

Matters arising

Recent developments in United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and subsidiary bodies



**75 years of
Economic Integration
and Cooperation**

Presentation to the 50th session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes, 16-17 March 2023

UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

Structure, focus and related work



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Organization:

- Working Party + 4 Specialized Sections
- 5 annual intergovernmental meetings
- Open to all UN member States
- Serviced by the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD)

Over 100 commercial quality standards:

- Fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts and dried fruit, seed potatoes, meat, eggs
- Open development and adoption process, regular revisions, inputs from parties
- Complemented with guidance materials, illustrative posters and leaflets, code mark registry, etc.



Quality helps:

- Increase benefits from international trade
- Prevent food loss

Related work:

- Food loss and waste
- Capacity building
- Illustrated guides
- Studies

Used by:

- Authorities – check products against a set of transparent rules
- Producers – improve production, reach new markets
- Traders & Retail Chains – order confidently

Progress over the past 5 years

Adoption of UNECE standards and recommendations



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	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New standards		Dried melons Dehydrated coconut kernel pieces Dried ripe papayas	Minimum Quality Specifications for FFV	Sweet Apricot Kernels Pomegranates	Dried Persimmons Raw & Roasted Inshell Peanuts Raw & Roasted Peanut Kernels
Revised standards	Sweet peppers Dried bananas Goose meat Ovine meat Porcine meat	Annonas Avocado Berry fruit Broccoli Cauliflower Cherries Onions Root&Tubercle Veg. Table grapes Watermelon Inshell Walnuts	Headed cabbages Persimmons Sweet peppers Table grapes Updated lists of varieties (standards for Apples, Pears, Plums) Standard Layout for DDP	S-1 Amendments to Annex I and Annex VII Apricots Carrots Cauliflower Chinese cabbage Cucumbers Fresh figs Strawberries Watermelons Dates (dried) Prunes (dried) Standard layout for FFV	Asparagus Cherries Leafy vegetables Pomegranates
Recommendations	Prunes Dried coconut kernel pieces Dried melons Dried papayas	Prunes (extension)	Sweet Apricot Kernels Inshell Pecans Pecan Kernels	Dried Persimmons R&R Inshell Peanuts R&R Peanut Kernels Inshell Pecans (extend) Pecan Kernels (extend)	Certain small fruits Inshell Pecans (extend) Pecan Kernels (extend)

Related work

Guidance materials, capacity building, and analysis



Guidance material:

- [Capacity-building guide](#) for implementation of a seed potato certification scheme
- Online course on agricultural quality standards and food loss <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/e-learning>
- [Code of Good Practice](#) – reducing food loss and ensuring optimum handling of fresh fruit and vegetables along the value chain (second edition)
- OECD/UNECE [study](#) on the impact of UNECE agricultural quality standards and OECD explanatory brochures on the trade of fruit and vegetables



Recent and upcoming developments

of relevance to the Specialized Section



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Since the last Specialized Section meeting in March 2022:

- Regional forum on sustainable development:
 - Side-event by the UN issue-based coalition (IBC) on sustainable food systems, 6 April 2022
- WP.7 meetings:
 - Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, 16-18 May 2022
 - Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce, 15-17 June 2022
 - Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat, 28-30 September 2022 (incl. seminar on Sustainable Meat and Livestock Production)
 - Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, 14-16 November 2022 (incl. roundtable on food loss and waste reduction)
- Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, 27-28 June 2022
- Capacity building:
 - Online course on agricultural quality standards and food loss reduction in fresh produce supply chains
 - National Policy Dialogue on the Circular Economy in the Agri-Food Sector (UNDA), Serbia, 5 July 2022

Upcoming meetings

2023-2024



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	2023	2024 (provisional)
Economic Commission for Europe, 70th session (Theme: Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the UNECE region)	18-19 April 2023	-
Regional forum on sustainable development	29-30 March 2023	
Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards	26-27 June 2023	26-28 June 2024
Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards	13-15 Nov. 2023	11-13 Nov. 2024
<i>Specialized Section on Standardization of..</i>		
Seed potatoes	16-17 March 2023	26-28 March 2024
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	9-11 May 2023	6-8 May 2024
Dry and Dried Produce	14-16 June 2023	12-14 June 2024
Meat	28-29 August 2023	28-30 August 2024

Thank you!



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UNECE

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