



Economic Commission for Europe**Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****Ninth session**

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the
Economic Commission for Europe region, country studies:
Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan****Assessing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the
context of integration into value chains: study of Kyrgyzstan*****Submitted by the secretariat***Summary*

Responding to the capacity-building request of the delegation of Kyrgyzstan expressed at the seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards on 27-28 June 2022, the secretariat initiated a study focusing on identifying regulatory and procedural barriers to trade for the export of dried apricots and prunes from Kyrgyzstan in the context of integration into regional and global value chains.

The work is part of the series on national studies prepared under the ECE extra-budgetary project “Fostering Resilient, Diversified and Sustainable Value Chains in the Eurasian Region after COVID-19”. A preliminary version of this study, including recommendations on enhancing trade facilitation reforms and quality infrastructure, was discussed at the eighth session of the Steering Committee on 26–27 June 2023** and the full version was validated during the ECE regional workshop that took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (5–6 March 2024).***

The study assesses current and potential export markets and aspects of the frameworks for trade facilitation (including through business process analysis) and the quality infrastructure for trade. The findings aim to assist Kyrgyzstan in increasing cross-border trade by making trade-related procedures more efficient, with the ultimate objective of reaping benefits from new growth opportunities and delivering on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This document presents the summary of the study.

* This document has not been formally edited by ECE.

** See <https://unece.org/trade/documents/2023/04/session-documents/economic-commission-europe-study-regulatory-and>

*** See <https://unece.org/media/news/388901>

I. Introduction

1. Kyrgyzstan is a landlocked, lower-middle-income country with rich natural endowments. Agriculture is the third largest sector of Kyrgyzstan's economy, accounting for about 12 per cent of GDP in 2022.¹ Roughly 13 per cent of the country's land (1.4 million hectares) is classified as arable.² Among the most important commodities are livestock and poultry, raw milk, vegetables, grains and legumes, and potatoes. Measured in production volume, the principal crops are potatoes, vegetables, sugar beet, maize, wheat and barley.³ The country's main agricultural exports are dried vegetables, cotton, dried fruit, nuts and butter. Main export destinations for agricultural products are, in order of relevance, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Türkiye.⁴

2. Over recent decades, integration into the global economy has been instrumental in the country's economic development. In 1998, Kyrgyzstan became the first country from the Central Asian region to accede to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Since then, it has been proactively engaged. The country ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in 2016 and takes part in several Joint State Initiatives (e.g., on investment facilitation for development; on micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and e-commerce) and groups in the WTO, including the group of countries acceded to the WTO after 1995 (Article XII Members) and the group of low-income economies in transition.

3. Alongside multilateral integration, regional integration has also deepened. The country is a signatory to several bilateral trade agreements, most of which have been signed with countries pertaining to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member countries.⁵ Since 2015, Kyrgyzstan's trade policy has been directly linked to the processes of regional economic integration within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).⁶ As a result, several new legal documents were adopted, and existing ones were amended to harmonize national legislation with the EAEU legal framework.

4. Kyrgyzstan has also strengthened bilateral trade ties with the European Union (EU). Since 2016, Kyrgyzstan has benefited from unilateral trade preferences under the EU Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP+). This preferential scheme gives Kyrgyzstan the right to export about 6,200 commodity items to the EU at zero tariff rates, providing an opportunity for further expansion of agricultural exports.⁷ Total EU imports from Kyrgyzstan increased ninefold between 2016 and 2018, from EUR 72 million to EUR 630 million.⁸ The most significant product groups imported using the GSP+ preferences are fruits, nuts, and vegetables. The preference utilization rate of this section increased substantially between 2016 and 2018 and currently stands at 77 per cent.⁹

5. The Kyrgyz economy has significant potential for expansion, mainly through untapped capacities of exports in the agricultural sector. The Economic Commission for

¹ The top three industries are services (52.07 per cent), industry (24.04 per cent) and agriculture (12.12 per cent), see <https://www.statista.com/statistics/528614/share-of-economic-sectors-in-the-gdp-in-kyrgyz-republic/>.

² See <https://www.land-links.org/country-profile/kyrgyzstan/>

³ See https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s411_e.pdf

⁴ See <https://www.trademapp.org>

⁵ CIS also includes: Belarus; Kazakhstan; the Kyrgyz Republic; Moldova; the Russian Federation; Tajikistan; Ukraine; and Uzbekistan (since 2014).

