



Regional training on sustainable walnut quality



7-8 September 2021

13h00 CET (Geneva)
16h00 UZT (Tashkent)
17h00 KGT (Bishkek)

The Central Asian region has the capacity to produce and market sustainable high-quality walnuts, as well as fresh and dried fruit and vegetable products, for both domestic and international markets. In parallel to these opportunities, challenges remain including production methods, the tree stock, the marketing practices, the use of standardized classifications or the diversification from traditional markets and their requirements, to the search for new markets.

The agricultural sector holds high socio-economic importance and key in building viable and sustainable food systems in the region. The potential and key role of this sector for the Central Asian region is exemplified by the significant labour resources it involves and its part in economic development, and income generation for the countries and their population, particularly for the livelihoods of many local communities.

The walnut industry in the region, along with many fresh and dried fruit and vegetable products, is mainly export-oriented and, therefore, holds the potential to address and contribute to improve many of the region's socio-economic problems. For potential to become reality, though, several key components need to be addressed one of them being the regulatory and legislative environment and the understanding of markets and buyers. This includes the use of national and international standards also by local producers, production methods, marketing or sales practices.

UNECE ¹ commercial marketing and quality standards are examples of widely recognized minimum requirements used in markets and the trade of nuts and dried fruit worldwide. The walnut standard for example is applied by leading producers, traders and buyers in Europe, USA or Asia in their commercial transactions and by their quality inspection bodies.

Walnuts in Central Asia

The walnut production in many Central Asian countries is unique – in its history, production, and importance for local communities. Walnuts grow mostly in their natural habitat – tens of thousands of hectares of walnut forests which span across the western and southwestern slopes of the Ferghana and Chatkal ridges. The latter are spurs of the Tien Shan mountain system and are concentrated in three forest areas: Kugart-Arslanbob, Yassin (Ferghana ridge) and Khodja-Ata (Chatkal ridge). They cover a total area of 610 thousand ha. These forests create a forest belt at altitudes ranging from 800 to 2400 meters above the sea level and are characterized by very favourable environmental conditions.

Natural walnut forests in Central Asia: 54, 500 ha

- Kyrgyzstan: 45,000 ha
- Tajikistan: 8,000 ha
- Uzbekistan: 1,500 ha

Annual harvest of wild walnuts in Central Asia: 13,350 tons, including:

- Kyrgyzstan: 10,000 tons
- Tajikistan: 3,000 tons
- Uzbekistan: 350 tons

Annual export of wild walnut kernels: approx. 3,500 tons.

¹ UNECE (UNECE) is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. UNECE standards for agricultural produce are used by government organizations, producers, traders, importers and exporters, are recognized by international organizations and cover a wide range of agricultural produce, including fresh and dried fruits

and vegetables, seed potatoes, meat, cut flowers, eggs and egg products. (<https://unece.org/trade/working-party-agricultural-quality-standards-wp7>)

Local communities and livelihoods

The sale of wild walnuts (in-shell and kernels) is a key source of income for over 100,000 people in the rural areas of Central Asia. The proceeds from the sale of walnuts account for up to 40% of their annual family income.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVE:

Recognizing the importance of improving the sector as part of a larger food system, the workshop will address several topics that are essential to improve the current situation. This includes the understanding, use and control of international standards, which authorities and some traders have been promoting for several years already. Participants will also hear about other aspects such as production, marketing and sales.

The workshop is supported by the project of the Austrian organization Hilfswerk International, the GIZ Project “Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Reduction through Community-based Management of Walnut Forests and Pastures”, the GIZ Regional Trade Facilitation Program in Central Asia (TFCA) and the UNDP Regional Project “: Aid for Trade in Central Asia” (funded by the Finnish government) and UNECE. The latter has been supporting the development, revision and use of standards in the international food trade in the Central Asian region for many years. The national standardization bodies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as industry associations of processors, manufacturers and exporters of walnuts are promoting it.

The workshop aims to:

1. Strengthen the capacity of authorities, agencies, private sector (walnut producers, traders, and exporters) in using product classification methods,

quality control and inspection in accordance with the requirements of UNECE standards.

