

REPORT

On the Outcomes of the Regional Workshop and Meeting of the Regional Working Group on preparation of the illustrations and samples for the Explanatory brochure on dried apricot produced in the Fergana Valley in accordance with the UNECE Standard DDP-15 concerning marketing and commercial quality control of dried apricots

Applied resources, Materials and Impact



October 30-31, 2017

Sugd Region, Tajikistan



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

I. Background

One of the main objectives of the CANDY-IV Program in the Central Asian region, implemented by a group of European and regional organizations, is the integration of Central Asian countries into the world economy.

Integration of the Central Asia into the world economy cannot be promoted and realized without harmonized trade rules and procedures, diversification of export, and market access for products from the region.

In order to promote the apricot produced in the Fergana Valley in foreign markets and to support the producers of the region in re-orientation of production on compliance with the requirements of the UNECE commercial standard, a mechanism of development of the Explanatory Brochure on dried apricot produced in the Fergana Valley in accordance with the UNECE Standard DDP-15, on the marketing and commercial quality control of dried apricots, has been agreed.

A Regional Working Group was established and assigned to prepare illustrations and samples relating to marketable state of dried apricot, aiming at developing the Explanatory Brochure.

Box 1.

The regional working group membership

The Working Group included representatives of the Association of Agricultural Producers and Exporters of Tajikistan, processors of dried apricots of the Batken province of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of the Standardization Bodies of the participating countries.

The activities of the Regional Working Group were supported by the international organization Hilfswerk Austria International in frame of the Project «Advanced Support Programme to Central Asian Business Intermediary Organizations - Specialized and Integrated Services for Export Oriented Food Processing SMEs –CANDY—IV», with the active participation of the Regional GIZ Programme «Trade facilitation in Central Asia» (TFCA) and the UNDP Regional Programme «Wider Europe: Aid for trade for Central Asia» funded by the Government of Finland.

The International Association of agriculture producers and exporters of the Tajikistan provides active support to the Regional Working Group.

The first meeting of the Regional Working Group took place from 16 till 18 May 2017, in Khujand, Tajikistan. The Working Group members agreed on the regional WG membership and the approaches to the development of a Draft of the Explanatory brochure according to the Standard DDP 15 concerning marketing and commercial quality control of dried apricots produced in the Fergana Valley.

The second meeting of the Regional Working Group took place from 30 to 31 October 2017 in Guliston, Tajikistan. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the draft of the

Explanatory brochure to the Standard DDP 15 concerning marketing and commercial quality control of dried apricots.

During the second meeting of the Regional Working Group, one-day capacity building training of dried apricot producing technologists was organized. They were enabled to assess the samples in accordance with the requirements of the Standard DDP-15 by classes, defects and other criteria. The training was held at the enterprise «ORO Isfara» in Isfara, Sugd Region, Tajikistan.

The International Association of Agricultural Producers and Exporters of Tajikistan (MAPEST) and Agency «Tajikstandart» played active role in the organization of the second meeting.

The Regional Working Group commitment is acknowledged by all stakeholders as an efficient regional cooperation platform to promote international standards based on example of the UNECE standard DDP -15.

II. Meeting Summary

The second regional meeting on development of an Explanatory brochure to the Standard DDP 15 concerning marketing and commercial quality control of dried apricots took place from 30 to 31 October 2017 in Guliston, Tajikistan.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss and agree on the developed draft of the Explanatory brochure to the Standard DDP 15.

Representatives of the standardization bodies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as business associations, producers, and processors from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the discussion.

On October 30, 2017, a one-day hands-on training for new participants was held, which enabled them to classify samples by classes, defects and other criteria in «ORO Isfara» in Isfara, Sughd region, Republic of Tajikistan. The trainers were representatives of the MAPEST Association, who demonstrated the requirements of the DDP-15 Standard on the example of specific dried apricot samples.

For MAPEST technologists in Isfara, a separate information session was held on 25 November 2017 prepared and facilitated by the quality inspector of the Ministry of Economy of Turkey, and with the support of the Hilfswerk Austria International project CANDY IV. The results of the training demonstrated the interest of the stakeholders and the great potential for further work.

