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# Summary report of the rapporteur's meeting

51st session of the specialized section on standardization  
of seed potatoes



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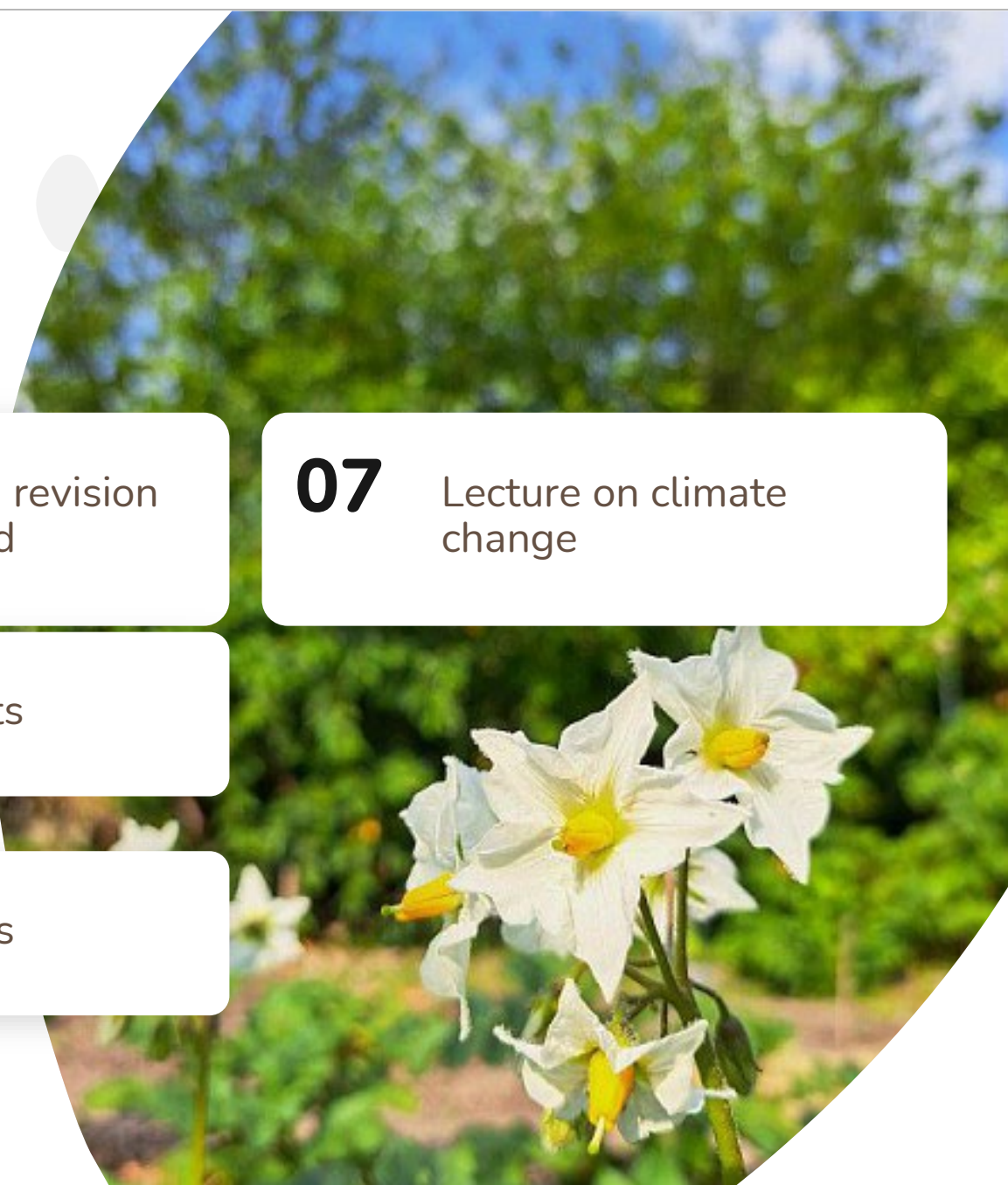
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# Date, location and attendance

