



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 January 2024

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

Fifty-first session

Geneva, 26–28 March 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising:
 - (a) Recent developments in the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its subsidiary bodies;
 - (b) Recent developments in other organizations.
3. Report of the rapporteur's meeting in 2023.
4. Revision of the Standard for Seed Potatoes.
5. Guide on minituber production.
6. Development of a position of the Specialized Section on herbicide carry-over.
7. Revision of the position of the Specialized Section on vigour of seed potatoes.
8. True potato seeds and plantlets.
9. New and emerging diseases and issues.
10. Sample size and interpretation of diagnostics used to support certification.
11. Impact of climate change on seed potato production.
12. Capacity-building:
 - (a) Seed potato webinar series;
 - (b) Information-sharing on capacity-building and use of standards;

* Delegates attending the meeting are required to register online as soon as possible through the registration link available at: <https://unece.org/info/Trade/WP.7-Meetings/events/ge6-51st-2024>. In the event of difficulties with electronic registration, please contact the secretariat by e-mail (roksolana.shelest@un.org). Documents for the meeting will be made available at: <https://unece.org/info/Trade/WP.7-Meetings/events/ge6-51st-2024>.



- (c) Document-sharing platform and website.
- 13. Working Procedures of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its Specialized Sections.
- 14. Future work.
- 15. Other business.
- 16. Election of officers.
- 17. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Specialized Section will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2024/1)

2. Matters arising

(a) Recent developments in the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present developments at the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Report of the seventy-eighth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2023/2)

(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. Report of the rapporteur's meeting in 2023

On 10–12 October 2023, the Specialized Section held a Rapporteur's meeting (i.e. an ad-hoc meeting of the Specialized Section) in Brest, France, hosted by the French Interprofessional Organization for Seeds and Plants (SEMAE). The meeting was held in person with online participation for the agenda item discussing proposed revisions to the Standard for Seed Potatoes. The Chair will present the discussions and conclusions of the rapporteur's meeting.

Documentation: Summary report of the rapporteur's meeting in Brest, France, 10–12 October 2023 (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2024/INF.1)

4. Revision of the Standard for Seed Potatoes

At its 2022 session, the Specialized Section decided to undertake a full review of the ECE Standard S-1 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of seed potatoes. Over the course of 2022 and 2023, the rapporteur's group (consisting of Finland (rapporteur), France, Germany, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Australian Seed Potato Industry Certification Authority, Euroseeds, and Potato Certification Service (South Africa)) worked on the revisions in seven half-day online meetings, facilitated by the secretariat, the last of

which was held on 13 December 2023. The proposed revisions to the standard were also discussed at the rapporteur's meeting in Brest, France, in October 2023.

The document for the 2024 session contains the proposed revisions to the ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes as per the status of discussions in the rapporteur's group on 13 December 2023. The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposed changes and provide additional suggestions to the rapporteur's group.

Documentation: Proposals for revisions to the Standard for Seed Potatoes
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2024/3)

Proposals for revisions to the Standard for Seed Potatoes –
comparison with 2021 version (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2024/INF.2)

5. Guide on minituber production

At its 2023 session, the Specialized Section reviewed the draft guide on minituber production which had been near finalized during 2022 by a rapporteur's group consisting of France, Germany, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the United Kingdom, Australian Seed Potato Industry Certification Authority (rapporteur), Euroseeds, Potato Certification Service (South Africa) and Potatoes New Zealand. The Specialized Section provided some comments on plantlets and micropropagative material and asked the rapporteur's group to address the comments. It also invited delegations to send photos associated with the production of minitubers.

The Specialized Section will receive an update on progress of the guide on minituber production and discuss the timeline for finalizing the guide.

6. Development of a position of the Specialized Section on herbicide carry-over

At its 2022 meeting, the Specialized Section discussed herbicide carry-over, and decided that a position paper was necessary before considering whether to include a provision on herbicide carry-over in the standard. At its 2023 meeting, the Specialized Section decided to postpone the review of the draft position paper on herbicide carry-over to its 2024 meeting.

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the draft position paper on herbicide carry-over.

Documentation: Draft position of the Specialized Section on herbicide carry-over
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2024/4)

7. Revision of the position of the Specialized Section on vigour of seed potatoes

At its 2023 session, the Specialized Section reviewed its existing position papers, and agreed on changes to several of them. For the position paper on vigour of seed potatoes following some discussion on its usefulness, the Specialized Section agreed that it remains relevant for some areas and that more research would be required to properly update it. Cognizant of time constraints, it decided to include revisions to the position paper in its list of future work. However, it did not appoint a rapporteur's group to work on revising the position paper.