The second day (October 31, 2017) was dedicated to the discussion of the draft Explanatory brochure. The meeting was opened by representatives of the Sugd Oblast Executive Body and the Agency «Tajikstandard» in the Sugd Region, who stressed the importance of the work carried out to jointly promote UNECE standards in the region. The regional working group is considered as an effective platform for promoting international standards.

In his welcoming speech, the representative of UNDP noted the effectiveness of the cycle of regional meetings that allow not only to coordinate the interests of the parties, but also to increase the level of knowledge and practice. The representative of Hilfswerk Austria International, evaluated of the work of the working group, and noted the importance of participation of standardization bodies, especially Uzstandard, who participated for the first time in this format.

In connection with the inclusion of more stakeholders in the regional WG, including representatives of standardization bodies, the experts first presented an introductory presentation highlighting the role of UNECE standards in promoting agricultural exports (the presentation is attached to the Report).

It was noted that the UNECE commercial standards for agricultural products play an important role in harmonizing the interests of consumers and producers of products from different countries. These standards cover the requirements for the manufactured products and characterize the product presentation.

After the informational and introductory part of the event, the participants proceed discussing the draft Explanatory brochure. The representative of MAPEST presented the first draft of the Brochure and noted that the training took considerable time, taking into account the collection of necessary samples.

The speaker presented photos and their description for each provision of the standard and individual paragraphs of the DDP 15. Participants in their comments, in general, approved the draft. It was suggested to:

- Replace a number of photos with new pictures, since existing photos do not correctly or do not fully describe a particular provision of the Standard. In a number of cases, photography does not correspond to the meaning of the text.
- Add more photos for new perspectives and grades.

The description of sampling presented in the annex to the main text was proposed to be deleted. The representatives of MAPEST pointed out that after the revision of the draft brochure by the involved experts, they will discuss the project within the Association and send it for approval of all participants of the Regional Working Group.

It was emphasized that the photographs of the Brochure should correspond to the analogues that are presented in the developed and approved Poster. An explanatory poster for producers and farmers in accordance with the UNECE Standard DDP-15 has been prepared by MAPEST in close cooperation with representatives of the «Markazi Idorakuniye Seafat» (MIS «Quality Management Centre»)

The representative of Hilswerk Austria International informed that 500 copies of the Poster in Russian, sent directly by the UNECE headquarters in Geneva, will be submitted to the three countries. Currently, the poster is being prepared for publication in national languages. The trial version of the Poster in the Tajik language was printed and presented to the participants. It was suggested to intensify the work on the preparation of the poster in Kyrgyz and Uzbek languages.

During the discussion, the participants focused on the visualization of participants in the Brochure and formalized procedures for their submission for approval. Two points of view were presented:

- An Explanatory guideline for the Central Asian Region and
- A Publication under the auspices of the UNECE.

The participants agreed upon the decision that the publication of the Brochure under the auspices of the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards will enhance the status of the Brochure and will create conditions for its recognition by major markets.

The participants agreed on the steps and conditions for preparing the documents for submission to the UNECE.

III. Main results of the meeting and work schedule

Content of the Explanatory Brochure to the UNECE Standard DDP-15 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of dried apricots:

- Representatives of MAPEST and MIS «Quality Management Centre» presented the draft Explanatory Brochure, which was approved.
- It was suggested to finalize the draft of the Brochure taking into account the recommendations submitted by the participants (add new photos with a new perspective and varieties of apricot, a number of photos should be replaced)
- MAPEST and MIS «Quality Management Centre» expressed their willingness to send the Brochure to the participants of the Working Group at the soonest, after the expert group review and approval.

Visualization of the parties involved in the Explanatory Brochure

- Participants agreed to promote the Brochure through the UNECE in order to gain recognition by large consumer markets for dried apricots.
- International organizations and standardization bodies will create conditions for organizing the process of recognition by the UNECE.
- It was suggested to visualize the participants of the Regional Working Group on the inside of the Brochure, in a note, in a separate box.