⁶ Other members include Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

⁷ Importantly, GSP+ provides only tariff preferences, and the requirements for the quality of goods are imposed on a general basis, according to EU standards. See https://www.ibt.kg/en/news/ibt/6216_economic_relations_between_kyrgyzstan_and_the_european_union_are_developing.

⁸ European Commission, Joint Staff Working Document "The EU Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance ('GSP+') assessment of the Kyrgyz Republic covering the period 2018 - 2019, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SWD:2020:0020:FIN:EN:PDF>.

⁹ See <https://gspub.eu/country-info/Kyrgyzstan>

Europe (ECE) assists its member States¹⁰ with building capacities for better integration into the global economy and harnesses trade, innovation, and infrastructure financing for sustainable development in the region. It has built a long-standing and close cooperation with Kyrgyzstan, including on issues related to trade and economic integration. For example, the country was among the first member States to receive capacity-building support under the ECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade (RPBT) in 2015¹¹ and also has benefitted from support in the field of trade facilitation,¹² innovation, and infrastructure financing (through the application of ECE's Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS) methodology.

6. Responding to the capacity-building request of the delegation of Kyrgyzstan to enhance the country's agricultural export potential, this study identifies regulatory and procedural barriers to trade for exports concerning two agricultural products (dried apricots and dried prunes). The study's preliminary findings, including recommendations on enhancing trade facilitation reforms and quality infrastructure, were discussed during the eighth session of the ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards in June 2023¹³ and during the ECE regional workshop that took place on 5–6 March 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.¹⁴

7. The study is divided into three sections. Section I summarises current and potential export markets for two products: dried apricots and dried prunes. Section II presents a business process analysis (BPA) when selected products are destined for export to the EU (i.e. Germany) and EAEU (i.e., Kazakhstan) markets. Section III describes constraints related to the quality infrastructure for exports of these products. The recommendations aim to assist Kyrgyzstan in facilitating cross-border trade by making trade-related procedures more efficient.

II. Key findings

A. The agricultural sector in Kyrgyzstan: current and potential export opportunities

8. Agriculture plays a significant role in Kyrgyzstan's economy. It provides employment and income to 17 per cent of the economically active population.¹⁵ Kyrgyzstan's diverse landscapes, encompassing mountains, valleys, and plains, allow for the cultivation of various crops and livestock with unique flavours and characteristics. Kyrgyz agricultural goods possess distinctive qualities stemming from traditional and organic farming methods, which avoid harmful chemicals and prioritize sustainable practices, resulting in products that appeal to consumers seeking natural and environmentally friendly options. With a growing demand by consumers, particularly in developed countries, for healthy and environmentally sustainable goods, trade in organic agricultural products is anticipated to keep expanding, offering significant prospects for Kyrgyz producers and exporters of organic agrifood, such as dried fruit.

9. Fresh fruits are mainly produced by small-scale farmers, and some percentage of the output is consumed at the household level. The yield is of inconsistent quality, and quantities are too low to meet market demand. Constrained by the low volumes each farmer can

¹⁰ ECE specifically supports its 17 programme countries in Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe, in close cooperation with the United Nations country teams.

¹¹ See https://unece.org/DAM/trade/Publications/ECE_TRADE_412E-Kyrgyzstan.pdf

¹² E.g. in the context of establishing National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021–2025 (ECE/TRADE/464), available at <https://unece.org/trade/publications/national-trade-facilitation-roadmap-kyrgyz-republic-2021-2025-ecetrade464>.

¹³ See <https://unece.org/trade/documents/2023/04/session-documents/economic-commission-europe-study-regulatory-and>.

¹⁴ See <https://unece.org/media/news/388901>.

