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**Economic Commission for Europe****Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards****Seventy-sixth session**

Geneva, 15—17 November 2021

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes****Poster on the benefits of certified seed****Submitted by the secretariat**

The following document is submitted to the Working Party for adoption as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) poster on the benefits of certified seed.

This document is submitted according to ECE/CTCS/2019/10 section IV, ECE/CTCS/2019/2 decision 2019-8.6, and A/75/6 (Sect.20) and supplementary information.

**Text of poster**

The text below would be used for the poster outlining the use of certified seed potatoes and the benefits of quality seed potatoes

Use of certified seed potatoes, Benefits of quality seed potatoes:

Quality seed potatoes are known to have a varietal identity and be free of harmful organisms. The use of high-quality planting material is the most important strategy available to potato growers to ensure high yields whilst minimising inputs, particularly pesticides, and avoiding crop losses due to disease and other quality issues.

**People**

- Better quality potatoes
- Affordable and reliable supply of potatoes to consumers
- Enhanced food security through sustainable production

**Planet**

- Reduced reliance on pesticides
- More efficient use of natural resources (land and water)
- Sustainable potato production
- Less wastage in potato production due to pests and disease

**Profit**

- Increased profitability from high yielding potato crops
- Improved, reliable and dependable seed performance
- Mitigation of yield limiting risk factors resulting in the improved crop performance and quality
- Enhanced partnership between seed potato producers and growers

The use of quality seed potatoes contributes to increased yield and marketability of potato crops by managing seed borne potato diseases and pests. Other benefits include limiting the spread and introduction of pests and diseases into new potato production areas.

Quality seed potatoes may be produced through formal seed certification schemes such as the UNECE seed potato standard which provides official recognition and traceability of seed potatoes. Certified seed potatoes are produced according to strict standards that are specific to different countries and growing areas

Examples of pests and disease issues mitigated by the use of quality seed potatoes:

- Potato Leaf Roll Virus (photo 1)
- Brown rot (photo 2)
- Potato Cyst Nematode (photo 3)



(photo 1)



(photo 2)



(photo 3)

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