



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-ninth session**

Geneva, 17–18 March 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

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

Session to be held as a hybrid meeting (with interpretation) at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on 17 March 2022.

I. Provisional agenda

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

* Delegates attending the meetings are invited to register online at <https://indico.un.org/e/ge6-49th-2022>. Additional meeting documents are available at <https://unece.org/trade/wp7/ge6-49th-2022>. In the event of difficulties with electronic registration, contact the secretariat by e-mail (Subashini.Narasimhan@un.org).

8. Lot size of seed potatoes.
9. Discussion on dormant tuber testing for viruses.
10. True Potato Seed and potato plants in pots.
11. New and emerging diseases and pests – information on *Liberibacter*, and the Tomato Potato Psyllid.
12. Herbicide carryover and seed potatoes.
13. Future work.
14. Other business.
15. Election of officers.
16. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Specialized Section will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Provisional agenda and annotations (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2022/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

(a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies – Sustainable Development Goals and the work of the Specialized Section

The secretariat will present matters arising from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the 2021 session 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: Report of the seventy-sixth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/2)

(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 2021 session, the Specialized Section reviewed and approved the proposed changes to Annex I and Annex VII to the Standard for Seed Potatoes. The Specialized Section decided that the rapporteur's group (Australia, Finland (rapporteur), Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Euroseeds) would continue its work on reviewing and revising the entire UNECE Standard and its annexes and place this item on the 2022 session agenda.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the Standard.

Documentation: UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2022/3)

4. Survey on bacterial testing methodologies – conclusions

At its 2021 session, the Specialized Section reviewed preliminary results of the bacterial testing methodologies survey. The discussions were led by the delegate from the United States of America on behalf of the rapporteur's group (Finland, Israel, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America).

The Specialized Section is invited to review an updated report and discuss a possibility of issuing a position paper, which would be published on the UNECE website.

Documentation: Report on the survey on bacterial testing methodologies
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2022/4)

Results of the survey (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2022/5)

5. Draft guide on minituber production

At its 2021 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 to the Standard.

Documentation: Draft guide on minituber production (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2022/6)

6. Knowledge – sharing, capacity – building, and guides

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

At the 2021 session, the delegation of Australia informed about a newly established knowledge-sharing platform for experts of the Specialized Section, allowing registered experts to upload relevant material. Delegations were encouraged to upload the videos, poster and photos related to the seed potato activities in their countries.

The Specialized Section is invited to review progress and the possibility of collaborating on a knowledge-sharing platform.

(b) Finalization of a poster/paper on the benefits of certified seed

At the 2021 session, the Specialized Section approved the changes and submitted the poster on the benefits of certified seed for adoption by the Working Party for Agricultural Quality Standards.

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposed design of the final poster layout.

Documentation: Poster on the benefits of certified seed
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2021/INF.1)

(c) Workshops and guides

As a follow-up to the discussions at the 2021 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 fundraising opportunities (including in-kind contributions) for workshops and for translation of the guides.

7. The potato mop top virus – sharing experiences

The Specialized Section is invited to review the updated information from the delegations of Finland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. Lot size of seed potatoes

The Specialized Section is invited to provide an overview of the lot size of seed potatoes. The international standards of International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provide the rules for the maximum lot sizes of seeds (seeds like cereals and grasses). The session will discuss whether a maximum lot sizes are needed for seed potatoes.

9. Discussion on dormant tuber testing for viruses

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss and exchange experiences on dormant tuber testing for viruses (including the evaluation of false positives and false negatives).

10. True Potato Seed and potato plants in pots

At its 2021 session, the Specialized Section continued discussions and exchanged updates on the topic of True Potato Seed (TPS) and potato plants in pots. The Specialized Section decided to continue discussion in a rapporteur's group (Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands (rapporteur), South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Euroseeds) and exchange further updates at the 2022 session as well as subsequently propose possible amendments to the UNECE Standard. The Specialized Section is invited to review progress and updates.

11. New and emerging diseases and pests – information on *Liberibacter*, and the Tomato Potato Psyllid

The Specialized Section is invited to continue exchanging information concerning ongoing research and studies on new and emerging diseases and pests such as *Liberibacter* and the Tomato Potato Psyllid.

12. Herbicide carry – over 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.

13. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

14. Other business

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

15. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chairs for a one-year term.

16. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.

Documentation: Report of the forty-ninth session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2022/2)

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Thursday, 17 March	11:00–13:00	Items 1–3
	15:00–17:00	Items 4–5
Friday, 18 March	11:00–13:00	Items 6–11
	15:00–17:00	Items 12–16
