes

ECONOMIC

- ✓ Increased profitability from high yielding crops
- ✓ Improved confidence in seed performance
- ✓ Mitigation of yield limiting risk factors while enhancing yield and quality
- ✓ Enhanced partnership between seed grower and potato producer

ENVIRONMENT

- ✓ Reduced reliance on pesticides
- ✓ More efficient use of natural resources (land and water)
- ✓ Improved sustainable potato production
- ✓ Less wastage in potato production due to pests and disease

PEOPLE

- ✓ Affordable supply of potatoes to consumers
- ✓ Enhanced food security through the sustainable production of a stable crop

Management of seed borne potato diseases and pests, including many virial and bacterial diseases that can severely limit yield and quality

Examples of seed health issues on yield and quality of potato crops

Plants from PLRV-infected seed **produced at least 60% less total yield and 88% less marketable yield (tubers >85 g)** than plants grown from healthy seed. PLRV infected seed also produced plants with fewer and smaller tubers than plants grown from healthy seed (Hame and Hann 1999).

Red Pontiac seed stocks infested with potato virus X yield was **reduced by 21.85%** in comparison to PVX free stocks (Hoyman, 1964).

Russet Burbank had an average seed borne PVY **yield reduction of 63.5%** (Whitworth, 2006).