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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 Dry and Dried Produce

Sixty-eighth session

Geneva, 16—18 June 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations * **

Session to be held as a hybrid meeting (with interpretation) at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on 16 June 2021.

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—Sustainable Development Goals and the work of the Specialized Section;
 - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
3. Capacity-building and promotional activities.
4. Development of new standards:
 - (a) Inshell pecans;
 - (b) Pecan kernels;
 - (c) Apricot kernels;
 - (d) Dried persimmons;
 - (e) Raw and roasted inshell peanuts;
 - (f) Raw and roasted peanut kernels.

* Late submission (negotiated slotting) as agreed with Documents Management Section. Submitted late due to delayed input and secretariat resource constraints.

** Documents for the meeting and electronic registration information will be made available online at <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/ge2-68th-2021>. For matters related to registration, please contact the secretariat by e-mail (Stephen.hatem@un.org).



5. Review of existing standards:
 - (a) Prunes;
 - (b) Cashew kernels;
 - (c) Dried dates;
 - (d) Revisions to the Standard Layout for dry and dried produce.
6. Sampling plan for tree nuts and dried produce and guidelines for inspections of dry and dried produce.
7. Explanatory materials:
 - (a) Cashew kernels–poster;
 - (b) Almond kernels–poster.
8. Sustainable Development Goal 12 and sustainable practices: food loss and waste prevention related to standards.
9. Other business.
10. Future work.
11. Panel discussion on future work:
 - Circular economy–Transitioning to circularity in food trade;
 - Sustainable food systems and the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit;
 - Micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural quality standards for resilient supply chains;
 - Nexus on sustainable use of natural resources;
 - Resilient food supply chains and post-COVID recovery;
 - Analysis of the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of dry and dried produce.
12. Election of officers.
13. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Specialized Section will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Provisional agenda and annotations (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

(a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies–Sustainable Development Goals and the work of the Specialized Section

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

Documentation: Chair’s Note on the Informal Virtual Consultations of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2020/2)

(b) Recent developments in other organizations

Representatives of other organizations and country delegates will inform the Specialized Section about activities taking place in their agencies that are of relevance to the work of the Specialized Section.

3. Capacity-building and promotional activities

The Secretariat and delegations will provide information about their promotional and capacity-building activities in the past year and preview upcoming events and training.

4. Development of new standards**(a) Inshell pecans**

At its 2020 session, the Working Party adopted the draft standard for inshell pecans as a Recommendation for a 1-year trial period.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the Recommendation.

Documentation: Recommendation for Inshell pecans (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2020/12)

(b) Pecan kernels

At its 2020 session, the Working Party adopted the draft standard for pecan kernels as a Recommendation for a 1-year trial period.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the Recommendation.

Documentation: Recommendation for pecan kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2020/13)

(c) Apricot kernels

At its 2020 session, the Working Party adopted the draft standard for Apricot kernels as a Recommendation for a 1-year trial period.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the Recommendation.

Documentation: Recommendation for apricot kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2020/15)

(d) Dried persimmons

The Specialized Section is invited to continue the discussions of the proposed new standard based on proposals prepared by the working group led by the Rapporteur (Tajikistan) with the participation of the delegations of Germany, Turkey and the United States.

Documentation: Revised draft standard for dried persimmons (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/3)

Presentation by CAWG on research questions related to the standard on dried persimmons

(e) Raw and roasted inshell peanuts

The Specialized Section is invited to continue the discussions on the revised draft standard developed by the working group, led by the Rapporteur (Tajikistan), with the delegations from Germany and the United States.

Documentation: Revised draft standard for raw and roasted inshell peanuts (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/4)

Presentation by CAWG on research questions related to the standard on peanuts

(f) Raw and roasted peanut kernels

The Specialized Section is invited to continue the discussions on the revised draft standard developed by the working group, led by the Rapporteur (Tajikistan), with the delegations from Germany and the United States

Documentation: Revised draft standard for raw and roasted peanut kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/5)

5. Review of existing standards

(a) Prunes

The Specialized Section is invited to continue discussions on the outstanding items and the proposals elaborated by the Rapporteur (France), as well as the delegations from Germany, Kyrgyzstan, United States and Uzbekistan in view of the revised Recommendation's adoption as a revised UNECE Standard for prunes.

Documentation: Proposed revised Recommendation for prunes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/6)

(b) Cashew kernels

At its 2020 session, the Specialized Section decided to initiate the revision of the UNECE Standard for cashew kernels. Delegations are invited to review the proposed amendments.

Documentation: Proposed revised Standard for cashew kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/7)

(c) Dried dates

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposal to amend the UNECE Standard for dried dates.

