

Matters arising

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



**75 years of
Economic Integration
and Cooperation**

Presentation to the 71st session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, 9-11 May 2023

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

Structure, focus and related work



UNECE

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 (FFV and DDP)



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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	Annonas Avocado Berry fruit Broccoli Cauliflower Cherries Onions Root&Tubercle Veg. Table grapes Watermelons Inshell Walnuts	Headed cabbages Persimmons Sweet peppers Table grapes Updated lists of varieties (standards for Apples, Pears, Plums) DDP Standard Layout	Apricots Carrots Cauliflower Chinese cabbage Cucumbers Fresh figs Strawberries Watermelons Dates (dried) Prunes (dried) FFV Standard Layout	Asparagus Cherries Leafy vegetables Pomegranates DDP Standard Layout
Recommendations	Prunes Dried coconut kernel pieces Dried melons Dried papayas	Prunes (extension)	Sweet Apricot Kernels Inshell Pecans Pecan Kernels	Dried Persimmons Raw & Roasted Inshell Peanuts Raw & Roasted Peanut Kernels Inshell Pecans (extend) Pecan Kernels (extend)	Certain small fruits Inshell Pecans (extend) Pecan Kernels (extend)

Related work of WP.7

Guidance materials, capacity building, and analysis

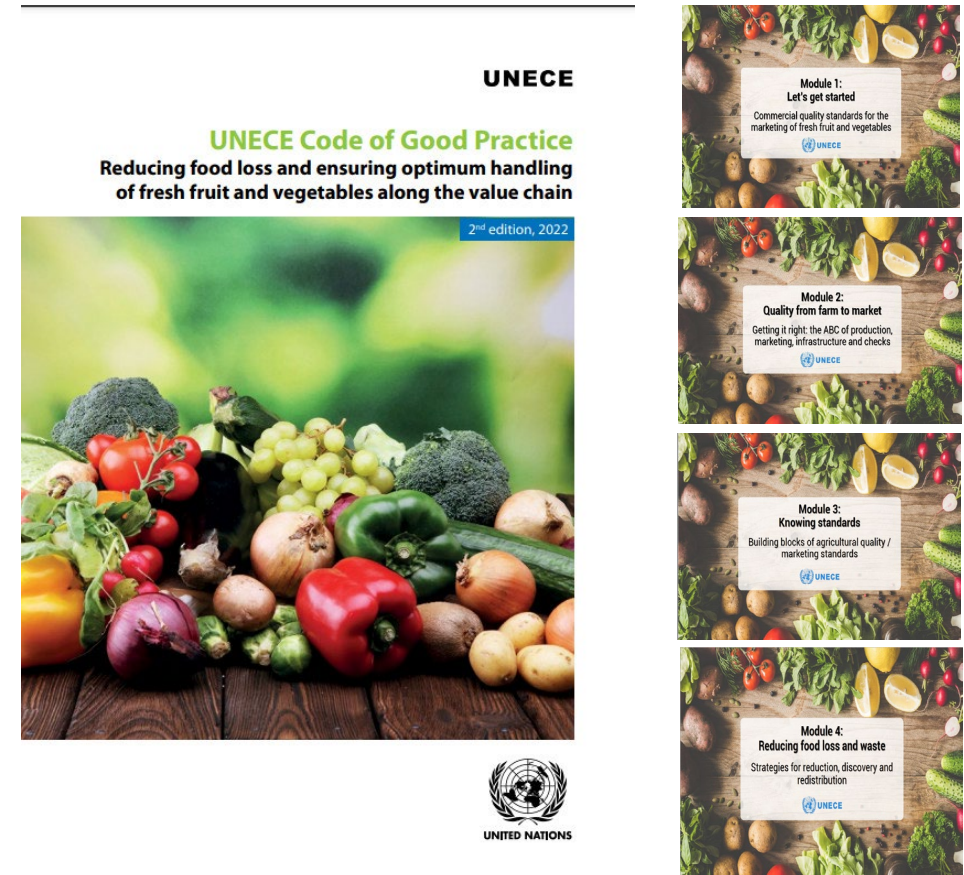


Guidance material and capacity building:

- [Code of Good Practice](#) – reducing food loss and ensuring optimum handling of fresh fruit and vegetables along the value chain (2nd ed., Jan. 2023, French and Russian versions forthcoming)
- Online course on agricultural quality standards and food loss <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/e-learning>

Impact analysis:

- OECD/UNECE [study](#) on the impact of UNECE standards and OECD explanatory brochures on international trade of fruit and vegetables (additional analysis planned)
- WP.7 survey on the use of ECE standards and their link to relevant legislative frameworks (preliminary results to be discussed at this meeting)



Recent events

of relevance to the Specialized Section



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Since the last Specialized Section meeting in May 2022:

- Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, 27-28 June 2022
- Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, 14-16 November 2022 (incl. roundtable on food loss and waste reduction)
- Other specialized sections:
 - 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)
 - Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes, 16-17 March 2023
- Regional forum on sustainable development, 29-30 March 2023:
 - Associated event: Regional preparatory meeting (Europe and Central Asia) for the 2023 Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, 28 March 2023, Issue-based
- Seventieth session of the Commission, 18-19 April 2023
 - Theme: “Digital and Green Transformations for Sustainable Development in the Region of the Economic Commission for Europe”

Upcoming meetings

2023-2024



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	2023	2024 (provisional)
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

9 May 2023

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