

# Working Party on Agriculture Quality Standards

Report : Twenty–ninth session  
Specialized Section on  
Standardization of Meat 2021



# Eating Quality

## Rapporteurs Update



- **The eating quality group's work as an extension of the Specialized Section's work on the UNECE's Standard for Bovine Meat.**
- **The Rapporteur for eating quality (Poland) provided a brief update on the work of the UNECE scientific reference group for eating quality.**
- **Australia provided an update on the International Meat Research 3G Foundation (IMR3GF) and the completion of the DATAbank software allowing for efficient and safe data collection, management and analysis.**
- **The database consists of seven categories where countries and organizations can enter data on live animals supplied from the farm/feedlot; slaughter floor data from abattoir files; grading data; primal cut and sample ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2021/2 3 data including all ID linkages; consumer sensory data; individual cut pH data; and specialized category.**



- **Once the system is fully operational, it will have a combined database of animal and consumer sensory data collected over a 25-year period in 11 countries.**
- **Update was provided on recent and upcoming training activities aimed at ensuring a common data-collection approach as well as updates on software design and the protocols for adding members and controlling access at multiple levels.**
- **The ongoing work and data-sharing agreements are all currently based on scientific research hence, participation is primarily Research Institutes around the World.**
- **The potential benefits of the collaborative / combined research being for a future commercial grading model to enhance eating quality outcomes for the Consumer.**

# ECE Codes/WCO Codes

## Harmonization Commodity Descriptions



- Previous sessions had raised the potential alignment of the Economic Commission for Europe cut codes with the Harmonized Commodity Descriptions/Coding System used by the World Customs Organisation.
- The Specialized Section took note of a meeting with the World Customs Organization (WCO) held in July 2021 where WCO representatives indicated their interest to work together.
- The delegate from Australia presented a paper reflecting discussions of last year and demonstrating the degree of possible alignment within existing cut codes and HS descriptions.
- He demonstrated how mapping the UNECE cut codes to the six-digit HS codes could be implemented in the case of Australia, emphasizing that achieving an alignment across all countries might be challenging however, performing a similar data-collection exercise with countries would help to determine feasibility of the project and pave the way forward.



- **Specialized Section agreed to establish a Rapporteur's group (Australia, Poland, United States) and to capitalize on the opportunity of closer collaboration with the WCO on the topic.**
- **Subsequent meetings have been held with the WCO and the work is ongoing.**

# International Sustainability Guidelines

## Meat Sector Specific



- Previous Symposia had raised the potential need to development international minimum sustainability guidelines for the meat sector.
- Delegations continued the discussion on the possible development of a sustainability framework.
- Noting the number of sustainability initiatives globally the Specialized Section agreed to establish a forum for sharing best practice and expertise as well as collecting contributions around the sustainability model.
- The Specialized Section decided to advance this topic and to establish a Rapporteur's group that would also serve as a “sustainability response team” moving forward.
- The Specialized Section also decided to organize a seminar/webinar either in conjunction with or prior to the next session.

# Other Standards

## Livestock language



- **Discussion on the possible development of a Livestock Language. The different terms in describing livestock was one of the challenges identified as part of the supply chain.**
- **Australia agreed to share the review of their Livestock Language once completed.**
- **In developing guidelines harmonizing the guidelines with the use of meat terminology and livestock nomenclature with the International Organization for Standardization ISO is considered important.**
- **It was decided to explore the ISO equivalent process and engage with any other international forums to maintain the momentum.**
- **To provide and update at the next session.**



# Other Standards

## Porcine Meat and Animal Protein



- **Porcine Meat :**
- **Revision of the standard for porcine meat (marbling and fat content).**
- **No documents were received for the 2021 session. The United States representative reported about ongoing work and a document forthcoming. It was proposed to expand the group. Australia expressed an interest to participate.**
  
- **Animal Protein :**
- **International standard for animal protein derived from connective tissue.**
- **The Rapporteurs led by the Russian Federation. No document for this session hence held over until 2022.**



# FUTURE WORK



- **Future items for the 2022 agenda included:**
- **Revision of the Standard for Porcine meat (marbling and fat content);  
ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2021/2 5**
- **International standard for animal protein derived from connective tissue;**
- **An update on development of sustainability framework for the meat sector;**
- **An update on eating quality;**
- **An update on the alignment of the UNECE cut codes with the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS codes);**
- **An update on the development of a Livestock Language.**

# Thank you!

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Chair Specialized Section on Meat

**UNECE**

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