

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Sixty-first session

Geneva, 30 April – 3 May 2013

Items 4 (d) of the provisional agenda

Revision of UNECE standards

Citrus fruit

Note by the United Kingdom

The experts of the United Kingdom wish to raise the following at the above meeting:

Identifying the parentage of varieties within the Mandarin group of soft citrus

The UK's Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate have been having a number of issues with the trade in the UK over the last year with regard to labelling of mandarins, clementines and satsumas.

Traders and supermarkets are labelling soft citrus with a Variety and claiming these to be clementines or satsumas. The advantage being that demand and prices are both higher for these than for soft citrus labelled as mandarins within the UK market.

However it is very difficult to establish the genetic lineage in order to dispute a trader's argument, that the variety concerned is a clementine or satsuma.

Recent examples include the variety Nadorcott, we have established (with the help of Soivre in Spain) that this is a mandarin (although for many years this has widely been considered to be a Clementine by the whole of the UK trade), and are trying to prevent retailers using Clementine on the packages as well as the correct varietal information. Another more recent example is Queen, and we are struggling to establish whether this is a Satsuma as claimed by one retailer or not as disputed by competitors.

The HMI finds itself in a difficult position in enforcing the marketing standards when we cannot be sure that a variety is a Clementine or Satsuma.

The United Kingdom therefore asks the Specialised Section for assistance in establishing the lineage of these varieties and asks the Specialised Section to consider a database for this purpose, or alternatively seek to find a solution to the labelling of such hybrids where lineage may not always be clear.
