Summary

The document contains the draft 2010-2011 programme of work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7). The Committee on Trade is invited to review and approve the programme proposed for the Working Party and each of its specialized sections.

Further information on the work of the Working Party can be found on its website: http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm.
1. The UNECE Working Party on Quality Standards (WP.7) will undertake to review the recommendations made by its specialized sections to (a) define the directions for their future work on standards, and (b) monitor the implementation of standards.

2. The target audience for WP.7 and its specialized sections is: Governments, quality inspection services, trade, producers’ and consumers’ organizations.

3. The outputs of the Working Party will be the following:
   
   (a) Two annual sessions and supporting parliamentary documentation;
   
   (b) The review or up-dating of approximately one-quarter of the current total of the 100 standards;
   
   (c) New standards;
   
   (d) Activities to support the harmonized application of standards by national quality inspectors (subject to approval of the transfer of this work from OECD).

I. DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF UNECE STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

4. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) will:

   (a) Revise and update its standard layout and standards;
   
   (b) Develop new standards;
   
   (c) Develop explanatory material for implementation of the standards (subject to approval of the transfer of this work from OECD at the end of 2009).

5. The outputs of the specialized section will be the following:

   (a) Two annual sessions and supporting parliamentary documentation;
   
   (b) Revised and new standards;
   
   (c) Revised Internet publication of standards (once a year) and explanatory guidelines.

II. DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF UNECE STANDARDS FOR DRY AND DRIED PRODUCE

6. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (GE.2) will:

   (a) Revise and update its standard layout and standards;
   
   (b) Develop new standards;
   
   (c) Develop explanatory material for standards (subject to approval of the transfer of this work from OECD).
7. The outputs of the specialized section will be the following:
   (a) Two annual sessions and supporting parliamentary documentation;
   (b) Revised and new standards;
   (c) Revised Internet publication of standards (once a year) and explanatory guidelines.

III. DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF UNECE STANDARDS FOR MEAT, EGGS AND EGG PRODUCTS

8. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (GE.11) will:
   (a) Revise and update its standards;
   (b) Develop new standards.

9. The outputs of the specialized section will be the following:
   (a) Two annual sessions and supporting parliamentary documentation;
   (b) Revised and new standards;
   (c) Revised Internet publication of standards (once a year);
   (d) Two standards publications;
   (e) Revisions of the five 1986 standards for eggs and egg products.

IV. DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF UNECE STANDARDS FOR SEED POTATO

10. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes (GE.6) will:
    (a) Revise and update the standard for seed potatoes;
    (b) Revise the list of diseases and pests;
    (c) Study issues related to further development and application of the standard.

11. Its target audience is Governments, intergovernmental organizations, international/regional trade organizations, quality inspection services, producers’ organizations and consumer organizations.

12. The outputs of the specialized section will be the following:
    (a) Two annual sessions and supporting parliamentary documentation;
    (b) Revised standard;
    (c) Revised Internet publication of the standard (once a year) and explanatory guidelines.