

Joint UNECE/Codex International Workshop on
Commercial Quality Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Mexico City, 1 May 2011

Report

1. The purpose of the workshop was to promote the use of Codex and UNECE standards for fresh fruit and vegetables as international references, to show how the standards are interpreted and applied in practice in the European export markets, and to encourage closer cooperation between Codex and UNECE.
2. The representatives of the Codex and UNECE secretariats made presentations on the role of each organization in developing standards for international trade. The representative of the Central Office of Hungary made a presentation on the new EU regulation on marketing standards.
3. The UNECE experts from Spain and South Africa presented the standards for table grapes, citrus fruit and apples pointing out the differences between the UNECE and Codex standards. The presentations were followed by two practical sessions, on apples and oranges, at which the participants were asked to evaluate and classify twenty samples of each product.
4. The participants found the workshop useful and asked the two secretariats to organize practical harmonization workshops in the future, particularly for growers, traders and inspectors in countries.
5. The participants stressed the urgent need to harmonize UNECE and Codex standards, taking into consideration the positions of both the UNECE and Codex member countries. This harmonization should start with harmonizing the standard layouts. The secretariats were asked to support and facilitate this process.
6. Following this recommendation the UNECE secretariat has transmitted the 2010 UNECE Standard Layout to the Codex secretariat. The Codex Committee may wish to consider the UNECE Standard Layout and discuss how the two standard layouts could be harmonized.