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Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

**Specialized Section on Standardization
of Seed Potatoes**

Forty-fourth session

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Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
and the work of the Specialized Section**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the work of the Specialized Section*

The following document contains the mapping of UNECE's work on seed potatoes with the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets as well as a draft poster. They were developed by the delegations from Australia, Finland, France, and the United Kingdom with support from the secretariat.

The following table outlines the chosen and most relevant Sustainable Development Goals and their targets as well as comments by the delegations of the United Kingdom and France (highlighted). The draft poster in the Annex contains text submitted to the Specialized Section for review and adoption.

* Submitted on the above date to include all contributions of delegations.

The Work of the Specialized Section on Seed Potato and its alignment with SDGs and their targets

Goal 2. End hunger, food security, nutrition sustainable agriculture

<i>Selected SDG related to UNECE's work on seed potatoes (proposal by the delegations from Finland and the United Kingdom)</i>	<i>Comments by the delegation from the United Kingdom</i>	<i>Comments by the delegation from France</i>
<p>2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries</p>	<p>The work of the UNECE Specialized Section is focused on providing capacity-building tools and a forum for discussion between mature and developing certification bodies with the specific aim of increasing agricultural productivity through trade in high quality planting material.</p>	<p>The work of the UNECE Specialized Section is focused on providing capacity-building tools and a forum for discussion between mature and developing certification bodies with the specific aim of increasing agricultural productivity through the production and the trade in high quality planting material.</p>
<p>2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round</p>	<p>By setting out a harmonized quality standard defining characteristics recognized as providing planting material fit for purpose the standard provides a framework for Designated Authorities to discuss trade standards with a view to eliminating Technical Barriers to Trade. see also 17.10</p>	
<p>2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment</p>	<p>Strong national certification systems are most beneficial for small farmers who cannot implement internal production standards in the way larger agricultural companies can. National schemes provide a structured way for the Designated Authorities to support small farmers whilst maintaining high quality planting material in commerce, locally as well as internationally.</p>	

<i>Selected SDG related to UNECE's work on seed potatoes (proposal by the delegations from Finland and the United Kingdom)</i>	<i>Comments by the delegation from the United Kingdom</i>	<i>Comments by the delegation from France</i>
<p>2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality</p>	<p>Use of the United Nations seed potato standard and in particular implementation of national seed schemes create a framework for resilient production of potatoes. The transparent system which recognizes varieties allows for trade in the most resilient varieties bred for sustainable production.</p>	<p>(Other idea to develop: advantages of healthy seeds with good varietal identity and purity) Development of certified seed potatoes according the United Nations standard contributes to sustainable agriculture in making available for farmers a good planting material, which is a key asset to ensure a high productivity and a resilient quality of the ware potato production. Indeed, the use of seeds, preliminarily checked to be healthy and to correspond to the expected variety, allow growth of plants which are sufficiently vigorous and can express all the improved varietal characteristics to better face the environmental conditions and to use less chemicals. Moreover the limitation of the spread of diseases through the use of certified seeds contributes to preserving a healthy area of production.</p>
<p>2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed</p>	<p>The seed potato standard explicitly deals with the issue of genetic resources in covering the variety of the potatoes certified. In this way the standard balances the rights of intellectual property right holders with the needs of the grower in a coherent and transparent framework recognized internationally.</p>	<p>(France does not think that it is relevant to talk about the plant breeder rights, which is another topic and it gives the false impression that the United Nations standard is limited to protected varieties) The seed potato standard explicitly deals with the issue of genetic resources in covering the variety of the potatoes certified. In this way the United Nations standard which allows to ensure the varietal identity and purity, contributes to spread the diversity of varieties to the farmers.</p>

Goal 12. Sustainable consumption and production patterns

<i>Selected SDG related to UNECE's work on seed potatoes (proposal by the delegations from Finland and the United Kingdom)</i>	<i>Comments by the delegation from the United Kingdom</i>	<i>Comments by the delegation from France</i>
12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	The UNECE group discuss new scientific and technological methods for safeguarding the quality and therefore sustainability of potato production systems. The group disseminates best practice and is open to all authorities to participate.	
12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	Use of high-quality planting material is the cornerstone of sustainable agriculture.	
12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	Use of high-quality planting material is a key factor in eliminating production losses which includes the elimination of waste and foregone yield due to pests or other faults.	
12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	The existence of the UNECE standard allows international businesses to develop new varieties in one Designated Authority territory then trade material to another Designated Authority jurisdiction with confidence and transparency. This allows higher yielding or more disease resistant varieties to be deployed where they can best be used to enhance sustainable production.	
12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	Recent work by the UNECE group providing accessible information on implementing the certification scheme including on the identification and appropriate action for the control of diseases of potatoes is a good example of sharing knowledge to reduce the impact of our agricultural systems on nature.	

