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**Economic Commission for Europe****Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards****Seventy-sixth session**

Geneva, 15–17 November 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda****Provisional agenda and annotations\*****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.
  - (c) Approval of standards
3. Capacity-building and promotional activities.
4. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables.
5. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes.
6. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat.
7. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce.
8. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.
9. Discussion on new areas of work under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards in support of sustainable development and circular economy
  - Follow-up to the Commission Decision.
  - 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.

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\* Delegates attending the meeting are encouraged to register online <https://indico.un.org/e/wp7-76th-2021>. In the event of difficulties with electronic registration, please contact the secretariat by e-mail (Stephen.hatem@un.org). Documents for the meeting will be made available at: <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/wp7-76th-2021>.

- Resilient food supply chains and post-COVID recovery.
  - Analysis of the impact of agricultural quality standards on the trade of agricultural produce.
10. Future work.
  11. Programme of work of the Working Party 2022.
  12. Other business.
  13. Election of officers.
  14. 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.7/2021/1)

### **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.

#### **(c) Approval of standards**

The Working Party will take note of the following standards/recommendation/documents that were approved intersessionally following the 2020 meeting of WP.7 and its virtual informal consultations: headed cabbages, table grapes, sweet peppers, persimmons, minimum quality specifications, updated lists of varieties for the apples, pears and plums standards, inshell pecans, pecan kernels, apricot kernels and standard layout for dry and dried produce.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Committee of UNECE established procedures to take decisions in formal meetings with remote participation ([ECE/EX/2020/L.12](#)).

### **3. Capacity-building and promotional activities**

The secretariat will provide an update on the capacity-building activities. Delegations will also exchange information on capacity-building, training and promotional activities that have taken place or have been postponed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic since the last session of WP.7.

#### **4. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables**

The Working Party will be updated on recent development related to the electronic quality certificate for fresh fruit and vegetables.

#### **5. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes**

In 2021, the Specialized Section held one online session.

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

*Documentation:* Report of the forty-eighth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2021/2)  
 Amendments to Annex I and Annex VII of the Standard for Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/3)  
 Revised draft guide on capacity-building (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/4)  
 Poster on the benefits of certified seed (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/5)

#### **6. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat**

The Specialized Section held one online session.

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

*Documentation:* Report of the twenty-ninth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2021/2)

#### **7. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce**

In 2021, the Specialized Section held one online session as well as several follow-up sessions on specific topics.

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

*Documentation:* Report of the sixty-eighth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2021/2)  
 Inshell pecans (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/6)  
 Pecan kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/7)  
 Dried persimmons (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/8)  
 Raw and roasted inshell peanuts (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/9)  
 Raw and roasted peanut kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/10)  
 Sweet apricot kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/11)  
 Dates (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/12)  
 Prunes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/13)  
 Sampling plan for tree nuts and dried produce and guidelines for inspections of dry and dried produce (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/14)

#### **8. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

In 2021, the Specialized Section held one online session as well as several follow-up sessions on specific topics.

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

*Documentation:* Report of the sixty-ninth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2021/2)  
Carrots (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/15)  
Peas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/16)  
Strawberries (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/17)  
Fresh figs (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/18)  
Chinese cabbage (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/19)  
Cucumbers (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/20)  
Watermelons (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/21)  
Apricots (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/22)  
Cauliflower (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/23)  
Pomegranates (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/28)  
Standard Layout for UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/24)  
Reducing food loss in handling fruit and vegetables – UNECE Code of Good Practice (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/25)

## **9. Discussion on new areas of work under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards in support of sustainable development and circular economy**

This agenda item will respond to the outcomes of the sixty-ninth Commission held on 20 and 21 April 2021, devoted to the topic of “circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources.” In the Commission decisions, ECE member States flagged the importance they give to the circular economy and charted the way forward towards concrete actions in support a circular economy transition, including for the ECE intergovernmental machinery and the secretariat.

This item of the agenda will explore how the deliverables of WP.7 can contribute to the circular economy transition and explore associated themes which may be taken into consideration by the Working Party.

- Follow-up to the Commission Decision.
- 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 of 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 agricultural produce

The Working Party is invited to discuss and decide on the development of contributions related to policy advice, guidance and capacity building for food trade.

*Documentation:* Report by the secretariat: Circular economy – Transitioning to circularity in food trade (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/26)

## **10. Future work**

The Working Party will decide on its future work.

## 11. Programme of work of the Working Party 2022

The secretariat will present the Working Party's draft annual programme of work for 2022, which is based on the Steering Committee program of work and related decisions.

*Documentation:* Programme of work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards 2022 (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/27)

## 12. Other business

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

## 13. Election of officers

The delegations will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its 2020 informal virtual consultations, the Working Party elected Ms. Agnieszka Sudol (Poland) as Chair and Mr. Bucky Gwartney (United States) as Vice-Chair.

## 14. Adoption of the report

The Working Party will adopt its report, which will be issued as document ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/2.

## III. Tentative timetable

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Monday, 15 November	11:00–13:00	Items 1 to 5
	15:00–17:00	Item 7
Tuesday, 16 November	11:00–13:00	Item 8
	15:00–17:00	Items 6,9,10, and 12
Wednesday, 17 November	11:00–13:00	Items 11,13, and 14

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