Information sessions on raising awareness of the DDP-15 Standard

- The need to increase the number of information seminars and sessions for producers of dried apricots on the provisions of the DDP 15 standard was stressed, especially for producers from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.
- MAPEST experts who initiated trainings in Tajikistan expressed their readiness to help organize trainings in Batken oblast (Kyrgyzstan) and Uzbekistan.
- It was proposed to organize a training course for regional inspectors (standardization bodies and processing enterprises) in Turkey, with the participation of inspectors from the Ministry of Economy of Turkey as experts.

Promotion of other UNECE standards on agricultural products

- In order to implement the tasks according to the first meeting of the working group, it was decided that the Agency «Tajikstandard» prepare a letter of request to for support for the development of Posters for UNECE standards for fresh persimmons and quinces and other products
- Standardization bodies of Uzbekistan together with manufacturers will study the issue of participation in the process of changes in the UNECE Standard for raisins.

IV. Conclusion

The meeting of processors and representatives of standardization bodies was constructive and fruitful, and met the expectations of the organizers.

Commitments have been made to fulfill the following tasks:

1. Associations of MAPEST and MIS «Quality Management Centre» shall present a revised draft explanatory brochure for consideration by the participants of the Regional Working Group

2. The organizers of the meeting (HWA, GIZ /TFCA & UNDP AFT) will prepare materials for holding information sessions to raise awareness of business and government representatives about the UNECE Standard DDP-15
3. The standardization bodies will consider organizing information sessions and will discuss organizational matters with the local offices of GIZ /TFCA & UNDP AFT.
4. MAPEST will provide expert assistance in conducting training for technical personnel of enterprises to increase their capacity to classify samples by classes, defects and other criteria in accordance with the requirements of the DDP-15 standard, if contacted by interested parties.
5. Hilfswerk Austria International experts will coordinate the implementation of the tasks and provide electronic communication among the members of the Working Group.
6. Agency «Tajikstandart» will prepare an official request for support for the development of Posters for other standards.
7. Hilfswerk Austria International, together with GIZ / TFCA and UNDP AFT, will consider the possibility of organizing and holding the next meeting of the Regional Working Group.

V. Annex 1. Programme

Arrival of the participants - 29 October 2017 Place – Training Center of National Bank of the Tajikistan, Sugd, Guliston (www.tcnbt.tj)		
FIRST DAY – 30 October 2017: Training for technical staff (dried apricot production technologists) of the enterprises: Enhance the capacity to assess the samples in accordance with the requirements of the Standard DDP-15		
07:30-09:20, Trip to Isfara		
09:20-09:25	Welcome, goals and tasks of practical training	Aslanov Umed
09.40-10.50	Preparing Samples by classes/ sort	Expert of the IAPEAT
10.00-10.25	Preparing Samples by size	Expert of the IAPEAT
10.25 – 10.35 Break		
10.35 -10.55	Preparing Samples by defects	Expert of the IAPEAT
10.55 -11.20	Preparing Samples by uniformity	Expert of the IAPEAT
11.20-11.45	Preparing Samples by tolerances	Expert of the IAPEAT
11.45 -12.10	Preparing Samples by marking	Expert of the IAPEAT
12.10-13.10 Lunch		
13.10-14.10	Practical work in Group	Expert of the IAPEAT
14.10 -14.40	Presentation of working result	Participants
14.40-14.50	Questions & Answers	Participants
14.50-15.10 Break		
15.10-16.10	Practical work in Group	Expert of the IAPEAT
16.10-16.40	Presentation of working result	Participants
16.40-16.50	Questions & Answers	Participants
16.50-17.00	Conclusion	Participants
17.00-18.50	Trip to Guliston	
SECIND DAY – 31 October 2017 II meeting of the Regional Working Group: discussion of the draft brochure		
Place: Guliston, Sugd, Tajikistan		
08:30-09:00, Registration		
09:00-09:05	Welcome, goals and tasks of meeting	Regional Government
09.05 -09.10	Overview of the results on preparation of the draft Explanatory brochures	Aslanov Umed

