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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of  
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Specialized Section on Coordination of  
Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables  
Forty-seventh session, Geneva, 15 to 18 May 2001

Item 3 (f) of the Provisional Agenda

**PROPOSAL TO REVISE UN/ECE STANDARDS**

Kiwifruit

**Note by the Secretariat** The following proposal is reproduced in the form in which it was submitted by the delegation of New Zealand.

## Proposal for the Revision of Standard FFV-46: Kiwifruit

### Report

1. At the 45<sup>th</sup> (26-20 November 1999) and 46<sup>th</sup> (23-26 May 2000) sessions of the Specialized Section on Co-ordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, it was agreed that the Kiwifruit Working Group (Chile, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, United States) would receive proposals to amend FFV-46 from delegations and that it would hold discussions with the International Kiwifruit Organisation (IKO) representing producers concerning proposed changes to FFV-46.
2. In addition to the issues identified at the 45<sup>th</sup> session of the Specialized Section (maturity indicators, sizing methods, list of varieties), the Working Group currently has proposals from France, the European Commission and Chile (flat fruit), Italy (maturity indicator) and Germany (editorial and standard layout changes).
3. At its meeting in Sacramento, California, in September 2000, IKO considered two of these issues, the first being the definition of maturity indicators and the second being common sizing methods. Unfortunately no conclusion was reached on either of these issues, and insufficient time was available to discuss the flat fruit ratio or list of varieties.
4. Considerable discussion was held on the need for change in the definition of maturity indicators. New Zealand proposed the adoption of the criteria trialled by IKO members, specifically: -
  - minimum dry matter of fruit
  - all seeds to be black
  - a minimum of 140 days from full bloom to harvest
  - measurement of Brix at harvest

The reason for the proposal is to improve the eating quality of kiwifruit for consumers. The current maturity indicator is unreliable, the Brix level increasing with drought stress and decreasing with rainfall and/or irrigation, and does not provide any indication as to the eating quality of the fruit.

Several members had trialled the new criteria and confirmed its technical suitability. However, concern was expressed by some members that due to their industries structures, it would not be possible to administer the more complex maturity indicators and that some countries would focus only on a (potentially) lower Brix level to harvest fruit earlier (and possibly more immature). It was also seen as more difficult for the competent authorities to undertake conformity checking at borders.

5. There was insufficient time to give due consideration to common sizing methods. In principle, the concept is acceptable to IKO members, but more time has been requested to consider a suitable recommendation, given the variation that currently exists between the different producing countries.
6. An initial draft list of varieties has been prepared by New Zealand. As there are potentially a number of new varieties proposed for commercialisation this year, it seems appropriate for these to be included before circulating the draft list to the Kiwifruit Working Group and Specialized Section for comment.
7. It is proposed that IKO's Standards Sub-committee give further consideration to these issues, and make recommendations to the next full IKO meeting to be held in September 2001 in Bologna, Italy. This would allow complete recommendations and a proposal for amendments to the kiwifruit standard to be tabled at the following session of the Specialized Section on Co-ordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in 2002.

**Recommendations for 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Specialized Section**

It is recommended that the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Specialized Section on Co-ordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables:

- a) Note that IKO proposes to hold further discussions on the issues of maturity indicators, common sizing methods, flat fruit ratio and the list of varieties at its next meeting in September 2001,
- b) Note that it is proposed that following IKO's consideration of these issues, amendments to the kiwifruit standard (FFV-46) be developed by the Kiwifruit Working Group and tabled for consideration at the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Specialized Section,
- c) Discuss this report and the issues under consideration by IKO as appropriate, and
- d) Confirm and/or clarify matters upon which the Specialized Section seeks IKO's consideration at its forthcoming meeting in September 2001.