



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.7/2004/9
16 August 2004

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Sixtieth session

Geneva, 8 to 10 November 2004

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note by the secretariat: In this document the secretariat presents a draft for the work programme of the Working Party for 2005 and 2006 as well as the calendar of meetings for 2005 for discussion. This document will serve as the basis for an Addendum to the report of the Working Party.

1. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2004 - 2005

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 04: TRADE FACILITATION AND AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS

04 (B) AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS

04 (B).1 Activities of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Description: The Working Party together with its at present four active Specialized Sections prepares and revises standards, recommendations and interpretative brochures for the marketing and control of commercial quality of selected perishable produce. It also discusses general strategic and policy relevant subjects related to standardization of perishable produce, possibilities for technical assistance and cross-sectorial work as well as organizational matters.

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) Elaboration of new standards for dry and dried produce, fresh fruit and vegetables, and meat.

Duration: Continuing according to the needs of participating countries.

- (b) Revision of selected standards and recommendations.

Duration: The revision and updating of standards is a continuing task to adapt standards to developments of technology and the market and to harmonize with other regulations and standards.

- (c) Review of the status of the acceptance and application of UNECE Standards

Duration: Continuing.

- (d) Operational activities: workshops on harmonization of standards and control procedures for perishable produce to assist countries in implementing the standards and participate in world trade. It is expected that a follow-up workshop on the implementation of agricultural standards will be held in Moldova in 2005. Further workshops are in preparation possibly in cooperation with other regional commissions.

Duration: Workshops will be planned according to the needs of countries.

- (e) Interpretation of the provisions concerning quality tolerances in the standards for fresh fruit and vegetables in cooperation with the OECD Scheme.

Duration: Continuing.

- (f) Investigation of quality assurance systems for perishable produce

Duration: Continuing.

- (g) Promotion of agricultural quality standards through the Internet and other activities.

Duration: Continuing.

- (h) Co-operation with other organizations dealing with agricultural standards to ensure harmonization and avoid duplication of work.

Duration: Continuing.

- (i) Work on the review of the Geneva Protocol and the standard layout.

Duration: 2005-2006

- (j) Identify and evaluate possibilities of cooperation with the other regional commissions (see also (d)).

Duration: Continuing

- (k) Identify and evaluate possibilities for cross sectorial activities within UNECE and with other organizations.

Duration: Continuing

04(B).2 Activities of the specialized sections of the Working Party

04(B).2.1 Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- Revise UNECE Standards for Early and Ware Potatoes, Kiwi fruit, Melons, Table Grapes (others might be added according to needs of countries)
- Review the UNECE recommendations for Apples (trial until 2005), Cherries (trial until 2006), Peaches and Nectarines (trial until 2006), Plums (trial until 2005), Truffles (trial until 2006)
- Work on new UNECE Standards for Shallots and Ceps (others might be added according to needs of countries)
- Update the standard layout for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- Check the compatibility of the control certificate and the UNECE layout key for trade documents
- Develop templates for inclusion of varieties in the standards for Pears, Plums and Table Grapes.
- Review the use of code marks, possibility for internationally harmonized marks
- Cooperate with WHO on the implementation of their strategy on diet, physical activity and health
- Cooperate with the OECD Scheme on the development of explanatory material and internal quality
- Develop workshops, seminars, training courses and other activities concerning capacity building for the application of quality standards in accordance with needs of clients and available funds.
- Review of the General conditions of sale for fresh fruit and vegetables

04(B).2.2 Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

- Review of the UNECE Standard for Inshell Hazelnuts
- Review of the UNECE recommendations for Inshell Almonds and Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels
- To create new UNECE Standards for:
 - Blanched Almonds
 - Inshell Macademia Nuts and Macademia Kernels,
 - Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels
 - Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels
 - Dried Peaches
 - Dried Peppers
 - Dried Tomatoes
- Revision of the standard layout: annex on recommended terms and definitions of defects definitions, quality classification, mixtures of varieties, commercial types, rehydrated products
- Discussion on the status of international standards for pulses
- Elaboration of a sampling plan – review of the work done by the OECD Scheme
- Review of the UNECE General conditions of sale for dry (shelled and unshelled and dried fruit)

04(B).2.3 Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

- Status and maintenance issues concerning the existing standards
- Publication of the UNECE Standard for Llama Meat.
- Elaboration of new UNECE standards for Caprine and Turkey Meat
- Finalize the revision of the UNECE standard for Porcine Meat.
- Development of colour chips/ marketing cards with the goal of achieving a harmonized standard in the future.
- Pilot study on implementation of the bovine standard; evaluation of possibilities to facilitate conformity assessment.
- Evaluation of the possibility to elaborate standards for livestock and for other meats (veal, camel, fancy and variety meats)
- Evaluation to include products with added ingredients and size reduction in the standards
- Cooperation with the world customs organization.

04(B).2.4 Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

- Review of the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes:
 - Netted scab
 - Proposal for destination tolerances
 - Definition of leaf roll
 - Further development of Annex VIII: Images for common scab/ netted scab
 - Interpretation of the size band
 - Inclusion of tomato spotted wilt virus and potato rot nematode
- Discussion on recommended best handling practices
- The concept of LMO (Living modified organism) in the Standard
- Superficial necrosis caused by virus (PTNRD) (Mop Top and Tobacco Rattle)
- Further development of the pest list and mentioning of standard test methods
- Development of a prototype training course for seed potato certification

- UNECE label
- Discussion of grading equipment
- Discussion on dispute settlement procedures
- Definition of the complete control procedure for the certification of seed potatoes
- Standardization of methods
- Traceability of seed potatoes.

04(B).2.5 Standardization of eggs and egg products

- Identification of national experts
- Definition of an agenda for the revision of the standards
- Organization of a workshop on the revision of the standards

04(B).2.6 Standardization of cut flowers

No activities planned.

**04(B).2.7 General conditions of sale for fresh fruit and vegetables and for dry and dried fruit
Arbitration Rules**

These texts will be made available on the Internet for review.

NOTE: For the above activities (04(B).2.5.-04(B).2.7) the regular sessions of the Specialized Sections have been discontinued. Review, revision and updating of existing standards and conditions of sale may require sessions in future as needed.

2. TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2005

Meeting	Session	Location	Date
Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1)	51	Geneva	*8 to 11 March
Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (GE.11)	14	Geneva	11 to 14 April
Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes (GE.6)	35	Geneva	2 to 4 May
Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2)	52	Geneva	**14 to 17 June
Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7)	61	Geneva	17 to 20 October

* Working groups will have the opportunity to meet on 7 March 2005.

** Working groups will have the opportunity to meet on 13 June 2005.