¹⁵ See <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.ZS>.

produce, most of them operate through intermediaries (middlemen)¹⁶ who are involved in all parts of the value chain, albeit mainly by facilitating transport. Middlemen are purchasing at the farm gate to supply consumers, wholesalers, and retailers at traditional markets (bazaars),¹⁷ neighbouring regions, or even abroad.¹⁸

10. Dried fruits have served as a longstanding traditional export of Kyrgyzstan, primarily because their production helps retain the value of fresh products, given their limited shelf life. At the same time, the fragmentation of the dried fruit value chain in Kyrgyzstan caused by, among other things, the lack of cooperation between farmers and processors, continues to hamper producers from reaching the scale necessary for enhancing export potential. Most of the processing companies use 40 per cent of their capacity. Their limited financial resources only allow purchases of mainly semi- and non-automated equipment.¹⁹ Furthermore, existing support services and infrastructure that would allow smallholder farmers to increase productivity are largely missing.²⁰

11. Despite persistent inefficiencies in Kyrgyz dried fruit value chains, between 2018 and 2022, Kyrgyz exports experienced a threefold growth, hitting a record high in 2021.²¹ The growth was, however, uneven and while some sub-categories demonstrated a massive increase in export values (e.g., dried peaches HS 081340), there was a significant fluctuation for others (i.e., dried apricots and plums).

12. The primary export destinations for dried fruits (including dried apricots and prunes) are the Russian Federation, Germany, and Türkiye.

Table 1:

Kyrgyz exports of dried fruits (including dried apricots and prunes), 2022

<i>HS code</i>	<i>Product label</i>	<i>Exported value in USD thousand</i>	<i>Share in exports of dried fruits (per cent)</i>	<i>3 Top export destinations and their share (per cent)</i>
081340	Dried peaches, pears, papaws “papayas”, tamarinds and other edible fruits (excluding nuts, bananas, etc.)	27.552	82.4	Russian Federation (92.8) Kazakhstan (5.5) Germany (1.05) Other (0.65)
081310	Dried apricots	2.669	7.9	Russian Federation (87.6) Kazakhstan (4.1) Azerbaijan (3.7) Other (5.2)

¹⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization. (2020). *Smallholders and family farms in Kyrgyzstan* (Country Study Report No. TCP/RER/3601). Budapest: FAO.

¹⁷ Wholesale bazaars continue to serve as the largest sales channel in the Kyrgyzstan’s horticultural value chains. Recent years, however, have seen the emergence of modern wholesale and retail market outlets. See https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00Z93R.pdf

¹⁸ See Japan International Cooperation Agency. (2013). *Kyrgyz Republic: Data collection survey on export promotion of agriculture products and strengthening of farm management* [Report No. KG-JR-13-002]. Tokyo: JICA. See also O’Connell, J., & Kiparisov, P. (2018). *Kyrgyzstan value chain gap analysis*. Budapest: Food and Agriculture Organization. See also <https://d-nb.info/1189827891/34>

¹⁹ See <https://www.privacyshield.gov/ps/article?id=Kyrgyz-Republic-Agricultural-Sector>

²⁰ See https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s411_e.pdf

²¹ According to the ITC Trade Map exported value of dried fruit (HS code 0813) stood at 10,682 in 2018 and rose to 33,449 USD thousands in 2022. In 2021 the exported value stood at 48,176 USD thousands. See https://www.trademap.org/Country_SelProductCountry_TS.aspx?nvpm=1%7c417%7c%7c%7c0813%7c%7c%7c4%7c1%7c1%7c2%7c2%7c1%7c2%7c1%7c1

<i>HS code</i>	<i>Product label</i>	<i>Exported value in USD thousand</i>	<i>Share in exports of dried fruits (per cent)</i>	<i>3 Top export destinations and their share (per cent)</i>
081330	Dried apples	1.961	5.8	Germany (57.5) Russian Federation (27.5) Türkiye (13.1) Other (1.9)
081320	Dried prunes	928	2.7	Russian Federation (60.6) Germany (22.2) Türkiye (10.7) Other (6.5)
081350	Mixtures of nuts or dried fruits	338	1.2	Russian Federation (77.8) Kazakhstan (15.3) Mongolia (5.9) Other (1)

Source: ECE based on Trade Map Statistics of the International Trade Center (ITC)

13. Considering the global dynamics and forecasts concerning trade in dried fruit, alongside the country's trade regime and increasing national capacities, the country has good prospects in realizing its export potential. This is particularly the case for Kazakhstan (and the EAEU market) and Germany (and the EU market).