2. Outline common practice to improve the production, marketing and sales of walnut kernels.

PARTICIPANTS:

- Representatives of national state institutions: standardization bodies, ministries of economy, agriculture and other relevant sectors of the countries of the region (Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan)
- Experts, industry associations, manufacturers, processors and traders/exporters

The regional practical training is organized with the assistance of the Center for Standardization and Metrology the Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Uzbekistan, Republic of Tajikistan and with the support of international organizations: Hilfswerk International; UNDP (Regional Project “Aid for Trade in Central Asia”) and UNECE.

Logistics:

Please confirm your participation in this Zoom training session to dipty.lalka@un.org

Russian interpretation available.

Zoom link:

Title: “Regional training on sustainable walnut quality”

Date: 7-8 September 2021

Time: 04:00 pm Tashkent & Dushanbe/
05:00 pm Bishkek/ 01.00pm Geneva

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474811174?pwd=MWhYUFN0Q2FNbmNFZk5hT0Z6cGpWdz09>

Conference ID: 834 7481 1174

Access code: RTSWQ

Tuesday, 7 September 2021		13h00–15h00 (CET)/16h00-18h00 (UZT)/17h00-19h00 (KGT)	
Market requirements and standards – components, meaning, importance			
13:00 CET 16:00 UZT 17:00 KGT	Welcome note from Kyrgyzstandard	Akhmatov Sultan , Director of Kyrgyzstandard	
	Welcome note from UNECE and video screening – Forests in a nutshell	Mika Vepsalainen , Chief of Market Access Section, UNECE	
	Welcome note from UNDP	Dilshod Akbarov , Project Manager, UNDP 'Aid for Trade in Central Asia' project	
	Welcome note from GIZ	Edith Koshkin , Project Manager, GIZ Kyrgyzstan	
13:15 CET 16:15 UZT 17:15 KGT	Goal and objectives of the training	Umed Aslanov , Head of Mission Hilfswerk International in Central Asia	
13:25 CET 16:25 UZT 17:25 KGT	Walnut production in Central Asia – an overview		Kamoliddin Nuritdinov , Project manager, UNDP 'Aid for trade in Uzbekistan' project'
13:40 CET 16:40 UZT 17:40 KGT	Ensuring quality at all stages: - Why standards, who uses them, who inspects them		Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab , Chief of Section, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forests, Land and Housing Division
	- The minimum requirements and most common defects described in marketing standards - UNECE Standard DDP-02 for walnut kernels - Colours and classes – sorting walnut kernels according to the requirements of standards - UNECE Standard DDP-02		Dorian LaFond , International Standards Coordinator, USDA, USA
14:30 CET 17:30 UZT 18:30 KGT	Participants' discussion Summing up the first day of the training	Umed Aslanov	

Wednesday, 8 September 2021

13h00–15h00 (CET)/ 16h00-18h00 (UZT)/17h00-19h00 (KGT)

From tree to markets

13:00 CET 16:00 UZT 17:00 KGT	Welcome and introduction Day 2	Umed Aslanov
13:05 CET 16:05 UZT 17:05 KGT	Walnut operations around the world	Media projections
13:20 CET 16:20 UZT 17:20 KGT	From tree to market: - sustainable forest/orchard management to improve yield and quality - Integrated Management Plans as model for more sustainable forest management	Roman Michalak and Ekrem Yacici , UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section Simon Charre , GIZ Walnut Forest Project
14:00 CET 17:00 UZT 18:00 KGT	Selling walnuts – from tree to consumer: - Walnut production markets worldwide – the scope for Central Asia - What it takes and how to get there – the example of Moldova	Giuseppe Calcagni , Chairman Scientific Committee, International Nut & Dried Fruit Council and. President V.Besana spa., Italy Tatiana Calcii , Export Department Manager, Meastro Nut, Moldova
14:30 CET 17:30 UZT 18:30 KGT	Participants' discussion	
14:50 CET 17:50 UZT 18:50 KGT	Wrap up and closure of the training	Umed Aslanov , Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab , UNECE