

Working Party on Agricultural Standards – Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes



Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes



Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes



- Documents for adoption by the Working Party
 - Report of the forty-eighth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2021/2)
 - Amendments to Annex I and Annex VII of the Standard for Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/3)
 - Revised draft guide on capacity-building (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/4)
 - Poster on the benefits of certified seed (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/5)

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- Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes, 48th Session
- 18-19 March 2021, hybrid meeting, Chair: **Hanna Kortemaa (Finland)**
- Attendance: : Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States (18)
The European Commission and Euroseeds (2)

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- Amendments to Annex I and Annex VII of the Standard for Seed Potatoes
 - The Annex I 'Minimum conditions to be satisfied in the production of Pre-basic Tissue Culture (TC) seed potatoes' needed clarification to write a new guide on minituber production
 - The Annex I describes that Pre-basic Tissue Culture (TC) seed potatoes must be produced from initial stock and the requirements of initial stock.
 - Second part of the Annex I describes the production of Pre-basic TC seed potatoes (e.g. minitubers)
 - The Annex VII 'Definitions of terms applicable to the Standard' needed updating. Especially the terms 'parent material' 'initial stock' and 'mother plants'

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■ Revised draft guide on capacity-building

- A capacity-building guide for implementation of a seed potato certification scheme.
- When production of potatoes is initiated in a country without a seed potato certification scheme, the supply of healthy seed potatoes in sufficient quantities will become of increasing importance. At such a stage, the implementation of a certification scheme for seed potatoes will be considered.
- Capacity-building is a major aspect to establish and ensure the production of high-quality seed potatoes. This Guide is aimed for capacity building courses or seminars in countries that have not yet implemented a Seed Potato Scheme but are intending to adopt the UNECE Seed Potato Standard or national rules based on the Standard.
- The guideline is intended to be an all-encompassing approach to training which can be used in its entirety for large capacity building projects or use individual components for more focused capacity-building.
- The capacity-building is based on the UNECE Seed Potato Standard and the Seed Potato Guides

<https://unece.org/trade/wp7/SeedPotatoes-Standards>

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- Poster on the benefits of certified seed
 - Promoting the certified seed
 - Material for the international events such as the World Potato Congress 2022
 - The poster outlining the use of certified seed potatoes and the benefits of quality seed potatoes
 - Aspects of certified seed potatoes:
 - People
 - Planet
 - Profit
 - Reference to the UNECE Seed Potato Standard

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- **Draft survey on bacterial testing methodologies**
- The UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes completed a survey on testing methods for bacterial pathogens of potato that are associated with seed certification in March of 2021. There were a total of 51 responses received from 32 countries.
- The survey was designed to assess the importance of individual blackleg pathogens within *Pectobacterium* spp. and *Dickeya* spp., ring rot *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus*, and brown rot *Ralstonia solanacearum* in different countries, and the methods used for diagnosis.
- PCR was the most common method to detect all blackleg pathogens and small sample sizes of 1-50 tubers were typically used.
- For the ring rot the most common assay was PCR and for the brown rot commercial IF kits are commonly used for detection. The most common sample size was 51-200 tubers both pathogens.
- The most common use of lab results by the certifying authority is to provide growers information and as part of their certification program. 56% of the respondents replied that the ring rot and the brown rot are zero tolerance pathogens in their country. If the pathogen is classified as zero tolerance, it was more likely the lab had to receive accreditation to perform specific diagnostic assays, that the labs procedures were validated, and that the labs perform ring or proficiency tests

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- Other items of the meeting:
 - Draft guide on minituber production
 - Revision of the list of national certification schemes, the list of designated certification authorities and list of varieties
 - Update on development of a knowledge-sharing and resource reference page on seed potato certification (a sharepoint site)
 - True Potato Seed (TPS) and potato plants in pots

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- **Future work**
- Revision of the entire Standard for seed potatoes
- Draft guide on minituber production
- Survey on bacterial testing methodologies – conclusions and the possibility of a position paper
- Capacity-building (development of a knowledge sharing and resource reference page)
- Lot size of seed potatoes
- Discussion on dormant tuber testing for viruses
- True Potato Seed (TPS) and potato plants in pots
- New and emerging diseases and pests - information on Liberibacter, and the Tomato Potato Psyllid
- The Potato Mop Top virus - sharing experiences
- Herbicide carry-over and seed potatoes

Thank you!

Hanna Kortemaa

hanna.kortemaa@ruokavirasto.fi

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