

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 3 of the provisional agenda

Capacity-building and promotional activities

Material to facilitate the use of the Code of Good Practice for trading fruit and vegetables

Submitted by the secretariat

The following document, received from the delegate of Sweden, is presented for information purposes only.

The UNECE has developed a *Code of Good Practice – reducing food loss and ensuring optimum handling of fresh fruit and vegetables along the value chain*. A first version of this Code was published in 2020 and an updated version that is adapted to include the perspective of all types of markets found globally will be published soon.

The Code with its recommendations and guidelines aims at changing the behaviour of actors along the food chain. Such a change is likely to take place when the Code is actually used in practice. This has been kept in mind when the Code was developed which is why there is a separate chapter for each stage of the chain and each chapter can be used independently.

However, there will be actors who may not find the present format user friendly enough and not sufficiently “hands on”. To reach them, a brochure for practical use with instructive photos, can be useful.

Therefore, a pilot project where four practical brochures are developed, on a consultancy basis, is planned to be carried out under a UNECE project. The four brochures will cover four groups of vegetables for which the guidelines and recommendations are identical. It is anticipated that a consultant would cover the following groups of vegetables:

- leafy vegetables;
 - e.g. lettuce, spinach,
- inflorescence;
 - e.g. cauliflower, broccoli
- immature fruit;
 - e.g. cucumbers, squash, peppers, aubergine,
- root vegetables;
 - e.g. carrots, parsnips

The material will cover open-air production and should include recommendations that are applicable in production with different technical levels and different types of transport and marketing. Greenhouse production has been considered too different to be covered by the same recommendations as open-air production.

The Specialized Section for Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables will, at their spring meeting in 2022, be invited to comment on the brochures developed in this pilot project. The Specialized Section will be asked to consider the merits of covering a wider range of products by similar brochures, if the format from the pilot project is [adequate/acceptable] and if any improvements to the format are proposed. If the Specialized Section considers that more products should be covered, it will be asked to consider if brochures covering product groups would be a good approach or if the brochures should cover specific products in line with the trade standards.