B. Trade facilitation conditions in Kyrgyzstan for exporting dried apricots and prunes

14. Trade facilitation reforms in Kyrgyzstan progressed rapidly after the country acceded to WTO in 1998. Almost 20 years later, in 2016, when the country ratified the WTO TFA trade facilitation matters gained higher importance. Advancements in introducing trade facilitation reforms are confirmed by the findings of the United Nations Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (Survey).²² According to the 2023 Survey, the trade facilitation score of Kyrgyzstan stood at 72.04 per cent, a 14.5 per cent increase since the previous survey was conducted in 2021.²³

15. As part of this study, the BPA was undertaken for dried apricots and prunes exports from Kyrgyzstan to Germany and Kazakhstan. The BPA demonstrated that export-related processes and procedures are relatively straightforward. Exports of agricultural products should be accompanied by a standard set of documents and processes. On average, the entire export process takes 18 days (for Kazakhstan) and 36 days (for Germany). In the case of exports to Germany, the most time-consuming process is transportation, which, on average,

²² See <https://www.unftsurvey.org>. See also UNECE. (2023). Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation: UNECE Regional Report 2023, United Nations, Geneva.

²³ The major developments were observed with respect to transparency measures, such as publication of existing import-export regulations on the internet, stakeholders' consultation on draft regulations, advance publication of new trade-related regulations and independent appeal mechanism. Some progress has also been achieved in the context of formalities, (i.e. implementation of risk management system). The main areas where the progress is lagging behind pertain to paperless trade measures, including electronic application and issuance of preferential certificate of origin. Other areas where only marginal progress has been made include measures on trade finance facilitation. These measures encompass traders' access to finance through Single Window facilities, engagement of authorities in blockchain-based supply chain and the variety of trade finance services available. See also findings in ECE, National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021–2025 (ECE/TRADE/464), available at <https://unece.org/trade/publications/national-trade-facilitation-roadmap-kyrgyz-republic-2021-2025-ecetrade464>.

takes 12 to 15 days. The export of dried apricots and prunes should be accompanied by a standard set of documents. At the same time, some challenges remain.

16. Economic operators interviewed for this study reported occasional delays in obtaining phytosanitary certificates due to a mismatch between the number of personnel responsible for processing respective applications and the existing demand. Furthermore, samples for the analysis required for obtaining phytosanitary certificates can only be taken in specific regions (such as Osh, Issyk-Kul oblast, and Bishkek city) thereby creating further delays in the process. Another inefficiency reported is a template of a phytosanitary certificate, currently in use, which contains a graph where the names of customs checkpoints along the transportation route should be indicated. In case the transportation route is subject to adjustments, this requirement might cause delays in delivery due to additional checks at the border.

17. Another challenge relates to difficulties with the transit procedures due to the unreliability of the transit route Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan-Russian Federation. The interviewed economic operators reported that this unreliability might be caused by either one or a combination of the following factors:

- inefficient procedures and quality infrastructure for a joint border security risk analysis at the Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan-Russian Federation border crossing points;
- the lack of separate lanes for trucks;
- inadequate information exchange channel between the EAEU Member States on the introduction of new border requirements and/or temporary measures, including in case of emergencies;
- border closures and delays associated with changing geopolitical situation.

18. Due to the fact that Kyrgyzstan has a land border with Kazakhstan, any inefficiencies at the Kyrgyz-Kazakh state border significantly hamper trade flows and might even disincentivize exporters from engaging in trade with Kazakh partners. Moreover, even though customs control between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan was abolished,²⁴ interviewed economic operators reported that unilaterally imposed non-tariff measures can prevent local exporters from accessing markets of the other EAEU Member States. In addition, interviewed exporters referred to onerous and inconsistent technical requirements and inspections for their trucks to cross the border.

19. Regarding dried fruit exports to Germany, the main constraining factor is the inability of exporters to satisfy numerous quality and safety-related requirements of destination markets. Satisfying these requirements is not only complex but also costly.

20. According to the interviewed economic operators, Kyrgyz dried fruit is usually exported in bulk, in which case the EU labeling requirements are not very stringent. However, in case of market demand requires Kyrgyz traders to change shipping formats and dried fruit would be exported in ready-to-consume packages, compliance with intricate requirements on labeling and consumer information requirements of the EU would add another layer of complexity to the process.

