

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-eighth session

Geneva, 18—19 March 2021

Agenda item 5(c)

Knowledge sharing, capacity-building and guides

Poster on the benefits of certified seed

The following is for review by the Specialized Section. The poster, illustrating the benefits of certified seed, was submitted by Australia on behalf of the working group (Australia, Germany, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe).

Benefits of high health “clean” seed potatoes

Use of high quality planting material is the most important strategy available to potato growers to ensure high yields whilst minimising inputs, particularly the reliance on pesticides, and avoiding crop losses due to disease and other quality issues.



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

Clean seed provides the management of seed borne potato diseases and pests, including many viral and bacterial diseases that can limit yield and quality of potato crops. This includes limiting the spread and introduction of pests and diseases into new areas.

Formal seed certification Schemes such as the UNECE seed standard provide official recognition and traceability of high healthy clean seed potatoes

Examples of pests and disease issues mitigated by the use of high health clean seed potatoes



Potato Leaf Roll Virus



Brown rot



Potato Cyst Nematode