



Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Seventieth session

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Item 9 (c) of the provisional agenda

Revision of standards**Proposal by the delegations of Sweden to adjust the Standard Layout for Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and specific standards to reduce food loss and waste****Submitted by the delegation of Sweden**

The following proposal was submitted for consideration by the Specialized Section.

This document is submitted according to ECE/CTCS/2021/2 Decision 2021-07-02 and Decision 2021-07-07, ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2021/2 paragraph 66, and A/76/6 (Sect.20).

Suggestion from Sweden concerning continued work to reduce losses and waste in handling of fruit and vegetables.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetables section under WP.7 has, since a number of years, carried out extensive work with the aim to reduce losses and waste in handling and trading fruit and vegetables.

Considering the importance of sustainability, also in handling and trading fruit and vegetables, we hope that there is an interest in continuing the work to further reduce the share of products that is not used for its intended purpose as a food product. Our experience is that this kind of work, in order to have effect, needs to be carried out at a detailed level.

Sweden therefore suggests that, as a next step, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables section starts systematically to go through the marketing standards for fresh fruits and vegetables with the aim to identify possible changes that would contribute to reduce losses and waste while not affecting the intended purpose of the standards, which is to facilitate trade.

Sweden can see a few possible ways to carry out the work.

1. Create a working group for the purpose and ask the group to go through (in digital meetings) the standard layout as well as a few standards (three?) and suggest changes that would reduce losses and waste.

2. Create two or more working groups and ask each group to go through (in digital meetings) a few standards and suggest changes that would reduce losses and waste.
3. Ask all participants in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables section meeting to go through the standard layout as well as a few standards (three?) and before a certain date (October 10?) submit suggestions for changes with the potential to reduce losses and waste to one or two coordinators (who have volunteered for the task).
