



Chairperson's Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Dorian A. LaFond, Ph.D.

Chairperson

Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

UNECE

Date November 2021

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Special Note of Thanks:

On behalf of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (D&DP), the U.S. Industry, surely the global one as well and personally, I am expressing sincerest gratitude and appreciation to:

- Dr. Ulrike Bickelmann for her dedicated decades of service and sharing her skills , experiences, wisdom and talents with the Specialized Section and its private sector stakeholders.
- Ana Bermejo of the INC for participation with the Specialized Section and its standardization activities throughout the world on behalf of the INC members.

As both of you move onto the other things and new stages of life, I wish you only the best of health and success in your endeavors. Always remember we deeply appreciate both of you and your contributions to our world of Dry and Dried Produce.

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was attended by representatives from:

- 11 member countries, European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (Tajikistan)
- Observers from Non-governmental and associations:- Alimkhan Exim Group, American Peanut Council, Austrian NGO “Hilfswerk International”, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Kyrgyzstan, International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC).

OPENING ADDRESS

The Deputy Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin opened the meeting and highlighted the following:

- The importance of the agricultural quality standards agenda at the UNECE as well as its role in sustainable food systems and the circular economy
- Ongoing preparations for the first United Nations Food Systems Summit and UNECE’s contribution,
- Expressed gratitude to the delegates for their work and support as well as progress made despite the COVID-19 crisis

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST SESSION

The Director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division of UNECE, Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk, welcomed the delegates. She gave an overview of relevant intergovernmental meetings held in 2020

- Informed the delegations that the Working Party had adopted a new programme of work in an intersessional approval procedure.
- Highlighted future work on emerging topics such as sustainable food systems, the circular economy
- Summarized relevant workstreams and deliverables relevant to the implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2, 8, 11 and 12.
- Reported on the sixty-ninth UNECE Commission session (20-21 April 2021) and its focus on “Promoting circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources in the UNECE region”.

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC)

- Stressed the excellent working relations and collaboration with UNECE on numerous issues over the years.
- Published several technical kits based on the UNECE standards for dry and dried produce and hosted webinars for over 1,000 industry representatives.
- Its participation in the FAO's launch of the United Nations International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (2021).

Central Asian Working Group (CAWG) Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

- Stressed the organization's role in promoting UNECE commercial quality standards in Central Asian region

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STANDARDS

(a & b) Inshell pecans and Pecan kernels (Recommendations):

- The Specialized Section granted the United States request to extend the trial period for both standards by one year due to current revision of both national standards.

Decision: The Specialized Section on Dry and Dried Produce submits both Recommendations to the 76th Session of the Working Party 7 for a 1-year trial period extension.

(c) Sweet Apricot Kernels (Recommendation).

All issues were resolved at the Specialized Section session and a subsequent follow-up working group meeting. The WP 7. is requested to note in its report these 2 concerns by the :

- Delegation of Turkey – The maximum moisture content of 6.5% as too high and can lead to rapid product deterioration and subsequent food loss. *(6.5% is a maximum, lower values are acceptable).*
- Delegation of the United States – Apricot kernels which naturally contain amygdalin, may release cyanide after consumption pose safety risks to consumers. *(US working on an ML while Canada and the EU have ML of 20 ppm)*

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the Recommendation for Sweet Apricot Kernels to the 76th Session of Working Party 7 for adoption as a UNECE standard for Apricot Kernels

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

New standards contd.

(d) Dried Persimmons

- Specialized Section reviewed the revised draft Dried persimmon standard including Definition of produce, Minimum requirements (amendment of text under the footnote, related to white coating), Moisture content, and presence of the calyx.

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the revised draft standard for Dried Persimmon to the 76th Session of Working Party 7 for adoption as a Recommendation for a 1-year trial.

(e & f) Raw and Roasted Inshell Peanuts & Raw and Roasted Peanut Kernels

- Specialized Section reviewed both new draft standards and amended several sections including Minimum requirements, Moisture content, Classification, Provisions concerning sizing and Tolerances for defects.

