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**Specialized Section on Standardization
of Seed Potatoes**

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda
Capacity-building

Proposal on the possible content of an e-learning platform [*]

The following document contains a proposal prepared by the delegation from the Netherlands on the possible content of an e-learning platform for seed potatoes hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the proposal.

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  * Submitted on the above date due to delayed inputs.

Background for proposed platform

The Specialised Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes offers assistance in capacity-building and strengthening the capacity of countries already participating in the UNECE's standardization work. With people's increased access to the Internet, it appears only logical (timely?) to reflect on providing capacity-building assistance also in a digital form.

When it comes to digital learning, the possibilities are endless; learning can be achieved by sharing information and knowledge in the form of documents, presentations, pictures, films, etc. More elaborate forms are MOOC's (Massive Open Online Courses) or apps and other programs.

The limitation of the UNECE Specialized Section is that we neither have the knowhow nor funding to develop something like a MOOC. On the other hand, The Specialized Section has a lot of knowledge in addition to expertise and knowledge available in other parts of the world. Therefore, the delegation of the Netherlands had proposed to investigate what online knowledge databases or courses are available worldwide. For example, the UNECE could start a referral website, by grouping those online sources that could be useful, and by keeping it up-to-date (i.e. when a source goes offline, remove it from the referral list).

So far, the delegation of the Netherlands has found a few sources that could be useful:

1. **Plant Management Network – Focus on potato**

https://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/

https://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/infocenter/topic/focusonpotato/

Offers webcasts (presentation with a voice over) per section. New webcasts are open source, after a few months they can be accessed after you pay a subscription fee of $50.

Also offers links to journals, news sites, proceedings, image database etc. Some are open access, others can be accessed after subscription.

- Positive feature: Focus on potato
- Negative feature: subscription fee
- Language: English

2. Skills for Future Farmers

http://future-farmer.eu/

Online training programs in organic farming, rural development, agricultural markets, farming management, biobased economy, and ICT in agriculture, and it offers some mobile apps and an e-commerce platform (to open your own web shop).

- Positive feature: free of charge
- Negative feature: nothing specific for potato
- Language: multi (English, Dutch, Turkish, Lithuanian, Greek, German)

3. Q-bank

http://www.q-bank.eu/

Offers descriptions of well characterized regulated plant pests. It comprises ecological, morphological, physiological and sequence data of bacteria, fungi, insects, nematodes, phytoplasmas, viruses, viroids and invasive plants.

- Positive feature: free of charge, extensive database
- Negative feature: not very comprehensive
- Language: English

4. Groen Kennisnet

https://www.groenkennisnet.nl/nl/groenkennisnet.htm

Dutch knowledge centre with special learning packages for high school and university teachers.

- Positive feature: free of charge, has 'potato' as a topic
- Negative feature: only available in Dutch
- Language: Dutch

5. Coursera

https://www.coursera.org/

Provides universal access to the world's best education, partnering with top universities and organizations to offer courses online.

- Positive feature: offers courses, on a wide range of topics. Is free of charge if you opt out of the certificate.
- Negative feature: nothing specific for potato
- Language: multi, depends on the course.

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