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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 Seed Potatoes

Fiftieth session

Geneva, 16–17 March 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda*

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 - (b) Recent developments in other organizations
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4. Lot size and sample size of seed potatoes – survey results
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6. Herbicide carry-over and seed potatoes – draft position paper
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8. Draft guide on minituber production
9. Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building:
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 - (c) New and emerging diseases and pests
 - (d) Update on development of a knowledge-sharing and resource reference page on seed potato certification
 - (e) Seed potato information on the website

* Delegates attending the meeting are required to register online as soon as possible at <https://indico.un.org/e/wp7/ge6-50th-2023>. In the event of difficulties with electronic registration, please contact the secretariat by e-mail (olga.kharitonova@un.org). Documents for the meeting will be made available at <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/ge6-50th-2023>.



10. Terms of Reference and Working Procedures of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its Specialized Sections
11. Future work
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II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Specialized Section will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2023/1)

2. Matters arising

(a) Recent developments in the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present developments at the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), 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: Report of the seventy-seventh session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2022/2)

(b) Recent developments in other organizations

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

3. Revision of the Standard for Seed Potatoes

Following the adoption of revisions to Annexes I and VII to the ECE Standard S-1 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of seed potatoes in 2021, at its 2022 session the Specialized Section decided to proceed to review the entire standard. The review would be undertaken by a rapporteur's group consisting of Australia, Finland (rapporteur), France, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Euroseeds.

Over the course of 2022 the rapporteur's group met in four half-day online meetings to review the standard, facilitated by the secretariat. The review process is expected to be completed during 2023 with the revised standard tabled for review at the fifty-first session of the Specialized Section in 2024.

The document for the 2023 session contains the preliminary proposed revisions to the ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes as per the status of discussions in the rapporteur's group at the end of November 2022. The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposed changes and provide additional suggestions to the rapporteur's group.

Documentation: Preliminary proposals for revisions to the Standard for Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2023/3)

History of the Standard for Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2023/4)

4. Lot size and sample size of seed potatoes – survey results

At its 2022 session, the Specialized Section discussed whether there was a need to define maximum lot sizes for seed potatoes, such as is the case for cereals and grasses where the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provide rules for the maximum lot sizes of seeds. The Specialized Section decided to conduct a survey on the topic of lot and sample size limits and practices as background for further discussions. The delegation of Germany agreed to take the lead in conducting the survey.

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the results of the survey on lot size and sample size of seed potatoes.

Documentation: Results of the survey on lot size and sample size of seed potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2023/INF.1)

5. Revision of position papers of the Specialized Section

At its 2022 meeting, the Specialized Section decided to set up a rapporteur's group consisting of Australia, Finland, the United Kingdom (rapporteur), and the United States to review the Specialized Section's position papers available on its website.

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the proposed revisions to the position papers.

Documentation: Proposed revisions to the position papers of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2023/5)

6. Herbicide carry-over and seed potatoes – draft position paper

At its 2022 meeting, the Specialized Section discussed whether herbicide carry-over should be included in the requirements of the ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes or if a position paper was needed. It decided that a position paper was necessary before considering whether to include a provision on herbicide carry-over in the standard. It asked the rapporteur's group set up for this topic at its 2021 meeting (Australia, France, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom (rapporteur), and the United States) to work on preparing the position paper.

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the draft position paper on herbicide carry-over.

Documentation: Draft position paper on herbicide carry-over (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2023/6)

7. True potato seed and potato plants in pots

At its 2022 session, the Specialized Section shared information on the topic of true potato seed (TPS) and potato plants in pots. In 2021, a rapporteur's group had been set up on the topic, consisting of Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands (rapporteur), South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Euroseeds. The Specialized Section decided that TPS could be one of the topics in the intersessional meetings on reviewing the ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes.

An external speaker will be invited to present on the topic. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss its potential future work to define rules relating to TPS and potato plants in pots.

