

2014 - February 2015 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Project title	Strengthening national capacities of the CIS countries to implement ECE agricultural quality standards (project E236)
Project duration	October 2014 – February 2015
Reporting period covered	October 2014 – February 2015
Financial implementation rate (in % of the total project budget)	An estimated 100 % of the allocated amount will have been spent after the installation of the equipment and the printing of the seed potato guides.
Summary of impact/outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good progress was made on arranging the procurement of equipment for a biotechnological laboratory in Kholmogory. The laboratory will produce in-vitro microplants for further multiplication of seed potatoes in the Northern regions of the Russian Federation. - An Explanatory Brochure for the Standard on Persimmons was developed. - Guidelines and recommendations on traceability in the food sector were developed and implemented as an operational pilot system at one of the poultry processing enterprises in the Russian Federation. - Four guides to accompany the UNECE Standard on Seed Potatoes were developed. - The 2014 soybeans trial showed the high potential of the joint Russian/Swiss project.
REVIEW OF EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS (EA) AND ACTIVITIES AS PER PROJECT DOCUMENT	
EA1	<i>Improved knowledge and infrastructure to develop and apply in practice UNECE agricultural quality standards</i>
Main Activity A.1.1 Procurement of equipment for biotechnological laboratory to produce healthy seed potatoes under clean phytosanitary conditions	<p>The following activities were carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A list of equipment comprising about 100 items was compiled with the assistance of former experts from Agroscope ACW and sent to the UNOG Procurement and Contracts Unit (PCU). - To test the market for potential vendors, the PCU sent out a request for Expression of Interest with the deadline of 19 December 2014. Thirteen companies manifested their interest in taking part in the bidding process. - Terms of Reference, Technical Specifications and a Source Selection Plan were prepared. These documents, together with the UN Regulations and Rules and the UN Procurement Manual, will form the documentation for the actual solicitation (ITB – Invitation to Bid) to be sent to potential vendors on 20 February 2015. - An evaluation team was formed composed of Serguei Malanitchev and Dr. Công-Linh Lê (former Head of the Biotechnological Service at Agroscope ACW). It is expected that the team will evaluate the bids at the end of March/beginning of April 2015. - The recipient of the equipment (Federal Agricultural Station “Kholmogorskoye”, Danilovo, Kholmogory district, 164567 Arkhangelsk region, Russian Federation) allocated space where the equipment could be installed. <p>The following additional work will have to be done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once a company has been selected and a contract signed, its representative and one of the members of the evaluation team will have to go to Kholmogory to check the premises, plan the positioning of different pieces of equipment and to advise on where water and electricity supply should be installed. This may happen in May/June 2015. - Once the equipment has been delivered (hopefully in July-August), the company and the evaluation team will have to go again to Kholmogory to install the equipment and put the laboratory into operation.
Main Activity A.1.2	The draft UNECE Explanatory Brochure for the Standard on Persimmons was

Developing explanatory brochures on the ECE standards for persimmons and dried apricots	<p>finalized at the technical meetings in Italy (October 2014) and in Geneva (November 2014). At its April 2015 session, the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables will decide whether to recommend the draft brochure to the Working Party for approval. It is expected that the brochure will be published by the end of 2015.</p> <p>A decision on starting work on the UNECE Explanatory Brochure for the Standard on Dried Apricots will be taken by the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce in June 2015.</p>
EA2	<i>Strengthened regional and international cooperation between national authorities, research institutions and the private sector in developing food safety and food traceability systems</i>
Main Activity A.2.1 Developing guidelines and recommendations on traceability in the food sector	<p>VNIIPP (Russian Research Institute for Poultry Processing Industry) prepared a comprehensive technical report on traceability in the poultry sector. The report consists of five parts: 1 - Traceability concept; 2- Technological and business processes; 3 - Traceability system concept; 4 - HACCP control points; 5 - Technical specifications. It is available on the UNECE website at: http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/promotion/promotioncapacitybuilding.html</p> <p>The guidelines and recommendations in the report are applicable to any branch in the food sector.</p>
Main Activity A.2.2 Workshop on traceability in the food sector	The recommendations of the VNIIPP report were used to design and put into operation a pilot system of traceability at the “Volzhanin” poultry processing enterprise in Rybinsk, Russian Federation. An international workshop was held at this enterprise on 3-4 October 2014 to disseminate the experience gained in developing an operational system of traceability. Experts from Belarus and Kazakhstan participated in the workshop.
Main Activity A.2.3 Developing ECE guides on: seed potato diseases, pests and defects; field inspection; and tuber inspection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNECE Guide to Seed Potato Diseases, Pests and Defects was published in July 2014 in 3200 copies (English - 2000, French - 200 and Russian - 1000). They were distributed on demand all over the world in less than two months. The Specialized Section has asked for an additional print of 1500 copies in English. 2. UNECE Guide to Seed Potato Field Inspection was approved by the Working Party at its session in November 2014. The English and Russian versions of the guide were sent to the UNOG Publishing Service to do the layout and printing. The French version is with the delegation of France for checking. 3. A draft of the UNECE Guide to Seed Potato Tuber Inspection was first discussed at the October session of the Specialized Section. It will be further discussed at the September 2015 session of the Extended Bureau who will decide on whether to recommend it to the Working Part for adoption. 4. A draft of the UNECE Guide to Operating a Seed Potato Certification Service has been prepared and will be discussed by the Extended Bureau at its meeting in September.
EA3	<i>Increased international cooperation of experts in breeding and testing new soybean varieties</i>
Main Activity A.3.1 Research and field work in Switzerland and the Russian Federation to breed new soybean varieties	<p>The trials of Russian and Swiss varieties for breeding purposes were carried out successfully in 2014 on Agroscope IPV fields in Changins, Switzerland. A scientific description of the promising results is available in the report downloadable from the UNECE website at: http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/promotion/promotioncapacitybuilding.html</p>
COMMENTS	
<i>(Please indicate if there were any problems with the execution of the project, changes to the implementation plan, or any other relevant information)</i>	
The implementation of the project was hampered by a 7-month delay in allocating the funds. Nevertheless, an excellent collaboration with country experts has allowed the secretariat to achieve most of the project goals and to advance	

significantly on those activities which remain as work-in-progress.

There is a high potential to obtain important practical results from the soybean project. Both the Russian and Swiss experts are interested in continuing the work on breeding new varieties. Financial support from the Russian Fund would help them continue this work.