

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



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

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

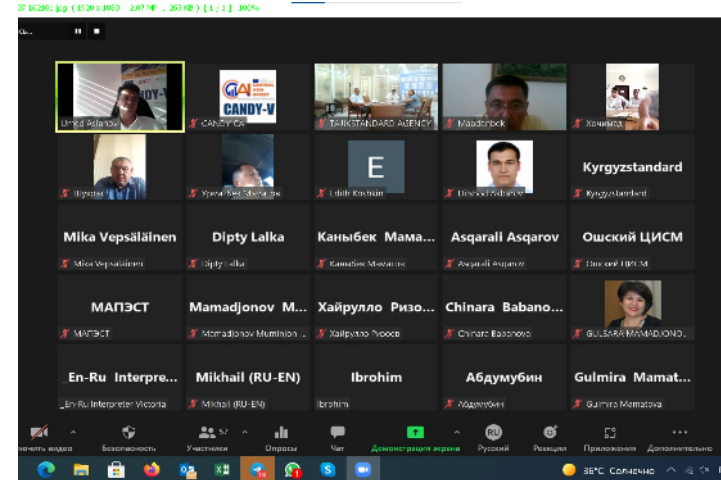
Results by 2022:

- 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



CAWG annual meetings 2021 -2022



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**

The screenshot displays the website's interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Главная', 'UNECE', 'OECD', 'ЦАРГ', 'НТГ ЦА', and 'Стандарты'. Below the menu, the main heading is 'БРОШЮРЫ' (Brochures). The content is organized into a grid of nine items, each featuring a PDF icon, a title, and a 'Скачать' (Download) button. The items are:

- DDP-15. Сушеный абрикос RUS
- DDP-15. Сушеный абрикос ENG
- ХҲУҶЧАТИ ЭЗОҶӢ - МАҒЗИ ЧОРМАҒЗ
- ПОЯСНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ ДОКУМЕНТ - ЯДЕР ГРЕЦКОГО ОРЕХА
- ТУШУНДУРМӨ ДОКУМЕНТ - Грек жаңгагынын маңызынын
- ТУШУНТИРИШ ХҲУЖАТИ - (БМТ ЕИК) ёнгоқ магзининг маркетинг ва тижорат сифатини назорат қилиш бўйича стандарти
- DDP -15 Сушеный абрикос ТҶК
- DDP-15 Сушеный абрикос KYRG
- DDP -15 Сушеный абрикос UZB

Below the brochures section, there is a heading 'ФЛИПЧАРТЫ' (Flipcharts). This section contains four flipchart thumbnails, each with a title and a 'Скачать' button:

- ДАСТУРИ ТАЪЛИМИЙ ХУРМО (Хурма ТҶК)
- ДАСТУРИ ТАЪЛИМИЙ ЛИМУ (Лимон ТҶК)
- ДАСТУРИ ТАЪЛИМИЙ ЗАРДОЛУИ ХУШК (Сушеный абрикос ТҶК)
- ДАСТУРИ ТАЪЛИМИЙ ПИЁЗ (Лук ТҶК)

CAWG – members

Private sector:

