Report of the 65th Session of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

June 25 – 27, 2018

Dorian LaFond

Chairperson

Mr. Mika Vepsäläinen, Chief of the UNECE Market Access Section officially opened the meeting expressing:

- Appreciation for the Section's global impact - activities that resulted increased application of UNECE standards at all levels (national, regional, and international).

- Welcome to the large delegation from Central Asia (20 participants) and noted their progress in application of D&DP standards.

- Thanks the Specialized Section and the International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC),for organizing the symposium and the tasting event.

- The importance of dry and dried produce being essential in food loss prevention and for safe and nutritious purposes.

Attending the Plenary session were delegations from:

56 Participants from 15 Member Countries

5 Representatives of Specialized programs, intergovernmental organization

14 Representatives from observer organization, non-governmental organizations, associations, academia and private sector groups

Report of the "UNECE International Symposium on Nuts and Dried Fruit for a Sustainable Future" is given by the Secretariat.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

CODEX - 40th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC40) in 2017 on D&DP.

- **Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV): A**pproved new work on the standards for cashew kernels; dried sweet potatoes and for dried fruits.
- **Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH): A**pproved new work on Standards for dry and dehydrated ginger; dried garlic; dried chili peppers and paprika; basil; saffron; nutmeg and cloves.

The International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC)

- Reported on its 37th World Nut and Dried Fruit Congress held in Seville, Spain (May 21-23, 2018). Attended by over 1500 participants from 65 countries.

- The Chair of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce participated and report on UNECE's activities and cooperation.

- INC helped organize a practical workshop to validate the UNECE Sampling Plan for Tree Nuts and Dried Produce, hosted at a members facilities in Naples, Italy in April 2018. and in Izmir, Turkey on Nov. 15 -16, 2018

UNECE SAMPLING PLAN FOR TREE NUTS AND DRIED PRODUCE AND GUIDELINES FOR INSPECTIONS OF DRY AND DRIED PRODUCE:

- At is 2017 session, the Specialized Section decided to organize a practical workshop to evaluate the proposed sampling plan.

- With the assistance of the INC a practical workshop was held on 4 May 2018 at a company facility in Naples, Italy. Reviewed were Inshell walnuts, Almond kernels and Raisins

The workshop Evaluations highlighted the key items:

1. An inspection guideline (sequential procedures) was needed to guide the inspection process.

2. Some of the provisions in the standards (mould filaments vs duvet in walnut kernels; and scratch marks on almonds kernels) require clarification by the Specialized Section.

3. Another workshop was required to conclude the evaluation of the sampling plan and it was recommend to the 2018 Specialized Section meeting which agreed to organize a second workshop in November 15 -16, 2018 to conclude validation of the Sampling plan.

We are pleased to announce the workshop to continue validation of the sampling plan takes place in Izmir, Turkey on November 15 & 16, 2018 immediately following this WP.7 Session. Thanks to the efforts of the Delegation of Turkey and the Aegean Exporters Associations,

REVIEW OF EXISTING STANDARDS:

Prunes: This revised draft Standard was aligned with the Standard Layout, new size designations included, tolerances proposed, labeling section was revised to facilitate substituting the name prunes with "dried plums".

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the revised draft to WP. 7 65th Session for adoption as a recommendation for a 1-year trial period.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STANDARDS:

Recommendation for "Dried Coconut pieces":- The recommendation was reviewed based on comments received from Brazil, the Philippines and other delegations. The Recommendation was renamed "Dried Coconut Kernel pieces" to correctly reflect the product being standardized, moisture content reviewed- with a July 30, 2018 deadline for new proposals

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the revised draft to WP. 7 74thSession for a 1-year extension as a revised recommendation.

Dried Berries: The Specialized Section postponed discussion on the development of a standard for dried berries to the 2019 session provided the countries that had proposed the development of the standard would submit a draft.

Recommendation for Dried Bananas:- The recommendation was reviewed based on comments received from the Philippines and other countries. Discussions on moisture content were inconclusive- therefore a July 30, 2018 deadline for new proposals was given and if no agreement was reached a 1-year extension of the trial period would be proposed to the 65th WP.7 Session.

