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### **Economic Commission for Europe**

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**Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

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**Sustainable Development Goals and the work**

**under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

### **Sustainable Development Goals and the work under Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

#### **Submitted by the secretariat**

The following document summarizes and explains how the work of WP.7 contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is based on the mapping exercises carried out by the Specialized Sections.

Individual contributions prepared by the Specialized Sections on Seed Potatoes, Fresh Fruit and Vegetables as well as Dry and Dried Produce are included in Informal document (INF.1). The contribution for the Specialized Section on Meat will be added in due course.

The document is prepared according to ECE/CTCS/2015/7 (part II, section A, subsection c).

## **SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

**Target 2.2: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round**

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards contributes to this target by:

- Improving market access for farmers,
- Improving access of consumers to safe and nutritious food.
- Specifically in the area of seed potatoes, the Working Party provides a set of guiding principles that can be used to minimize the impact of yield limiting potato diseases, pests and other disorders, thereby reducing the potential for crop failure and enhancing sustainable food security:
  - Reliable food supply of a nutritious staple
  - Maintenance of genetic diversity
  - Protect the environment
  - Help small farmers
  - Eliminate technical barriers to trade
  - Common terminology

**Target 2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment .**

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards contributes to this target by:

- Improving the role of women in agriculture and support services, and their contribution to family income
- Involving all processes of trade from the farm to the market,
- Facilitating access of small-scale producers to market by making requirements of distant markets known,
- Adding value by providing a tool for increased profit by quality/price relation and improved farmer resilience
- Creating standards that provide guidance on the target of production
- Contributes to possibilities for value addition (including non-farm employment); Supporting possibilities for up-scaling
- Supporting possibilities for up-scaling, Analyzing new ways of facilitating exports,
- Decreasing costs through more efficient and harmonized rules and procedures for trading fresh and dried fruits and nuts.
- Improving the education in market requirements,
- Encouraging improvement of agricultural skills.

## **SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.**

**Target 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.**

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards contributes to this target by:

- Fighting food loss by promoting/rewarding quality production,
- Creating standards that help reduce waste, as the standards guarantee the edibility of the product,
- Ensuring that not meeting standards does not prevent processing or consumption of the product,
- Ensuring that the quality provisions of the standards respect different production systems,
- Contributing to guidance for storage/handling conditions which increase shelf life of produce (valid for entire production and distribution chain)
- Helping buyers describe their requirements in a clear way,
- Fighting food loss through transparent quality requirements,
- Specifically in the area of seed potatoes, the Working Party stresses that high quality planting material is a cornerstone for sustainable agriculture by providing the greatest yield potential. Maintaining high quality seed potatoes provides job opportunities, wealth creation, and increased buying power for rural communities through:
  - Increased resource use efficiency
  - Less waste throughout the supply chain
  - More profitable farming
  - Knowledge sharing
  - Sustainable trade
  - Protecting consumer interests
  - Reduced reliance on chemical pesticides and integrated pest management

## **SDG 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.**

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards contributes to this Goal by:

- Partnering with all stakeholders for sustainable domestic and international trade
- The inclusive development and delivery of work with governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and civil society.
- Ensuring that participation in meetings, standard setting and technical assistance is open to all countries
- Providing capacity-building support on request to and in developing countries
- Providing exposure of all countries to international best practice systems

- UNECE is an open forum for all UN member states including transition and developing countries and provides equal access to the development, training and implementation of the standards. In this forum, countries from across the world share best practices, discuss new technologies, science and share expertise to enhance cooperation, build capacity and facilitate fair trade through:
  - Collaboration and cooperation across and with all organizations
  - Facilitated exchange of knowledge building on local capacity and capturing new technology and practices
  - Common reference and terminology
  - Standard that are internationally recognized

**Target 17.11: Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.**

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards contributes to this target by:

- Developing standards for the trade of produce from tropical and temperate zones.
- Creating standards that provide the language to allow access to international markets by clarifying buyer requirements,
- Improving visibility and traceability of produce by working on the identification of country of origin/packer/exporter, thus building the reputation of the countries of origin.

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