²⁴ Customs control between the two States was abolished after Eurasian Economic Commission Council Decision No. 5 of 8 May 2015, which was contingent upon a number of measures being undertaken, such as equipping airports with certain equipment, organizing an exchange of information between tax authorities, organizing an exchange of information in electronic form among customs authorities, controlling and confirming the export of goods, controlling the temporary importation of transport vehicles, controlling goods in transit, and organizing an exchange of information for the implementation of analytical and control functions. See https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s411_e.pdf.

C. Quality infrastructure conditions in Kyrgyzstan: institutional framework, regulatory and procedural requirements applicable to dried apricots and prunes

21. Kyrgyzstan has implemented a robust quality infrastructure system in alignment with international standards and WTO requirements. Some of the developments include (a) the establishment of the Kyrgyz Center of Accreditation (KCA); (b) the abolishment of mandatory standards, established during the Soviet times; (c) the establishment of modern technical regulations; (d) the training of the regulatory authorities in the ministries in modern market surveillance practices; (e) the establishment of technical competencies of conformity service providers through accreditation; and (f) the modernization of equipment in the National Institution for Standards and Metrology. At the same time, despite significant progress, Kyrgyzstan still lacks a holistic food safety system that can be operationalized with the existing institutional setup.

22. To improve its food product regulations, Kyrgyzstan has partnered with European countries to develop and adopt European standards. Despite numerous capacity-building efforts since 2016 to enhance expertise in food safety management for processed fruit, interviewed stakeholders suggested that training has been too theoretical, focusing heavily on standards mechanics (e.g. ISO22000 and GLOBALGAP), while neglecting practical risk assessment aspects. Consequently, Kyrgyzstan's experts face challenges applying their knowledge in processing or agricultural environments and continue to encounter challenges in acquiring and retaining their market presence on global platforms.²⁵ It is thus imperative to enable exporters to utilize accredited domestic laboratories to thoroughly test and certify export-bound products for safety.

23. At the same time, some quality tests are only possible in sophisticated laboratories distant from the rural production area. Another complication is that some of the same tests have to be done by more than one laboratory. This is due to unclear and partly overlapping division of labour among the responsible agencies and institutions.²⁶

24. Additionally, exporters encounter challenges in maximizing export prospects within the EU. This is primarily because many exporters are uncertain about the conditions for preferential entry into the EU market under the GSP+ scheme. Given that this preferential access depends on effectively implementing the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) regulations as well as complying with the voluntary sustainability standards (VSS)²⁷, many exporters choose to abstain from exporting to the EU. In this context, digital transformation and tools supporting the traceability of value chains could enhance export opportunities. The ECE work on ESG traceability²⁸, including in the framework of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), is of relevance.

25. Despite all the challenges, exporters interviewed regarding dried apricots and prunes noted a positive trend towards increased adherence to international quality standards for marketing and commercial quality control.²⁹

²⁵ See https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PG_569_Application_Form.pdf

²⁶ The line ministries responsible for agriculture, health and economy, as well as the State Inspectorate under the Prime Minister, have to be consulted before an economic operator can export agricultural products.

²⁷ While VSSs were not included in the analysis under this study, they are an important area for future capacity-building work. See the work of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS) to which ECE actively contributes, see <https://unfss.org>.

²⁸ See <https://unece.org/circular-economy/traceability-transparency-and-data>.

²⁹ ECE Standard DDP-15 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of dried apricots, 2016 edition and ECE Standard DDP-07 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of prunes, 2021 edition.

III. Recommendations

26. Trade plays a powerful role in ensuring Kyrgyzstan's strong and sustainable economic growth. While significant progress has been made to accelerate its integration into global and regional value chains, more could be done to exploit its full potential, especially in the agricultural sector.

27. Some of the remaining challenges associated with Kyrgyzstan's landlocked position relate to trade facilitation and quality infrastructure (see Table 2, below). It is hoped that this study will assist the Government in further removing barriers to trade in dried apricots and prunes, and indirectly – also for trade in other products. The recommendations provided in the study aim to facilitate cross-border trade by making procedures more efficient. Their goal is to allow Kyrgyzstan to reap increased benefits from the growth opportunities generated by the global and regional integration and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goals 1 (no poverty), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure) and 17 (partnerships for the goals).

