



UNECE



Training workshop

Agricultural Quality standards: methods and tools for inspection and sampling of fresh and dried fruit and vegetables

4-6 June 2024

Panarams Tashkent Hotel, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Background and context

The Central Asian region has a high potential to produce fresh and dried fruit and vegetables, and dried fruit and nuts are already important export products from several countries in the region, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. However, the region is facing challenges to diversify its export markets and to tap higher-end markets.

International standards such as the UNECE standards for fresh fruit and vegetables and for dry and dried Produce play an important role in facilitating trade and expanding access to new markets. Enabling producers to implement international standards can help increase exports and thus incomes.

In 2018, the Central Asian Working Central Asian Workgroup to Promote Exports of Agricultural Produce (CAWG) was established as a collaborative platform between representatives of the public and private sectors in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Its objective is to harmonize approaches to implement international standards of commercial quality, food safety, as well as other tools aimed at increasing product recognition and maintain cross-border contacts on these issues.

At the 2022 session of the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards the representative of CAWG requested the Working Party to organize practical trainings on (i) methods and tools for inspections and sampling for fresh fruit and vegetables, and on (ii) methods and tools for inspections and sampling of dry and dried produce. This workshop is being organized in response to this request.

Objectives and target group

The workshop aims to build capacity of public and private sector entities to understand the requirements of foreign markets, and to build domestic capacity to inspect against UNECE standards.

The target group is representatives of relevant government agencies for standardization and metrology as well as export-oriented companies and other relevant public and private sector organizations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan involved with standard setting, inspections and trade of fresh fruit and vegetables and dried fruit and nuts.

Draft programme

Day 1	Standards and inspections – why, what and how?
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government of Uzbekistan - Ariel Ivanier, Chief Market Access Section, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE - Ravshan Yunusov, Team Leader on Inclusive Growth, UNDP Uzbekistan - Umed Aslanov, Representation of Hilfswerk International in Tajikistan
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Agricultural Quality Standards – why, what and who?</p> <p>Presentation on the importance of quality standards to producers, traders, consumers and Governments and how they are applied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viera Baričičová, former Senior State Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Slovakia - Marit Nilses, Secretary to the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, UNECE - Michael Girnth, Vice-Chair, OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme <p>Q&A</p>
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	<p>National institutional infrastructure for standards – legal basis</p> <p>General overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dorian LaFond, International Standards Coordinator, AMS Specialty Crops Program, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) <p>How it works in the European Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Girnth, Deputy Head of Division 525, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Germany <p>Q&A</p>
11:45 – 12:15	<p>Standards and inspections – status in CAWG countries</p> <p>Presentation on how standard application currently works in CAWG countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lenur Eredjepov, Director/CEO, Agro Food Chain, Uzbekistan <p>Q&A and discussion</p>
12:15 – 13:00	<p>Standards and inspections – country experiences</p> <p>Presentations on how inspections are organized in different countries</p> <p>Slovakia, Turkey, Kenya and South Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viera Baričičová, former Senior State Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Slovakia <p>United States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dorian LaFond, International Standards Coordinator, AMS Specialty Crops Program, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

	<p>Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Girnth, Deputy Head of Division 525, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Germany <p>Q&A</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:40	<p>How the value chain works</p> <p>Presentation: What are value chains, how do they work and how can they be utilized to maximize benefits to producers and exporters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dorian LaFond, International Standards Coordinator, AMS Specialty Crops Program, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) <p>Q&A</p>
14:40 – 15:10	<p>UNECE Code of Good Practice: Reducing food loss and waste and ensuring optimum handling of fresh fruit and vegetables along the value chain</p>
15:10 – 15:30	<p>ITC work on fresh and dried fruit export in Central Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sultan-Makhmud Sultanov, National Project Manager, International Trade Center (ITC), Uzbekistan <p>Q&A</p>
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Break</i>
15:45 – 16:45	<p>Sampling</p> <p>Presentation on how sampling of is done for inspection purposes. The session will go through drawing/taking samples, sample rate, primary samples vs. secondary samples and composite samples etc.</p> <p>Sampling of fresh fruit and vegetables</p> <p>Presentation followed by practical exercise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Girnth, Deputy Head of Division 525, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Germany <p>Sampling of dry and dried produce</p> <p>Presentation followed by practical exercise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norbert Kolb, former Quality Manager at Worlee NaturProducts GmbH, Germany
16.45 – 17:00	Q&A and wrap up

Day 2	Quality standards interpretation and assessment
09:00 – 09:10	Recap of day 1 and plans for day 2
09:10 – 09:30	How inspectors should prepare for inspection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dorian LaFond, International Standards Coordinator, AMS Specialty Crops Program, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
09:30 – 10:15	Apricots Presentation and discussion of the standard followed by a practical session on its quality assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viera Baričičová, former Senior State Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Slovakia
10:15 – 10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45 – 11:30	Dried apples Presentation and discussion of the standard followed by a practical session on its quality assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norbert Kolb, former Quality Manager at Worlee NaturProducts GmbH, Germany
11:30 – 13:00	Apples Presentation and discussion of the standard followed by a practical session on its quality assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viera Baričičová, former Senior State Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Slovakia
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 15.15	Walnut kernels Presentation of the standard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dorian LaFond, International Standards Coordinator, AMS Specialty Crops Program, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Practical session on its quality assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norbert Kolb, former Quality Manager at Worlee NaturProducts GmbH, Germany
15.15 – 15.30	<i>Break</i>
15.30 – 16.45	Tomatoes Presentation and discussion of the standard followed by a practical session on its quality assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viera Baričičová, former Senior State Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Slovakia
16.45 - 17.00	Wrap up

Day 3	
09.00 – 09.10	Recap of day 2
09.10 – 10:15	<p>Prunes</p> <p>Presentation and discussion of the standard followed by a practical session on its quality assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norbert Kolb, former Quality Manager at Worlee NaturProducts GmbH, Germany
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 – 11:45	<p>Peaches and nectarines</p> <p>Presentation and discussion of the standard followed by a practical session on its quality assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viera Baričičová, former Senior State Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Slovakia
11:45 – 12:30	<p>Roundtable discussion:</p> <p>Implementing standards – required actions and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Export vs domestic - Private vs public standard application - Legal and infrastructural framework
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30 – 14.00	<p>Summary and conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dorian LaFond, Vice-Chair, UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce - Umed Aslanov, Coordinator, Central Asian Working Group and Vice-Chair, UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce - Ariel Ivanier, Chief Market Access Section, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
14.00	Closing