## Brest, France 10-12 October 2023

### Attendance:

Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands (the Kingdom of), Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Europatat

### Online:

Australia, Germany, Greece, India, Latvia, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, United States of America, Euroseeds, Agrico





# Welcome remarks

## Brest, France 10-12 October 2023

Anne-Laure Fondeur,

Head, Directorate for Quality and Official Controls (SOC-France) of the French Interprofessional Organisation for Seeds and Plants (SEMAE)

Hanna Kortemaa,

Chair of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes, UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards



# Presentation of the seed potato certification system in France

**Brest, France 10-12 October 2023**

Nicolas Ponserre,

Expert, Directorate for Quality and Official Controls (SOC-France), SEMAE

- SEMAE is the organization in France responsible for seed potato control and certification.
- GEVES is responsible for variety registration.
- Total area of seed potatoes production in France = about 21,000-23,000 hectares/year
- Majority of seed potato production is used domestically and in the EU-27
- Largest export destinations in 2021-2022 were Egypt, Tunisia and Mali.
- 5 plant breeding companies for seed potatoes, 57 seed potato producing companies and 804 seed potato farmers.
- Normandy and Brittany are the main seed potato production areas.



# Discussion on proposed revisions to the UNECE Standard on Seed Potatoes

**Brest, France 10-12 October 2023 (and online)**

Hanna Kortemaa,

Chair of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes, UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

- Overview of the revisions to the Standard.
- Discussion of chapter on field inspection
- Draft of a new text on testing for diseases
- Draft of a new text on re-packing and re-labelling
- Update of the paragraph on closing of containers
  
- Working group online 13<sup>th</sup> December



# Potato plantlets – roundtable discussion and sharing of experiences

**Brest, France 10-12 October 2023**

Hanna Kortemaa,

Chair of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes, UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

- Document with background information on potato plantlets.
- True Potato Seed (TPS) will not be included in the Standard in this revision
- Potato plantlets should be included in the Standard
- Potato plantlets produced using micropropagation.
- PBTC minitubers, microtubers, microplants and plantlets should be added to the Classification part
- Work to be continued as part of the revision of the Standard





# Technical visits

## Brest, France 10-12 October 2023

Presentation of the French organization for seed potato production

Jean-Yves Abgrall, Director of Bretagne Plants

Producer organization which brings together potato plant producers in Brittany (board of 15 seed potato growers)

The national organization is Fédération Nationale des Producteurs de Plantes de Pomme de Terre (FN3PT).

Introduction of introduced the seed potato production, inspections and testing activities of the organization





# Technical visits

## Brest, France 10-12 October 2023

Visit of the seed testing laboratory at Bretagne Plants: viruses, bacteriology, nematodes

Jean-Yves Abgrall, Director of Bretagne Plants

Laboratories of Bretagne Plants: preparation of samples and testing of viruses, bacteria and nematodes of seed potatoes.

Bretagne Plants uses the serological enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method for virus testing, Immunofluorescence (IF)-method for testing bacteria and Schuiling -machine and microscope for testing Potato Cyst Nematodes.

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) methods are also available





# Technical visits

## Brest, France 10-12 October 2023

Visit to the in-vitro production laboratory

Marion Flodrops, Bretagne Plants

Information about the production of micropropagative material and minitubers.

Harvesting of minitubers from the greenhouse.



# Technical visits

## Brest, France 10-12 October 2023

Visit to the GAEC Kergleuz farm, Guipavas

Dominique Morvan, Kergeleuz farm

Information about the production and packaging of seed potatoes on his farm, where seed potatoes were packed for export purposes.

Increasing problems due to climate change and less plant protection products available







### Technical visits





# Lecture on climate change

## **Brest, France 10-12 October 2023**

Lecture by an expert: Climate change impacts on seed potato production

Frederic Levraut, Expert on Agriculture and Climate Change, the Chambers of Agriculture of France

Presentation on “Climate change: adaptation challenges for potato production in France and Western Europe”.

Discussion on climate change impacts

