



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2023

Original: English only

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 4 of the provisional agenda

**Lot size and sample size of seed potatoes –
survey results**

Results of the survey on lot size and sample size of seed potatoes

Submitted by the delegation of Germany

Summary

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. It decided to conduct a survey on 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.

This document contains a short summary of the survey results. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the results of the survey and potential actions.

Results of the survey on lot size and sample size of seed potatoes

1. Thirty-one countries participated in the survey: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
2. The survey contained two parts. The first part asked for information on lot sizes (area, weight) and sampling sizes (testing for viruses, *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus*, *Ralstonia solanacearum*, tuber diseases and external defects for post control trials). The second part asked about lot size limits for marketed seed potatoes.
3. Thirty-two responses were received (including answers from the Belgian regions Flanders and Wallonia). Twenty-one responses were complete and answered both parts of the survey. Eleven responses referred only to the first part of the questionnaire.
4. Answers for the first part of the questionnaire were highly diverse: in 25 countries the “area size” for sampling is restricted. Area sizes varied from 0,1 to 20 ha, depending on seed category and the reason for sampling. The “maximum weight of a lot” is restricted in 19 countries, ranging from less than 5,000 to more than 125,000 kg, depending on the bag size, category and reason for sampling. Sampling size for “virus testing” varied from 80 to 480 tubers, depending on field size and category (28 countries). Sampling size for “tuber diseases and external defects” varied from either 50 to 400 tubers or 7 to 400 kg (26 countries). For “post control trials”, 10 to 400 tubers are used, depending on the category (18 countries).
5. Only for the sampling for *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus* and *Ralstonia solanacearum* was a uniform sample size of 200 tubers chosen in nearly all countries.
6. Out of the 21 responses received for the second part, 17 countries answered that they do not restrict the lot size for marketed seed potatoes. Four countries have restrictions in place: Austria limits the size to maximum 6 ha, Serbia to 20 tonnes and Czechia and Slovakia both to 50 tonnes.
7. Detailed information can be found on the seed potato page of the ECE website: <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/SeedPotatoes-Standards>.