28. ECE, through its three core functions – developing norms, standards, and legal instruments; hosting a convening platform; and providing technical cooperation across several relevant sectors – stands ready to assist the Government of Kyrgyzstan in implementing the forthcoming recommendations, which build on best practice recommendations for trade facilitation and electronic businesses, regulatory cooperation, and agricultural quality standards.

Table 2:

Identified challenges and ECE recommendations for the way forward

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>ECE tools supporting the implementation</i>
<i>Trade facilitation</i>		
Burdensome procedures at the border control	Develop and strengthen institutional capacities of border control agencies by encouraging their alignment with international standards and best practices towards ensuring national and regional security.	UN/CEFACT Buy/Ship/Pay Business Requirements Specification (BSP BRS) UN/CEFACT Buy/Ship/Pay Reference Data Model ECE Recommendation 35. Establishing a Legal Framework for an International Trade Single Window
	Invest in modern technology and infrastructure to enhance border control capabilities. This may include the deployment of advanced scanning equipment, biometric identification systems, automated border control systems, and secure communication networks to improve surveillance, detection, and information sharing. This could be done through further enhancing Single Window.	ECE Recommendation 36. Single Window Interoperability UN/CEFACT Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, 2020 ECE Recommendation 27. Pre-shipment Inspection
	Implement risk-based approaches to border control through the development of risk assessment and targeting systems. Utilize intelligence analysis, data analytics, and profiling techniques to identify	

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>ECE tools supporting the implementation</i>
	high-risk individuals, and goods for enhanced scrutiny and inspection.	
Unpredictability of the transit route Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan-Russian Federation	<p>Make available information on changes in legislation concerning border crossing procedures (national and international). This could be done, for example, by creating an information portal (e.g., of the Ministry of Transport of Kyrgyzstan), which would allow signing up for daily updates on relevant changes.</p> <p>Consider introducing navigation seals for cargo transportation to facilitate optimized logistics by minimizing state control measures while ensuring absolute transparency throughout the EAEU.³⁰</p> <p>Establish an information exchange channel between EAEU Member States on the introduction of new border requirements and/or temporary measures, including in case of emergencies.</p>	<p>ECE Recommendation 42. Establishment of a Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM)</p> <p>ECE Recommendation 44. Cross-Border Facilitation Measures for Disaster Relief</p>
<i>Quality infrastructure</i>		
Limited number of accredited testing laboratories	<p>Ensure international accreditation for Kyrgyz laboratories to guarantee global acceptance of their results through 1) establishing partnerships with recognized accreditation bodies, 2) adherence to international standards and protocols, 3) investing in staff training and infrastructure, and 4) undergoing rigorous assessments, and maintaining ongoing compliance with accreditation requirements.</p> <p>Leveraging PPPs³¹ could help bolster necessary capacities most efficiently.</p>	<p>ECE Recommendations M. “Use of Market Surveillance Infrastructure as a Complementary Means to Protect Consumers and Users against Counterfeit Goods”</p> <p>ECE Recommendation N. “Good Market Surveillance Policies and Practices”</p> <p>ECE Recommendation K. Metrological Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing</p>

³⁰ Navigation seals are put on cargo compartments of vehicles when goods are placed under the export procedure. The experiment conditions specify the list of checkpoints through which trucks carrying certain products enter the Russian Federation and control checkpoints where navigation seals are taken off cargo vehicles and they leave the territory of the Russian Federation. See the Russian Federation – Belarus pilot project, <https://eec.eaeunion.org/en/news/pri-podderzhke-eek-startoval-eksperiment-belarusi-i-rossii-po-primeneniyu-navigatsionnykh-plomb/>.

³¹ Importantly, ECE secretariat has initiated the capacity-building work for Kyrgyzstan to support the use of PIERS for small-scale PPPs.