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the revised recommendation to WP. 7. 74Th Session for adoption as a UNECE standard

Dried Ripe Papayas:- The Specialized Section continued development of this draft standard and adopted several amendments and considered comments submitted by the Philippines.

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the revised recommendation to WP. 7. 74TH Session for adoption as a Recommendation for a 1-year trial period

Dried melons:- Uzbekistan's delegation made a presentation citing historical production and economic importance of melons in Uzbekistan and Central Asia justifying the development of the standard, which was supported by other Central Asian countries present. The text was aligned with the Standard layout and terminology and tolerances adjusted.

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the revised text of the draft standard for dried watermelon to the WP. 7. 74Th Session for adoption as a Recommendation for a 1-year trial period.

Explanatory Posters:

Inshell Pistachio Poster:- The Draft poster prepared by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran was discussed. The Specialized Section decided to depict each defect in one photo to efficiently use the space and to increase its educational value. Some delegations thought the poster omitted the pistachio varieties produced nationally and submitted photos.

Decision: The secretariat will coordinate the final version and layout of the poster with the rapporteur including all the photos submitted by other countries. A deadline September 30, 2018 for receipt of comments and/or photos to allow completion of a final version for adoption by the Specialized Section in an inter-sessional approval procedure in October 2018.

Posters for Walnut Kernels and Inshell Walnuts:- The Specialized Section to utilize some of the photos from the walnut kernels and inshell walnuts to develop posters. This to be coordinated between the United States and the UNECE secretariat.

Proposal for New Posters: The delegation from Turkey proposal to develop new posters for dried figs and dried grapes was approved. Guidelines were set and members are asked to honor them.

Central Asia Explanatory Brochure for Dried Apricots: Tajikistan's delegation on behalf of the Central Asian working group, presented their newly developed dried apricot brochure which is based on the UNECE explanatory brochure format and for use by the Central Asian region.

The Central Asian working group was congratulated for the development of this brochure and welcomed their agreement to make this draft available for comments by Specialized Section members.

Pistachio nuts -*Kernel content and shell ratio*

Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented the findings of its national research study on the ratio relationship between pistachio kernel content and the shell size as an indication of "sufficiently development or horticultural maturity".

Decision: The presentation and research results will be posted on the UNECE web site to facilitate review by other pistachio producing countries. The item will be placed on the agenda of the 2019 session for further discussion.

Sustainable Development Goals and the work of the Specialized Section:
The Specialized Section thanked contributors and the secretariat for the excellent organization of the symposium on "sustainable trade of nuts and dried fruit". This event demonstrated the importance of sustainability in the international trade of these products and the relevance of the Specialized Section's work for producing countries worldwide.

Decision: Based on the success of the symposium along with the valuable information provided, the Specialized Section decided to organize another in 2019.

Future work

The Specialized Section decided to place the following items on the agenda for 2019:

- Recommendations for prunes, dried melons, papayas
- New Standard for dried berries, peanuts and pecans
- Revision of the standard for inshell pistachios (kernel content and shell ratio)
- Revision of the Standard Layout
- Finalization of the Sampling plan, guidelines and video, host a Sampling and inspection event
- Review of the explanatory posters (inshell walnuts, walnut kernels, dried figs, dried
- grapes and inshell pistachios),
- Review of the central Asian dried apricots explanatory brochure for possible adoption as a UNECE brochure
- 2nd Symposium on sustainable trade in cashew nuts and other produce
- Development of a brochure on cashew kernels and a cashew kernel colour chart

Proposals for future work should be sent to the secretariat by 1 February 2019.

Election of officers:

The Specialized Section elected Mr. Dorian LaFond (United States) as Chair of the Specialized Section and

Ms. Aysegül Uluhan (Turkey) and Mr. Umed Aslanov (Tajikistan) as Vice-Chairs

Summary

The 65th Session of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce submits to the 74th Session of Working Party on Agricultural Standards the following:

For adoption as New UNECE standards:

- Dried Bananas

Explanatory Materials

- Poster for inshell pistachio

Recommendation for a 1 year trial period

- Revised draft Standard for Prunes
- Dried Ripe Papayas
- Dried Melons
- Dried coconut Kernel Pieces