Goal 16. Peaceful and inclusive societies and access to justice

<i>Selected SDG related to UNECE's work on seed potatoes (proposal by the delegations from Finland and the United Kingdom)</i>	<i>Comments by the delegation from the United Kingdom</i>	<i>Comments by the delegation from France</i>
16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	Global standard setting is a mechanism for controlling the quality of produce circulating in international trade. The UNECE forum provides any countries wishing to participate in this activity with equal access to (and influence on) the development and implementation of the standard. Currently the group is proactively seeking out wider contribution including through holding informal meetings across the globe.	

Goal 17. Means of implementation and revitalize global partnership

<i>Selected SDG related to UNECE's work on seed potatoes (proposal by the delegations from Finland and the United Kingdom)</i>	<i>Comments by the delegation from the United Kingdom</i>	<i>Comments by the delegation from France</i>
17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.	The UN forum provides a venue for the relevant experts from DAs across the globe to discuss seed potato issues and share knowledge of best practice and new technology and science. The UNECE group regularly meet in in regions with the explicit aim of involving local expertise and sharing these with the wider group.	(Additional idea to develop : the standard is a common agreed reference) The UN forum provides a venue for the relevant experts from DAs across the globe to discuss seed potato issues and share knowledge of best practice and new technology and science. The UNECE group regularly meet in in regions with the explicit aim of involving local expertise and sharing these with the wider group. The UN standard is the result of debates and agreements on rules and norms between countries from very different regions of the world. Then, it provides to the countries a common reference, facilitating the exchanges and the cooperation.

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<p>17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda.</p>	<p>By setting out a harmonised quality standard defining characteristics recognised as providing planting material fit for purpose the standard provides a framework for DAs to discuss trade standards with a view to eliminating Technical Barriers to Trade. see also 2.b</p>	

Annex I

Seed Potato and SDG Posters: Draft designs



UNECE's Work on Seed Potatoes

2 ZERO HUNGER

- Provides a set of guiding principles that can be used to minimise the impact of yield limiting potato diseases, pests and other disorders. Thereby reducing the potential for crop failure and enhancing sustainable food security.
- Facilitates the production of good quality and resilient potato varieties in different geographic and climatic zones.
- Utilises and promotes the use of a common terminology associated with seed potato certification, which is internationally recognised, and provides a basis for sustainable trade. Importantly, the common terminology of the standard enables potato farmers to make informed assessment of seed potato quality.
- Plays a key role in the adoption of integrated pest management practices, thereby reducing the use and reliance on chemical pesticides, protecting the environment and maintaining viable production areas.
- Can assist the development and maintenance of National certification schemes to help small farmers obtain healthy planting material, improve production and yield of potato crops.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

- High quality planting material is a cornerstone for sustainable agriculture by providing the greatest yield potential.
- The quality standard for seed potatoes
 - facilitates the production of high quality seed potatoes that have the potential to achieve high yields per unit of land and less waste and foregone yield due to pests or other faults contributing to responsible production of potatoes.
 - promotes best practice for increased quality and yield of potatoes and ensures the efficient and effective utilisation of all inputs and natural resources used to produce potatoes (eg water, fertiliser) and maximise grower profit margins.
- Knowledge sharing at ECE on disease control helps reduce impact of the agricultural systems on the environment.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- Countries from across the world share best practices, new technologies, science and expertise among governments, private sectors, academia, and international organizations.
- The quality standard elaborated in close partnerships gives countries a common reference, makes exchanges and cooperation easier.
- Discussing standards in partnership and cooperation helps develop common frameworks and remove Technical Barriers to Trade.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

- UNECE is an open forum for all UN member states including developing countries and provides equal access to the development, training, implementation of the standards.
- The UNECE specialised section on seed potatoes facilitates the exchange of knowledge and practical experience involved in seed potato certification from around the world. In so doing, it enables seed certification schemes from around the world to build on existing local capacity and capability and provides the opportunity capture new technology and knowledge.

The Seed Potato standards are developed by the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

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UNECE's Work on Seed Potatoes and the Sustainable Development Goals



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