Central Asian Initiative for the Promotion of Commercial Quality Standards 2021 - 2022

Sixty-ninth session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of DDP
Geneva 2022
The goal of the Regional Initiative

Integration of the Central Asian countries into international trade and supply chains and diversifying export destinations

through:

- Cross-boarder cooperation, production pooling and internal integration of the region (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan & Kazakhstan);

- Applying internationally recognized commercial standards (UNECE standards & others) for FFV & DDP
The beginning: UNECE’s standard for Dried Apricots - How it all began

2015
Request from the industry in Fergana Valley (UZB, TJK & KGZ)

Results by 2022:
• A set of explanatory materials (more than 30 publications) developed and approved
• Cooperation with pool of experts from Germany, USA, Turkey and others, a process facilitated by Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards of the UNECE
The beginning: UNECE’s standards
- How it all began

Results by 2022:
- Participation in each DDP & FFV sessions from 2016 – up to now – good practice.

- Joint organization (*in close cooperation with Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards of the UNECE*) and conduction a set of trainings and webinars on quality standards for FFV & DDP for producers, processors & exporters Inc. relevant State agencies.
The beginning: UNECE’s standards
- How it all began

Results by 2022:
• changing/adaptation of standards in the interests of the regional industry (DDP 15, 07)

• Development of standards in the interests of the regional industry (dried melon, sweet apricot kernels, dried persimmons, inshell peanuts, peanut kernels)
Capacity building 2021 - 2022

Regional webinar on sustainable walnut quality, 2-day, 07 - 08.09.2021 (UNECE, Hilfswerk International & UNDP)

Regional training on DDP, 4-day, November 2021 (Hilfswerk International & UNDP) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
A key role is played by the **Private Sector** and the **National Institutes for Standards and Metrology**

The initiative is supported by the government structures, donor agencies, an EU project, the UN country teams and the UNECE secretariat
Promotion: web sites

https://ca-wg.net/

98 000 visitors a year
67 thousand downloads
Are used by high education institutions’ teaching staff and students
CAWG – members

Private sector:
- producers/processors/exporters;
- cooperatives/association;
- consulting agencies;
- State agencies, Ministries, relevant committees

Around 70 persons (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan & Kazakhstan)
CAWG – structure

CAWG regulation

MoU – 2018, updated in 2022
Explanatory materials 2021 - 2022

Developed by NTGs, facilitated by UNECE secretariat
Manuals and guidelines 2021 - 2022

Information sessions/campaigns

Flipcharts for field session/training

Inspection

Others

Developed by National Technical Groups of the CAWG
Trainings and information sessions/campaigns for Value chain actors: producers, processors, cooperatives, associations & exporters 2021 - 2022

PRODUCER GROUPS/FARMERS – 43 events

Field activities, 55 % of women covered: harvesting & placing in containers
More than 62 % of employees in food processing SMEs are women: graduation, calibration, packaging
Trainings and information sessions/campaigns for Value chain actors: producers, processors, cooperatives, associations & exporters 2021 - 2022

PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION & EXPORTERS – 28 events
Trainings and information sessions/campaigns for Value chain actors: producers, processors, cooperatives, associations & exporters 2021 - 2022

RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES – 12 events
Plans and capacity building needs

Each NTG has its annual plan on:

- promoting quality standards in the region;
- information sessions FFV & DDP
- trainings for producers groups on FFV & DDP;
- trainings of internal inspectors for fruit & vegetable SMEs;
- organization of study tours on quality control and inspection (regional and international level);
- developing explanatory materials for other quality standards in the interests if industry
The way forward - cooperation between the Central Asia Working Group and UNECE secretariat

- Expert support of national technical groups for FFV & DDP standards (*application/use in practice*);
- Training workshops and awareness-raising events for stakeholders in the Central Asian region;
- Support in the implementation of the standards (incl. inspection at SMEs level & others) to foster quality production.
- Others
At its sixty-sixth session, held in Geneva on June 2019, the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce requested the secretariat to conduct, jointly with CA UNDP, Hilfswerk International and GIZ, an impact assessment of their quality standards activities achieved in Central Asia in recent years.

For the past five years 2016 - 2020

The following impact was recorded in the results of the survey:

I. Impact on knowledge: more than 90% of respondents reported improved knowledge and capacities of public and private sectors of Central Asia to improve quality along the entire value chain and increased sustainability of agricultural production and trade.
The following impact was recorded in the results of the survey:

**II. Impact on awareness:** for over 90% of the survey respondents, gained knowledge of quality standard, food safety and produce trainings was extensively used in their work after the inter-agency training program.
The following impact was recorded in the results of the survey:

III. Impact on quality: a majority of respondents reported their organizations’ and companies’ active contribution to the promotion of UNECE quality standards at the national and regional levels. Furthermore, participants trained producers, exporters, commodity specialists and farmers in their respective countries, focusing on enhanced food quality and safety.
The following impact was recorded in the results of the survey:

IV. Impact on sales: over 80% of participants reported increased sales opportunities. More specifically, participants highlighted the more diversified destination markets and expanded export reach and the increased customers’ network, including through the Central Asian Working Group.
Report - Impact Assessment Survey

Results

The following impact was recorded in the results of the survey:

V. Impact on employment and women: a large majority of participants stressed the greater employment opportunities created as well as increasing participation of women in the formal agriculture economy.
Insights:

The survey highlighted that trainings conducted by joint efforts, positively contributed to the development of sustainable food and food trade systems in Central Asia and created real, tangible and measurable impact. The newly established CAWG jointly supported by agencies and consisting of stakeholders in the private and public sector proved very efficient in experience sharing and expanded networks.
Thank you for attention!