The Specialized Section is invited to consider the establishment of the rapporteur's group to review the position paper on vigour of seed potatoes. Delegations are invited to volunteer for the rapporteur's group.

Documentation: The position of the Specialized Section on vigour of seed potatoes
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2024/5)

Vigour of seed potatoes – input by Potato Certification Service South
Africa (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2024/6)

8. True potato seeds and plantlets

At its 2023 session, the Specialized Section received a presentation by an external expert on the topic of true potato seeds (TPS) and shared experience on TPS and potato plants in pots. The Specialized Section agreed to keep TPS on its list of future work.

The rapporteur's meeting in Brest, France, in October 2023, held a roundtable discussion on potato plantlets. Participants agreed to continue the discussion at the Specialized Section session in 2024.

The Specialized Section will be informed of the discussion held in Brest, France, October 2023. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss its potential future work relating to TPS and potato plantlets.

9. New and emerging diseases and issues

At its 2023 session, the Specialized Section agreed to continue sharing information on new and emerging diseases and issues such as potato mop-top virus, testing dormant tubers for viruses, Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd) and other Solanaceous diseases, potato wart, *Liberibacter*, potato leafroll virus, and insecticides.

Delegations are invited to provide updates and share information on the topic.

10. Sample size and interpretation of diagnostics used to support certification

At its 2023 session, the Specialized Section discussed the results of the survey on lot size and sample size of seed potatoes. It concluded to use the findings of the survey when revising the relevant paragraphs of the standard. It further decided to put sample size and interpretation of diagnostics used to support certification on its list of future work.

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss its potential future work relating to sample size and interpretation of diagnostics used to support certification.

11. Impact of climate change on seed potato production

At its 2023 session, the Specialized Section agreed to discuss the impact of climate change on seed potato production. At the rapporteur's meeting in Brest, France, in October 2023 an external expert presented on the topic.

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the impact of climate change on seed potato production and to consider the establishment of a rapporteur's group on the topic. Delegations are invited to volunteer to join the rapporteur's group.

12. Capacity-building

(a) Seed potato webinar series

At its 2023 session, the Specialized Section reviewed proposals for an online webinar series developed by a rapporteur's group consisting of Australia (rapporteur), Finland, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the United Kingdom, and the United States. Initial proposals for webinars included sessions on the ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes; herbicide damage; blackleg; *Liberibacter* (Zebra Chip); potato virus Y (dormant tuber); and potato mop-top virus. The rapporteur's group proposed to collaborate with the World Potato Congress (WPC) in developing and hosting the webinar series. During 2023, the Bureau of the Specialized Section approached WPC for the potential co-organization of a webinar series. WPC had agreed to first organize a session on the ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes, potentially followed by other joint webinars. However, no webinar has been held during 2023.

The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the potential organization of webinars and other proposals for capacity-building.

(b) Information-sharing on capacity-building and use of standards

Delegations are invited to share information on ongoing and planned capacity-building activities.

(c) Document-sharing platform and website

At the 2023 session of the Specialized Section, the secretariat presented options for document-sharing and collaboration platforms hosted by the secretariat. The Specialized Section discussed the intended use of the platform, with proposals including that the platform be used for collaborating on the review of the Standard for Seed Potatoes and related documents, for the development of joint presentations, and for storing photos.

The secretariat will provide an update on options for document-sharing platforms, as well as on changes to the website.

13. Working Procedures of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its Specialized Sections

The Working Party at its 2022 session decided to establish an open working group to conduct a review of its Terms of Reference and Working Procedures. At its 2023 session, the Working Party agreed on revisions to its Terms of Reference, which will be submitted to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards for approval at its meeting in June 2024. The Working Party further decided to continue the review of its Working Procedures and to invite the views of Specialized Sections in the process.

The secretariat will provide an update on the progress of the work of the open working group on revisions to the Working Procedures for the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards. The Specialized Section is invited to consider the proposed revisions to Working Procedures and to provide additional suggestions.

Documentation: Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards: Working Procedures

Revised Working Procedures for the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2023/4)

Revised Working Procedures for the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards – comparison to the 2018 version (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2023/INF.2)

14. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

15. Other business

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

16. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair(s) for a one-year term.

17. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.

Documentation: Report of the fifty-first session of the Specialized Section on
Standardization of Seed Potatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2024/2)

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Tuesday, 26 March	10:00–13:00	Items 1–4
	15:00–18:00	Items 5–7
Wednesday, 27 March	10:00–13:00	Items 8–11
	15:00–18:00	Items 12–16
Thursday, 28 March	10:00–13:00	Item 17