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the both revised draft standard for Raw and Roasted Inshell Peanuts and for Raw and Roasted Peanut Kernels the 76th Session of Working Party 7 for adoption as a recommendation for a 1-year trial.

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

REVIEW OF EXISTING STANDARDS

(a) Prunes

- The Specialized Section session and Follow-up session (Oct 5) resolved the outstanding Sizing provisions and Tolerances for defects in the Recommendation for Prunes:

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the revised draft standard for prunes to the 76th Session of Working Party 7 for adoption as a standard.

(b) Cashew Kernels

- Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the producing countries were unable to prepare draft revised standard for Cashew kernels.

Decision: The Specialized Section informs the 76th Working Party session of its decision to postpone the discussion of draft Cashew kernels standard to its 69th Session.

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Review of existing standards Contd.

(c) Dried Dates

- The Specialized Section reviewed the proposal to amend the name of UNECE standard for Dried dates- deleting “Dried” from the name of the standard as dates are traded in their natural dried state and usually without additional drying measures. The Specialized Section amended the name of the standard and inserted a footnote that clarifies the changes made.

Decision: The Specialized Section submits the name change for adoption by the 76th working Party 7 session

(d) Revision of the Standard Layout for Dry and Dried Produce

- Alignment of all Dry and Dried Produce standards with the 2020 edition of the Standard Layout approved at the 2020 session of the Specialized Section.
- The Specialized Section requested the secretariat over the year and before the 2022 session of the Specialized Section to align all existing DD&P standards with the revised Standard Layout adopted in 2020.

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

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

- At its 2019 session, the Working Party was informed by the DD&P Specialized Section of its plan to hold a workshop in Izmir, Turkey, hosted by the Delegation of Turkey to demonstrate the Sampling plan. Given the ongoing pandemic, the workshop could not be held in 2020 nor 2021. The Sampling Plan is completed.

Decision: The Specialized Section submits Sampling Plan for Tree Nuts and Dried Produce and Guidelines for Inspections of Dry and Dried Produce to the 76th Working Party session for adoption.

EXPLANATORY MATERIALS

(a) Cashew Kernel

(b) Almond Kernel posters

- The development of both posters are postponed to Specialized Section at its 2022 session.

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

PANEL DISCUSSION ON FUTURE WORK

- The secretariat reported on the outcome of the 69th session of the Commission held in April 2021 with an overarching theme of the “Circular Economy and Transitioning to Circularity in Food Trade”.
- Some delegations emphasized that topics related to the circular economy, sustainable food systems and the nexus of sustainable use of natural resources etc. were beyond their assigned mandate of contributing to quality standard development.

FUTURE WORK

The Specialized Section decided to place the following items on the agenda for 2022:

- Revision of Cashew Kernels standard
- Development of the explanatory poster on cashew kernels
- Development of the explanatory poster on almond kernels
- Alignment of existing standards with the Standard Layout
- Sampling plan workshop

Any other proposals for future work should be submitted to the secretariat, preferably by 1 February 2022.

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- The Specialized Section elected Mr. Dorian LaFond (United States) Chair of the Specialized Section and Ms. Aysegül Uluhan (Turkey) and Mr. Umed Aslanov (Tajikistan) Vice-Chairs..

Report of the 68th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Summary of submissions from the 67th SSS D&DP to the 76th Working Party 7

Recommendations

- Inshell Pecans - trial period extension for 1-year.
- Pecan Kernels - trial period extension for 1-year.
- Raw and Roasted Inshell Peanuts to be adopted for a 1-year trial
- Raw and Roasted Peanut Kernels to be adopted for a 1-year trial

Adoptions

- Recommendation for Apricot Kernels to be adopted as a UNECE standard
- Recommendation for Prunes to be adopted as a UNECE standard
- The name change of the standard from “Dry Dates” to “Dates”
- The Adoption of the Sampling Plan for Tree Nuts and Dried Produce and Guidelines for Inspections of Dry and Dried Produce

Thanks much!