UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

- Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
- Who develops standards?
- How are they developed and for which products?
- Who uses them?
- Why are they important for Asian countries?
UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards
UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

• Working Party + Specialized Sections
  - Dry and Dried Produce
  - Seed Potatoes
  - Meat
  - Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

• Equal rights for all UN Member States

• 60 years of work
UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

- Fruit, vegetables
- Dry produce
- Potatoes
- Meat
- Eggs
- Flowers
2010: FFV Specialized Section

- Adopted revised Standard Layout
- Aligned/revised 50 standards
- 2 sessions that year
- Published explanatory brochure

Flexible, efficient, effective
Compliance with TBT agreement

“Where international standards exist countries shall use them as a basis for their technical regulations except when such standards would be an ineffective or inappropriate means for the fulfillment of the objectives”

(TBT, Art. 2.4)
Purpose of standards

- Facilitate international trade
- Create market transparency
- Promote quality agricultural products
- Keep unsatisfactory produce out of market
- Improve profitability
- Protect consumers
UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

UNECE standards are recommendations

Obligatory
   EU Regulations
   National legislation

Voluntary
   Reference in commercial contracts
Users of standards

- Producers
- Traders
- Consumers
- Inspection services
UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

**Peppers**

- Mixed bag, all colours and sizes
- Display until 29 OCT
- Best before 31 OCT
- Grown in W. Sussex, UK

**Class II**

- Peppers are high in vitamin C and half an average pepper provides one portion of your 5 a day.
- At home, refrigerate for freshness. Wash before use.
UNECE and E(E)C

1962

• 21 UNECE standards **obligatory** for intra-community trade

2008

• 36 UNECE standards in EC regulations

2009

• 10 UNECE standards in EC regulations (specific marketing standards)
• General marketing standard (GMS)
UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

GMS sets minimum quality requirements

- Intact
- Sound; products affected by rotting are excluded
- Clean
- Free from pests
- Free from damage caused by pest
- Free of abnormal external moisture
- Free of any foreign smell and/or taste

No provisions on quality classes

Where the holder of fruit and vegetables is able to show they are in conformity with any applicable UNECE standard, the product is considered as conforming to the GMS
UNECE and OECD Scheme

- Interpreting UNECE standards since 1962
- Drawing up standards until 1996
- Working on inspection methods, sampling, objective tests
In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the tomatoes must be:

- intact:

Tomatoes must not have any mutilation or injury spoiling the integrity of the produce.

Damaged tomato - Not allowed
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- Help grading
- Reduce risk of rejection
- Resolve disputes

- Countries invited to contribute
UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards

UNECE STANDARD

OVINE MEAT CARCASES AND CUTS

2006 EDITION
UNECE Commercial Agricultural Quality Standards
Standard for Seed Potatoes

- Unique reference covering all aspects of seed potato certification
- List of Diseases and Pests
## List of Diseases and Pests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Status in UNECE Standard</th>
<th>Recommended diagnostic method</th>
<th>General disease description</th>
<th>Tuber symptoms</th>
<th>Plant symptoms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potato wart disease</td>
<td><em>Synchytrium endobioticum</em></td>
<td>Zero tolerance</td>
<td>Visual observation of tubers and stem base</td>
<td>Tuber: tumours</td>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Tuber symptoms" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Plant symptoms" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plant: tumours and galls on stolons and stem base</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 35 Diseases
- 85 Pictures

http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/potatoes/pot_e.html
UNECE and Codex *Alimentarius*

- UNECE standards starting point for Codex standards
- **Regional** UNECE vs. **global** Codex
- Codex does not produce explanatory material
UNECE, OECD, Codex, EU

How to work together on

- Standards
- Explanatory material
- Inspection methods
- Promotion
- Capacity-building
Draw on regional experience in Asia to develop the standards and brochures for
- Pineapples
- Fresh chilli peppers