8. Draft guide on minituber production

At its 2022 session, the Specialized Section reviewed the draft guide on minituber production and decided to continue the work in the rapporteur's group (consisting of Australia (rapporteur), France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Euroseeds) to finalize the draft guide and to place it for approval at its 2023

meeting. Over the course of 2022, the rapporteur's group held four half-day meetings online to review the draft guide, with Australia as rapporteur and facilitated by the secretariat.

The Specialized Section is invited to review and consider the draft guide on minituber production for approval.

Documentation: Draft guide on minituber production (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2023/7)

9. Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building

(a) Seed potato webinar series

At its 2022 session, the Specialized Section decided to set up a working group to develop an online webinar series (Australia (rapporteur), Finland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Initial proposals for webinars include sessions on the ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes; Herbicide damage; Blackleg; *Liberibacter* (Zebra Chip); Potato virus Y (dormant tuber); and Potato mop-top virus. The rapporteur's group proposed for ECE to collaborate with the World Potato Congress in developing and hosting the webinar series. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss these proposals and provide additional proposals for capacity-building.

Documentation: Proposals for webinars (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2023/INF.2)

(b) Finalization of a poster/paper on the benefits of certified seed

Following the adoption of the text for the poster on the benefits of certified seed at the 2021 session of the Working Party, the Specialized Section in 2022 reviewed the proposed design of the poster and suggested some changes to the pictures and design. The Specialized Section is invited to review and approve the revised poster.

Documentation: Poster on the benefits of certified seed
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2023/INF.3)

(c) New and emerging diseases and pests

At its 2022 session, the Specialized Section continued to exchange information concerning ongoing research and studies on new and emerging diseases and pests, such as *Liberibacter* and the Tomato Potato Psyllid. The Specialized Section decided to keep the item on the agenda and to work on gathering diagnostic information on *Liberibacter* from New Zealand, the United States, and other countries where the pathogen has been detected. The Specialized Section is invited to share information on new and emerging diseases and pests.

(d) Update on development of a knowledge-sharing and resource reference page on seed potato certification

At the 2021 session of the Specialized Section, the delegation of Australia informed the meeting about a newly established knowledge-sharing platform for experts of the Specialized Section, allowing registered experts to upload relevant material. At the 2022 session, the Specialized Section reviewed progress and discussed possible contributions and additions to the knowledge-sharing platform. It requested the secretariat to explore whether it would be possible to store the material on a document-sharing platform hosted by the secretariat. The Specialized Section will continue to review progress and discuss possible contributions to the knowledge-sharing platform.

(e) Seed potato information on the website

At its 2022 session, the Specialized Section discussed recommendations for improving the user-friendliness of the seed potato page on the ECE website. It decided that the secretariat would update the website in consultation with the Bureau of the Specialized Section. The secretariat will update the Specialized Section on changes to the seed potato page of the ECE website.

10. Terms of Reference and Working Procedures of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its Specialized Sections

As per its Terms of Reference, the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards shall review its Terms of Reference every five years and submit them for approval to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and the Executive Committee of ECE. With the next revision due for consideration at its 2023 meeting, at its meeting in November 2022 the Working Party decided to set up an open working group consisting of Brazil, Poland, Spain, and the United States to review the Terms of Reference and Working Procedures and prepare a proposal for discussion in the Specialized Sections, followed by consideration by the Working Party at its seventy-eighth session in November 2023.

The secretariat will provide an update on the progress of the work of the open working group, and invite the views of delegations.

Documentation: Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (2018) (ECE/CTCS/2019/12)

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards: Working Procedures

11. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

12. Other business

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

13. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair(s) for a one-year term.

14. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.

Documentation: Report of the fiftieth session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2023/2)

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Thursday, 16 March	10:00–13:00	Items 1–3
	15:00–18:00	Items 4–7
Friday, 17 March	10:00–13:00	Items 8–10
	15:00–18:00	Items 11–14