



Economic Commission for Europe**Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards****Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes****Forty-eighth session**

Geneva, 18 (p.m.)—19 March 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Provisional agenda and annotations***

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on 18 March 2021.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising since the last session:
 - (a) Economic Commission for Europe, subsidiary bodies and the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
3. Revision of the Standard for Seed Potatoes.
4. Draft survey on bacterial testing methodologies.
5. Draft guide on minituber production.
6. Knowledge sharing, capacity-building and guides:
 - (a) Draft guide on capacity-building;
 - (b) Update on development of a knowledge-sharing and resource reference page on seed potato certification;
 - (c) Development of a poster/paper on the benefits of certified seed;
 - (d) Workshops and guides.
7. Revision of the list of national certification schemes and list of varieties.
8. The potato mop top virus – sharing experiences.

* Delegates attending the meetings are invited to register online. See <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/ge6-48th-2021> for registrations details and additional meeting documents. In the event of difficulties with electronic registration, contact the secretariat by e-mail (Stephen.hatem@un.org).

9. True Potato Seed and potato plants in pots.
10. Herbicide carryover and seed potatoes.
11. Future work.
12. Other business.
13. Election of officers.
14. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Specialized Section will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2021/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

(a) Economic Commission for Europe, subsidiary bodies and the Sustainable Development Goals

The secretariat will present matters arising from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the 2020 Informal Virtual Consultations of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section. The secretariat and delegations will also provide an update on work related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Documentation: Chair's Note on the Informal Virtual Consultations of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2020/2)

(b) Recent developments in other organizations

Representatives of other organizations and country delegations will inform the Specialized Section about activities taking place in their agencies that are of relevance to the work of the Specialized Section.

3. Revision of the Standard for Seed Potatoes

During the 2020 session, the Specialized Section agreed to establish a working group with the delegations of Finland (Rapporteur), Australia, Germany, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, as well as Euroseeds. The working group reviewed Annex I, the Standard and its other annexes and held online follow-up discussions in September 2020 and January 2021. The Specialized Section is invited to review and discuss the proposals.

Documentation: Revised Annex I of the Standard for Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2021/3)

4. Draft survey on bacterial testing methodologies

At its 2020 session, the Specialized Section reviewed and updated the draft bacterial testing methodologies survey. The discussions were led by the delegate from the United States on behalf of the working group (Finland, Israel, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States). The secretariat and the delegate from the United States will present a first preliminary update on the survey.

Documentation: Update on the survey on bacterial testing methodologies (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2021/4)

5. Draft guide on minituber production

At its 2020 session, the Specialized Section reviewed the draft guide on minituber production and introduced several changes. The Specialized Section is invited to review and consider approving the proposed draft guide, taking into account the revisions to Annex I of the Standard.

Documentation: Draft guide on minituber production (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2021/5)

6. Knowledge sharing, capacity-building and guides

(a) Draft guide on capacity-building

At its 2020 session, the Specialized Section decided to postpone discussions on the draft guide on capacity-building to the 2021 session. The guide had been prepared by the Rapporteur (Germany) on behalf of the working group (Australia, Belgium, Germany, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States). The Specialized Section is invited to review the draft guide in view of its possible approval.

Documentation: Revised draft guide on capacity-building
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2019/6)

(b) Update on development of a knowledge-sharing and resource reference page on seed potato certification

At the 2020 session, the delegation from Australia proposed to make available a dropbox folder for sharing the already available material on seed potato certification. The Specialized Section will review progress and the possibility of working on a knowledge-sharing platform.

(c) Development of a poster/paper on the benefits of certified seed

At the 2020 session, the Specialized Section decided to establish a working group (Germany, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe) led by Australia to update the poster on the benefits of certified seed for review by the Specialized Section.

(d) Workshops and guides

As a follow-up to the discussions at the 2020 Specialized Section session, delegates are invited to discuss opportunities for capacity building in various countries and regions. Possibilities include pairing the work of the Specialized Section with upcoming large-scale events of other potato association groups to enhance the harmonization of seed potato standards and the establishment of certification schemes for the production and trade of seed potatoes. In addition, delegates are invited to review fund-raising opportunities (including in-kind contributions) for workshops and for translation of the guides.

7. Revision of the list of national certification schemes and list of varieties

At the 2020 Specialized Section session, participants reviewed an update of the list of national certification schemes and added relevant contacts as well as suggested the review of the list of varieties.

Documentation: Updated list of national certification schemes
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2021/6)

8. The potato mop top virus – sharing experiences

Discussions on the ways of dealing with the potato mop top virus (PMTV) started at the 2019 session of the Specialized Section and the 2019 Rapporteurs session, where the delegation from the Netherlands provided an overview of related research projects and findings. The delegations from Finland and the United Kingdom will present an update. Delegations are invited to exchange their experiences with PMTV.

9. True Potato Seed and potato plants in pots

At its 2020 session, the Specialized Section discussed the topic of True Potato Seed with input from the delegations of Australia, the Netherlands and Zimbabwe. The Specialized Section decided to continue discussion and exchange further updates at the 2021 session.

10. Herbicide carryover and seed potatoes

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss whether the herbicide carry over item should be included in the Standard’s requirements or if a position paper is needed.

11. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

12. Other business

Any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section can be discussed under this agenda item.

13. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chairs. At its forty-seventh session, it elected Ms. Hanna Kortemaa (Finland) as its Chair and Ms. Nina Zidack (United States) and Mr. Nigel Crump (Australia) as its Vice-Chairs.

14. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2021/2).

III. Tentative timetable

Thursday, 18 March	14:30 – 16:30	
Friday, 19 March	09:30 - 11:30	
	14:30 – 16:30	