



# Economic and Social Council

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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-seventh session

Geneva, 16-17 March 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Provisional agenda and annotations \*

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

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising since the last session:
  - (a) Economic Commission for Europe, subsidiary bodies and the Sustainable Development Goals;
  - (b) Update by the European Commission on new European Union Plant Health legislation;
  - (c) Recent developments in other organizations;
  - (d) 2019 Rapporteurs meeting.
3. Revision of the Standard for Seed Potatoes
4. Draft guide on minituber production
5. Draft survey on bacterial testing methodologies
6. Lot size of seed potatoes
7. Discussion on dormant tuber testing for viruses
8. Stability in tissue culture and renewal of varieties
9. Discussion on diseases and pests: *Liberibacter* and Tomato Potato Psyllid
10. The potato mop top virus

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\* Delegates attending the meetings are invited to register online or in the event of difficulties with electronic registration, contact the secretariat by e-mail (Stephen.hatem@un.org). Documents for the meeting and information will be made available online at <http://www.unece.org/trade/wp7/ge6-47th-2020.html>.

11. True Potato Seed.
12. Knowledge sharing, capacity-building and guides
  - (a) Draft guide on capacity-building;
  - (b) Possible development of a knowledge sharing and resource reference page;
  - (c) Possible development of a poster/paper on the benefits of certified seed;
  - (d) Online Seed Potato Guide Application: process for updating;
  - (e) Workshops and guides.
13. Possible revision of the list of national certification schemes
14. Future work.
15. Other business.
16. Election of officers.
17. 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.6/2020/1)

### **2. Matters arising since the last session**

#### **(a) Economic Commission for Europe, subsidiary bodies and the Sustainable Development Goals**

The secretariat will present matters arising from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the 2019 session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section. The secretariat and delegations will also provide an update on work related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

*Documentation:* Report of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/2)

#### **(b) Update by the European Commission on new European Union Plant Health legislation**

The representative of the European Commission will provide an update on new European Union Plant Health legislation relevant to the work of the Specialized Section.

#### **(c) 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.

**(d) 2019 Rapporteurs meeting**

The Specialized Section will be informed about the September 2019 Rapporteurs meeting held in Bozeman, Montana (United States).

**3. Revision of the Standard for Seed Potatoes**

During the discussions at the 2019 Rapporteurs meeting and the review of the draft guide on minituber productions, it had been highlighted that the definitions of Pre-basic tissue culture (PBTC) and Annex 1 in the UNECE Standard needed to be reviewed in order to complete the draft guide on mini-tuber production. Delegations are invited to review these sections and discuss the proposed revisions.

*Documentation:* Proposal to revise the Standard for Seed potatoes  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2020/3)

**4. Draft guide on minituber production**

At its 2019 session, the Specialized Section had reviewed the draft guide on minituber production and the comments submitted and introduced several changes. Several open substantial as well as drafting issues had been discussed at the 2019 Rapporteurs meeting. Led by the delegation from Australia on behalf of the working group (Australia, France, Netherlands, New Zealand and South Africa), the draft guide was updated for finalization by the Specialized Section at the March 2020 session. The Specialized Section is invited to review, amend and consider approving the proposed draft guide.

*Documentation:* Draft guide on minituber production (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2020/4)

**5. Draft survey on bacterial testing methodologies**

At the March 2019 session of the Specialized section and at the September 2019 Rapporteurs meeting, the draft bacterial testing methodologies survey had been discussed and updated, led by the delegate from the United States on behalf of the working group (Finland, Israel, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States). The working group has integrated the comments into a new draft which will be presented to the Specialized Section for review and approval.

*Documentation:* Revised draft survey on bacterial testing methodologies  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2020/5)

**6. Lot size of seed potatoes**

At its 2019 session, the Specialized Section decided to include a discussion on the lot size of seed potatoes on its 2020 agenda. Delegations are invited to share experience on this topic.

**7. Discussion on dormant tuber testing for viruses**

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss and exchange experiences on dormant tuber testing for viruses (including the evaluation of false positives and false negatives).

**8. Stability in tissue culture and renewal of varieties**

The South African delegation will present to the Specialized Section the topic of variety renewal in tissue culture and the protocols used in South Africa. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the relevance and potential application of the South African protocol for other countries.

*Documentation:* Variety renewal in tissue culture – Overview by South Africa  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2020/6)

## **9. Discussion on diseases and pests: *Liberibacter* and Tomato Potato Psyllid**

The Specialized Section is invited to continue exchanging information concerning on-going research and studies on new and emerging diseases and pests such as *Liberibacter* and the Tomato Potato Psyllid.

## **10. The potato mop top virus**

At the 2019 session of the Specialized Section, delegations decided to discuss ways on how to deal with the potato mop top virus (PMTV). At the 2019 rapporteurs meeting, the delegation from the Netherlands provided an overview of related research projects and findings. Delegations are invited to present and exchange their experiences with PMTV.

## **11. True Potato Seed**

At its 2019 session, the Specialized Section had reviewed the topic of True Potato Seed and decided to continue discussion and exchange updates at the 2020 session.

## **12. Knowledge sharing, capacity-building and guides**

### **(a) Draft guide on capacity-building**

At its 2019 session, the Specialized Section decided to postpone discussions to the 2020 session of the draft guide on capacity-building prepared by the Rapporteur (Germany) on behalf of the working group (Australia, Belgium, Germany, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States). The focus of the draft guide is the introduction of a seed potato scheme. The Specialized Section is invited to review the draft guide in view of its possible approval.

*Documentation:* Revised draft guide on capacity-building  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2019/6)

### **(b) Possible development of a knowledge sharing and resource reference**

At the 2019 Rapporteurs meeting, participants suggested exploring the possibility of developing a knowledge and resource sharing platform with images, videos and other media associated with seed potato certification. The delegates of Australia, Belgium, Finland, and the United States will update the Specialized Section so it may decide on further work.

### **(c) Possible development of a poster/paper on the benefits of certified seed**

At the 2019 Rapporteurs meeting, delegations agreed to develop a poster/paper on the benefits of certified seed with the specific purpose to provide basic information. The delegation from Australia will present the first draft for the review by the Specialized Section.

### **(d) Online Seed Potato Guide Application: process for updating**

As a follow-up to the development and donation by the delegation from Australia of the Online Seed Potato Guide Application for Diseases, Pests and Defects, the Specialized Section is invited to define the modalities for updating information and add other language versions.

**(e) Workshops and guides**

As a follow-up to the discussions at the March 2019 Specialized Section session and the 2019 Rapporteurs meeting, delegates are invited to discuss opportunities for capacity building in various countries and region, including pairing the work of the Specialized Section with upcoming large scale events and congresses of other potato association groups to enhance the harmonization of seed potato standards and the establishment of certification schemes for the production and trade of seed potatoes. In addition, delegates are also invited to review fund raising opportunities (including in-kind contributions) for workshops and the translation of the guides.

**13. Possible revision of the list of national certification schemes**

At the 2019 Specialized Section session, participants suggested an update of the list of national certification schemes and add relevant contacts.

**14. Future work**

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

**15. Other business**

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

**16. Election of officers**

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chairs. At its forty-sixth session, it elected Ms. Hanna Kortemaa (Finland) as its Chair and Ms Nina Zidack (United States) and Mr. Nigel Crump (Australia) as its Vice-Chairs.

**17. Adoption of the report**

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2020/2).

**III. Tentative timetable**

Monday, 16 March	15:00 - 18:00	Items 1-4
Tuesday, 17 March	9:30 - 12:30	Items 5-8
	14:30 - 17:30	Items 9-17