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Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

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Information on the results of the meetings of the Bureau

Changes to the Standard

Submitted by the secretariat

The Bureau of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes submitted for approval the following amendments to the Standard.

I. Definition of produce

The first sentence should read as follows:

“Seed potatoes are tubers or any other propagation material, other than true seed, of *Solanum tuberosum* L. and related tuber-forming species acceptable for certification by the DA in accordance with the provisions concerning the variety (see Section II) and which, after regular inspection...”

II. Provisions concerning the variety

The first sentence should read as follows:

“Varieties shall be accepted for certification under the Standard only if an official description and a reference sample are available to the DA.”

Annex II: Minimum conditions to be satisfied by the crop; field inspection procedures

The following new paragraph should be added to “Section B.2. Level and timing of inspection”:

“During each crop inspection the inspector should verify the purity and identity of the variety. The first generation derived from Pre-basic TC class seed potatoes is recommended to be inspected at a more intensive rate to identify off-types.”

Annex III: Minimum quality conditions for lots of seed potatoes

The last bullet point in section “A.2. Dry and wet rot” should read as follows:

- Basic and Certified 1 per cent by weight, of which wet rot cannot exceed 0.5 per cent

Section “A.3. External defects” should read as follows:

“3. External defects. Countable damage is damage which is likely to lead to secondary infection. Tubers which are fully healed are not countable. Tubers are countable, if for:

- Mechanically-damaged tubers: more than 20 per cent of the tuber is affected
- Severe cracks: more than 5 cracks exceeding 20 mm in length and 5 mm in depth
- Pressure bruises: spots of more than 20 mm in diameter with discolouration of the flesh with more than 5 mm in depth
- Misshapen tubers: if likely to be damaged during sorting/planting.”

The following text has been added as a new section:

“C. Tuber inspection procedures

A randomly collected sample representative of the seed potato tubers from the lot to be inspected should be gathered and set aside for tuber size, grade and quality inspection. The tubers need to be sufficiently clean to allow for a visual inspection, no caked dirt. During the inspection process some tubers of the sample may be cut to establish the presence or absence of internal defects.

In order to assess tuber samples for meeting the tolerance for internal defects and diseases, tubers should be cut along the longitudinal axis, drawn through the widest part of the tuber (i.e. from the stem end to the bud end), and examined. In some cases the deeper a defect or disease penetrates into the flesh, it may be considered to be of a more serious nature and should be rated accordingly.

During the inspection process a tuber should only be counted once for a defect or damage. Calculate total counts and percentages for each disease, defect, or condition and compare with the tuber standard tolerance to determine if the lot meets the tuber standard. If the sample exceeds the tolerance for any of the categories, an inspector may proceed to either increase the sample size and/or re-grade the lot as required to make sure it complies with the specified standard.”

Annex VII: Definitions of terms applicable to the standards

Below are new and revised definitions:

Clonal selection:

A system of potato propagation that starts from selected plants that fulfil the requirements of the pre-basic seed.

Clonal stock:

Propagation stock of a particular variety descended from a clonally selected mother plant. Clonal stocks are subject to visual inspection (diseases and trueness-to-type) and additional testing for diseases.

External defects:

Any tuber defect which can be detected externally. Countable tubers are those which may have a negative impact on yielding capacity or storability. Included in countable external defects are: mechanical damage, severe cracks, pressure bruises, misshapen tubers (including secondary growth).

Micropropagative multiplication:

The process of propagating microplants of initial stock by taking nodal cuttings under aseptic conditions to produce large numbers of microplants. The resulting microplants are retained for further multiplication cycles or grown to maturity to provide harvestable tubers usually of the class PBTC.

Parent material:

Initial stock or selected plants or tubers in the clonal selection used to increase a clone of seed potatoes.

Rot:

Wet rot: tuber softening to maceration, associated with a fluid exudate, which has arisen due to a primary or secondary bacterial and/or fungal infection.

Dry rot: tuber tissue exhibiting a sunken, necrotic lesion without the loss of fluid exudates, which may remain localized or enlarge by becoming wrinkled and mummified to encompass the whole tuber.

Seed potatoes:

Tubers (including minitubers) and potato micropropagative material of cultivated tuber-forming *Solanum* spp. for planting.

Certified seed potatoes: tubers which are certified by the DA as meeting specified requirements and as being suitable for reproduction.