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

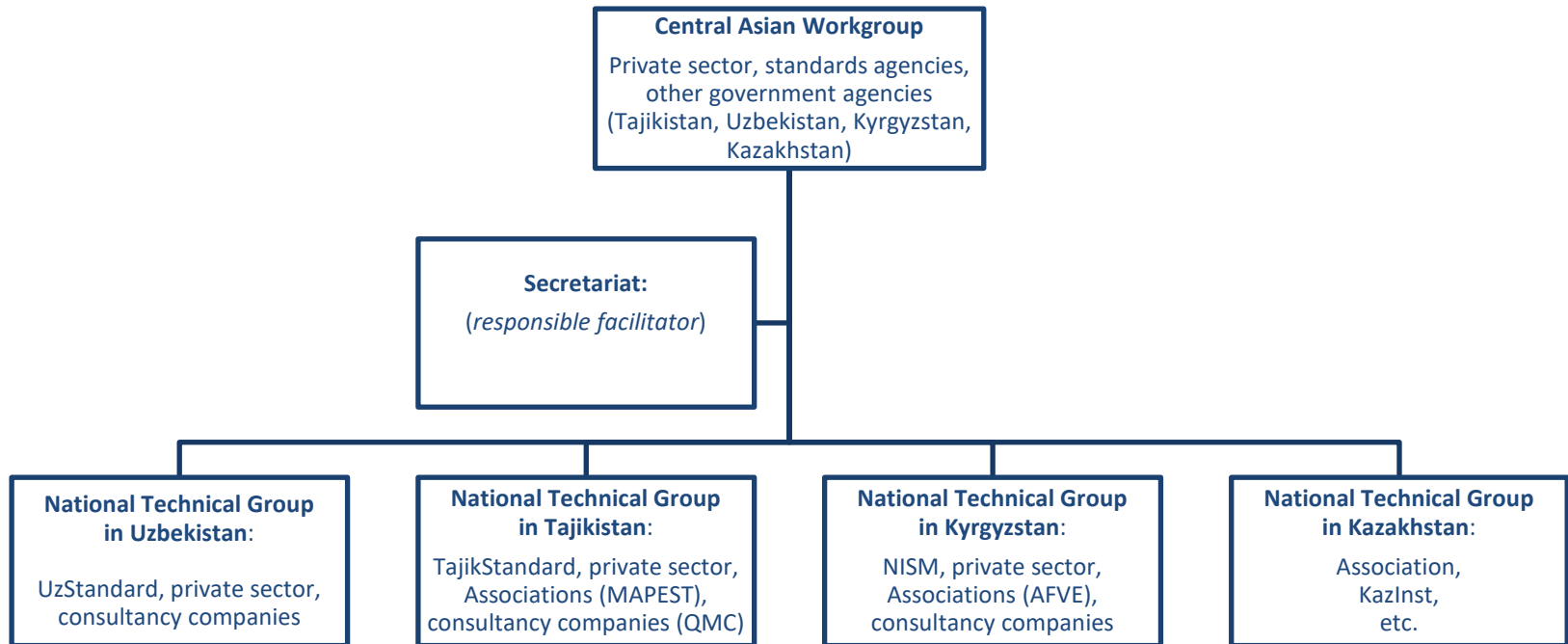
Around 70 people (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan & Kazakhstan)



CAWG – structure

CAWG regulation

MoU – 2018, updated in 2022

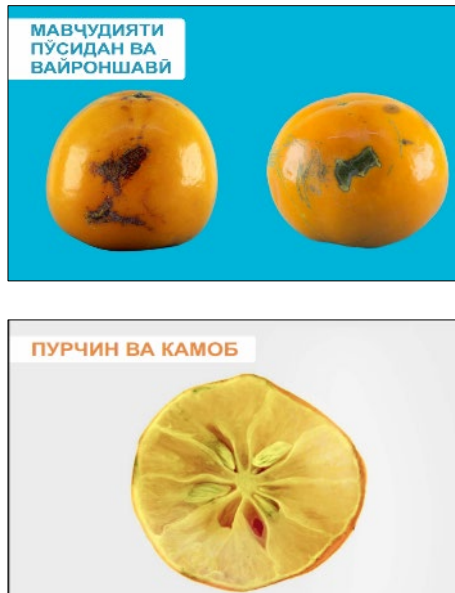


Manuals and guidelines 2021 - 2022

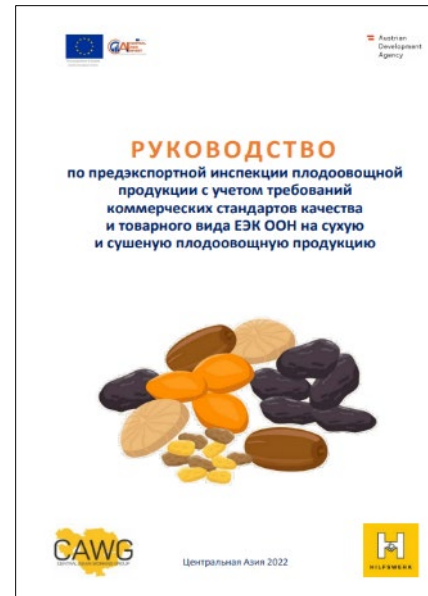
Information sessions/campaigns



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 of 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

Report - Impact Assessment Survey Submitted by the secretariat in 2020

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

https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/agr/meetings/ge.02/2020/WP7_GE2_2020_9E_ImpactAssessment.pdf

Report - Impact Assessment Survey Results

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.

Report - Impact Assessment Survey Results

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.

Report - Impact Assessment Survey Results

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.

Report - Impact Assessment Survey Results

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.

Report - Impact Assessment Survey Results

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!