Documentation: Proposed revised Standard for dried dates (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/8)

(d) Revisions to the Standard Layout for dry and dried produce

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposed amendment to the Standard Layout for dry and dried produce, submitted by the delegation of Germany.

Documentation: Proposed revisions to the Standard Layout for dry and dried produce (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/9)

6. Sampling plan for tree nuts and dried produce and guidelines for inspections of dry and dried produce

At its 2019 session, the Working Party agreed to the decision by the Specialized Section to review the proposed sampling plan at a dedicated workshop. Given the on-going pandemic the workshop could neither be organized in 2020 nor in 2021.

The delegations from Germany and Turkey had worked on revisions to the sampling plan and the illustrated guidelines. They were finalized and submitted to the Specialized Section for review and approval.

Documentation: Revised 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–revised illustrative guide explanatory text (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/10)

7. Explanatory materials

(a) Cashew kernels–poster

At its 2020 session, the Specialized Section agreed to postpone the review and finalization of the explanatory poster on cashew kernels until after the revision of the cashew kernel standard.

(b) Almond kernels–poster

The delegation of Germany requested whether producing countries could develop a poster on almond kernels, considering that the posters prepared so far have been well received and almond kernels are a very important produce in international trade.

8. Sustainable Development Goal 12 and sustainable practices: food loss and waste prevention related to standards

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the launch of a country-based review of measures taken and a compilation of practical measures and tools for agricultural supply chains (especially nuts and dried fruit) to prevent and avoid food waste and food loss.

The Specialized Section is also invited to review a background report prepared by the secretariat on the possibility of a digital certification scheme of operators taking food loss and waste measures and decide on the establishment of an ad-hoc working group to explore the possible modalities of such a scheme.

The Specialized Section is also invited to take note of the extended Code of Good Practice for Reducing Food Loss in Handling Fruit and Vegetables (fresh) and discuss the possibility of developing similar guidelines for nuts and dried fruit. The document is submitted for information only.

Documentation: Background report–Certification related to food loss and waste (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/21)

Code of Good Practice for Reducing Food Loss in Handling Fruit and Vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/22)

9. Other business

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

10. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

11. Panel discussion on future work

Following the recommendations of the 69th session of the Commission that took place on 20-21 April 2021, the secretariat invites member States to discuss the recommendations made, and in particular, how the Specialized Section could contribute to the transition to circularity in food trade and the sustainable food systems and the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit. Specific topics, listed below, also include micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural quality standards for resilient supply chains, reliant food supply chains and post-COVID recovery.

As part of the UNECE's work, a panel could also discuss potential contribution to the nexus on sustainable use of natural resources as well as an analysis of the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of dry and dried produced.

Circular economy–Transitioning to circularity in food trade

Under this item, the secretariat will submit a report and an update on discussions which took place at the 69th session of the Economic Commission for Europe. Delegations are invited to report on national efforts and decide on the development of contributions by the Specialized Section related to policy advice, guidance and capacity-building for the nuts and dried fruit markets.

Documentation: Secretariat report on issues emanating from the 2021 Commission Session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/20)

Sustainable food systems and the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit

The secretariat will update the Specialized Section on national and regional preparations and the integration of food system approaches into national and international food policy agendas. The Specialized Section is invited to report on their country's efforts and exchange experiences.

Documentation: Secretariat report on issues emanating from the 2021 Commission Session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/20)

Micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural quality standards for resilient supply chains

The secretariat will present the work accomplished on e-learning material (under a dedicated COVID-19 project). The delegations are invited to report on their countries' work and available e-learning material. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss and decide on the development of further guidance material and other contributions.

Documentation: Secretariat report on issues emanating from the 2021 Commission Session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/20)

Nexus on sustainable use of natural resources

The secretariat will update delegations on the work of the nexus on the sustainable use of natural resources and recent discussion at the 69th session of the Economic Commission for Europe. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the development of new tools and guidelines for the agricultural sector and the organization of conferences/workshops to promote their use and implementation.

Documentation: UNECE nexus publication on the sustainable use of natural resources

Resilient food supply chains and post-COVID recovery

Delegation are invited to report on country-based approaches and discuss the development of contributions by the Specialized Section to guidance material for dry and dried produce supply chains.

Analysis of the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of dry and dried produce

The Specialized Section is invited to review a proposal to launch a UNECE-wide analysis to support data collection on impact and supply chain improvement measures related to the use of UNECE's agricultural quality standards.

12. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its sixty-seventh session, it 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.

13. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session (to be issued as ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/2).

Tentative timetable

Wednesday, 16 June	Hybrid session with interpretation 14:00-16:00	Items 1-4
Thursday, 17 June	Hybrid session with interpretation 10:00-12:00 14:00-16:00	Items 5-10
Friday, 18 June	Hybrid session with interpretation 14:00-16:00	Items 11-13