



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 September 2019

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Seventy-fifth session

Geneva, 19-21 November 2019

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 XI, together with an international conference on food loss/waste and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 20 November 2019.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising since the last session:
 - (a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies;
 - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
3. Sustainable Development Goals and the work under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards.
4. Capacity-building and promotional activities.
5. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables.
6. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat.
7. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.
8. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce.
9. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes.
10. Future work.

* Delegates attending the meeting are encouraged to register online <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=bjPjEY> or in the event of difficulties with the electronic registration, contact the secretariat by e-mail (Stephen.hatem@un.org). Documents for the meeting and information on the conference (including the programme and logistics) will be made available online at: <https://www.unece.org/trade/wp7/wp7-75th-2019.html>.

11. Other business.
12. Election of officers.
13. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

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

The secretariat will present developments at the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards having an impact on the work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7).

(b) Recent developments in other organizations

Other organizations active in the area of agricultural quality standards will provide information about their activities.

3. Sustainable Development Goals and the work under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Under this agenda item, delegations are invited to review progress and current/future work on:

- Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Target 12.3 (“halving food loss and waste by 2030”): the possible development of higher-level guidelines related to the implementation of food loss/waste prevention/reduction. Delegations are invited to provide information on their countries’ initiatives and good practices in this area. Updates will also be given on discussions that have taken place at Specialized Section sessions and at conferences in 2019.
- Sustainable Development Goal 5 – “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”: Delegations are invited to review inclusive, gender-oriented approaches at national and international levels to consider developing guidelines/recommendations in the areas covered by the Working Party.

4. Capacity-building and promotional activities

The secretariat will review the capacity-building activities under the new United Nations Development Account 11 project. Delegations will exchange information on capacity-building, training and promotional activities that have taken place since the last session of WP.7 or are planned for the near future.

5. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables

The Working Party will be updated on the electronic quality certificate for fresh fruit and vegetables developed together with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

6. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

The Specialized Section held a meeting in Potsdam, Germany, as well as an international symposium on “Meat quality for a sustainable future: International meeting on eating quality, standards and innovative solutions for trade.” The Specialized Section submitted the following document for adoption by the Working Party:

Documentation: Report (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/3)

7. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

The Specialized Section held one regular session this year. The Specialized Section submitted the following documents for adoption by the Working Party:

Documentation: Report of the sixty-seventh session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2019/2)

Cherries (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/4)

Cauliflower (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/5)

Broccoli (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/6)

Annonas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/7)

Avocado (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/8)

Berry fruit (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/9)

Onions (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/10)

Root and Tuberle Vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/11)

Table Grapes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/12)

Watermelon (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/13)

Reducing food loss in handling fruit and vegetables - UNECE Code of Good Practice (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/14)

8. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

In 2019, the Specialized Section held one regular meeting and organized an international symposium and a tasting event in Geneva on “Sustainable natural resources and their value chains: nuts”.

The Specialized Section submitted the following document for adoption by the Working Party:

Documentation: Report of the sixty-sixth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2019/2)

Prunes – Request for extension of the trial period
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/15)

Dehydrated coconut kernel pieces (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/16)

Dried ripe papayas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/17)

Dried melons (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/18)

Walnut kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/19)

Sampling plan for tree nuts and dried produce and guidelines for inspections of dry and dried produce (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/20)

Sampling plan - illustrative guide explanatory text
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/21)

Explanatory guide for dried apricots

Explanatory poster for inshell pistachio nuts

Explanatory poster for walnut kernels

Explanatory poster for inshell walnuts

Explanatory poster for dried figs

Explanatory poster for dried grapes

9. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

In 2018, the Specialized Section had one regular meeting and held a Rapporteurs meeting (Bozeman, USA) in September 2019. The Specialized Section submitted the following documents for adoption by the Working Party:

Documentation: Report of the forty-sixth (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2019/2)

10. Future work

The Working Party will decide on its future work.

11. Other business

Delegations will be invited to take up other issues not previously addressed during the session.

12. Election of officers

The delegations will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its 2018 session, the Working Party elected Ms. Agnieszka Sudol (Poland) as Chair and Mr Guy Lambrechts (Belgium) as Vice-Chair.

13. Adoption of the report

The Working Party will adopt its report, which will be issued as document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/2.

III. Tentative timetable

Tuesday, 19 November	15:00 –18:00	Working group session (English only)
Wednesday, 20 November	10:00 –13:00	Items 1 to 8
	15:00 – 18:00	International Conference on Food loss/waste and SDGs
Thursday, 21 November	9:30 –12:30	Items 9 to 13