09.10 -12.00	Discussion of the draft explanatory brochure by chapters	
09.10-09.25	Introduction of the UNECE Standard DDP 15	Hilfswerk Austria International Expert
09.25-09.35	Chapter 1. Definition of product Participants' Feedback	Working Group members
09.35-10.00	Chapter 2. Provisions concerning quality - explanation of the minimum requirements -explanation of the moisture content - classification	Expert of the MIS «Quality Management Centre» Expert of the IAPEAT
10.00-10.10	Participants' Feedback	Working Group members
10.00-10.25	Chapter 3. Provisions concerning sizing -the number of fruit per kilogram - diameter	Expert of the MIS «Quality Management Centre» Expert of the IAPEAT
10.25-10.35	Participants' Feedback	
10.35 -10.55 Break		
10.55-11.20	Chapter 4. Provisions concerning tolerances - quality tolerances - size tolerances	Expert of the MIS «Quality Management Centre» Expert of the IAPEAT
11.20-11.30	Participant's opinion	
11.30-11.55	Chapter 5. Provisions concerning presentation - uniformity - packaging	Expert of the MIS «Quality Management Centre» Expert of the IAPEAT
11.55-12.05	Participants' Feedback	
12.05 -13.35 Lunch		
13.35-14.00	Chapter 6. Provisions concerning marking -identification - nature of produce - origin of produce - commercial specifications	Expert of the MIS «Quality Management Centre» Expert of the IAPEAT
14.00-14.10	Conclusion	Participants
14.10-17.00	Comments to the final Brochure draft	Working Group members
	Discussion of the further Action Plan (translation to the national language final design, introduction issues and etc.	
17.00-17.30 Wrap up of Workshop and Meeting		
01 November 2017: Departure		

VI. Annex 2. List of participants

Nº	Participant	Organization	Contact
1.	Kobilov Najmidin	IAPEAT ¹	n.kobilov@mail.ru
2.	Buzurukov Jamshed	IAPEAT	buzuryzoda@mail.ru
3.	Abdufattoev Firdavs	IAPEAT	firdavs3462@gmail.com
4.	Pochoeva Farangis	IAPEAT	p_farangiza@mail.ru
5.	Osimi Jakhongir	MIS «QMS Centre» / Tajikistan	jahongirkhon@gmail.com
6.	Qobilov Mirzoravshan	MIS «QMS Centre» / Tajikistan	mirzoravshan.qobilov@qmc.tj
7.	Rahimzoda Abdumavlon	Director of the Sugd regional standardization, metrology, certification and trade inspection center, «Tajik standard»	info@standard. Tj rahimzoda_1965@mail.ru
8.	Samadova Nilufar	Specialist , Sugd Regional standardization, metrology, certification and trade inspection Center, «Tajik standard»	Nilufar7007@gmail.com
9.	Kodirov Amonullo	Head of QMS, Agency «Tajik standard »,	Amonullo85@mail.ru
10.	Aslamov Umed	Hilfswerk Austria International	umed.aslanov@rambler.ru
11.	Kodirov Abdumavlon	Representative of local government of Sugd	kodiroff_76@mail.ru
12.	Bolot Abdylidaev	Production cooperative «Mol Tushum», Kyrgyzstan	abdirashit@mail.ru
13.	Tolomushev Tursunali	Apricot processing cooperative «Alysh Dan», Kyrgyzstan	alyshdan@gmail.com
14.	Bejshenkulova Ajgynush	Kyrgyz standard	beku-2008@inbox.ru
15.	Alymbaeva Ajgul	Kyrgyz standard	a.alymbaeva@nism.gov.kg
16.	Safarov Sherali	Ministry of agriculture of the RT	sherali-2009@mail.ru
17.	Beksultanov Ermek	State Agency on investment and export promotion of the Ministry of the Economy of Kyrgyzstan	ertobek@gmail.com
18.	Zarina Nigmatova	GIZ TFCA	zarina.nigmatova@giz.de
19.	Dilafruz Mavlyanova	UNDP	dilafruz.mavlyanova@undp.org
20.	Abdulatif Rahmatov	Agency «UZ standard»	TR@standart.uz, uz-standart@mail.ru
21.	Basila Abdulaeva	Agency «UZ standard»	abdullaeva.v.t@mail.ru
22.	Abdukarim Parpiev	Agency «Tajik standard»	
23.	Balkhiev, Zafar	GIZ TFCA	zafar.balkhiev@giz.de
24.	Shodieva M.	Local executive body	ekonomikk@mail.ru

¹ International Association of Producers and Exporters of Agriproducts of Tajikistan