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>ECE tools supporting the implementation</i>
		<p>ECE Recommendation 41. Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation</p> <p>UN/CEFACT Electronic SPS Certificate (eCERT), 2020</p> <p>ECE PIERS</p>
Lack of technical competencies in the testing laboratories	<p>Develop and harness modern laboratory techniques and the scope of tests and certification that could be done by Kyrgyz laboratories (e.g with regard to certification of products as organic), including through mobilizing resources to upgrade laboratory facilities with modern equipment and technology necessary for conducting a wide range of tests, including those related to organic certification.</p> <p>Provide specialized training and capacity-building programs for laboratory technicians and staff to enhance their skills in modern laboratory techniques relevant to organic certification.</p> <p>Collaborate with relevant stakeholders such as government agencies, agricultural associations, and organic certification bodies to align laboratory testing protocols with industry needs and standards.</p>	<p>ECE Recommendation L. International Model for Technical Harmonization Based on Good Regulatory Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Technical Regulations via the Use of International Standards</p> <p>ECE Recommendation R. “Managing Risk in Regulatory Frameworks”</p> <p>ECE Recommendation I. Education on Standards-Related Issues</p>
Lack of awareness and knowledge of farmers on requirements applicable to food products and product marketing	<p>Build capacities to ensure that exported products comply with the quality (e.g. ISO 16050 on maximum content of aflatoxins) safety (e.g. ISO 22000 on food safety management standards), HACCP and marketing, labeling and packaging requirements (e.g. mandatory nutrition declaration requirements, packaging) of the destination country. This could be done through 1) the provision of comprehensive trainings on quality, and safety standards, 2) investing in infrastructure and technology (e.g. equipment for testing aflatoxin levels, traceability systems for monitoring product safety, and 3) developing stronger PPPs to ensure the quality and safety of ingredients used in the production.</p>	<p>ECE Standard DDP-15 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of dried apricots</p> <p>ECE Standard DDP-07 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of prunes</p> <p>ECE Recommendation T. Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development</p>

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>ECE tools supporting the implementation</i>
<i>Other</i>		
Lack of economies of scale to meet market demand	<p>Facilitate cooperation among smallholder farmers to consistently supply the large volumes of quality fruit required by importers without the need to resort to intermediaries.</p> <p>Organize reliable sales channels by building cooperation schemes between farmers and processors.</p> <p>Facilitate the development of e-commerce and promote the digital development of agriculture sectors. This would offer an opportunity for farmers and exporters to penetrate distant markets.</p> <p>To foster an appealing investment climate, especially through PPPs to attract investors interested in establishing a logistical hub. This center would offer crucial infrastructure facilities and handle the collection, storage, packaging, marketing, and export of agricultural products to international markets. The envisioned business model involves establishing long-term contracts with local farmers, and providing comprehensive trainings.</p>	<p>ECE Recommendation 33. Establishing a Single Window – Recommendations and Guidelines</p> <p>ECE Recommendation 34. Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade</p> <p>ECE Recommendation 37. Single Submission Portal</p> <p>ECE Recommendation 38. Trade Information Portals</p> <p>ECE PIERS</p>
Insufficient marketing of Kyrgyz products abroad	<p>Increase the visibility of Kyrgyz products in international markets. This could be done by creating a database (e.g. under the auspices of a national export promotion agency), containing all necessary and regularly updated information (i.e. on producers, range of products, availability, etc.) in English.</p> <p>Embrace new marketing techniques and develop relevant tools that will allow buyers to find Kyrgyz producers. This could be done through 1) building relationships with local and international businesses, trade organizations, and government agencies to promote Kyrgyz producers and their products; 2) attending industry events, trade shows, and</p>	<p>ECE Recommendation 38. Trade Information Portals</p> <p>ECE Recommendation 48. Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation</p> <p>UN/CEFACT e-Business standards in agricultural trade. A handbook for policymakers and project managers (ECE/TRADE/428)</p> <p>ECE/UNESCAP, Information Management in Agrifood Chains: Towards and Integrated Paperless Framework for Agrifood Trade Facilitation</p>

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>ECE tools supporting the implementation</i>
	<p>exhibitions to connect with potential buyers and partners.</p> <p>Develop and implement branding (i.e. “Made in Kyrgyzstan”) and communications strategy to shape the reputation of the country as an exporter of high-quality agrifood products.</p> <p>Offer marketing-related skill trainings including language courses, negotiation training, and customer relationship seminars. Elaborate, constantly update, and make publicly available detailed guidelines for the exporters on the whole list of requirements (as they practically apply) to the exported products depending on the destination market.</p>	