



REPORT

On the results of the meeting of the Third Central Asian Working Group for Promotion of Quality and Commercial Standards of Agricultural Produce in Central Asia (expanded composition)



November 12-13, 2018

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic



Abbreviations

| | |
|------------|--|
| CA | Central Asia |
| CAWG | Central Asian Working Group |
| NTG | National Technical Group |
| NTG RT | National Technical Group in the Republic of Tajikistan |
| NTG RU | National Technical Group in the Republic of Uzbekistan |
| NTG RK | National Technical Group in the Republic of Kazakhstan |
| NTG KR | National Technical Group in Kyrgyz Republic |
| WG | Working Group |
| UNECE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| MAPEST | International Association of Producers and Exporters of Agricultural Produce of Tajikistan |
| QMC | Quality Management Center |
| HWI | Hilfswerk International |
| GIZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Program |
| GIZ / TFCA | GIZ Regional Program "Trade Facilitation in central Asia" (TFCA) |
| UNDP/AFT | UNDP Regional Project "Wider Europe: Aid for Trade for Central Asia" financed by the Government of Finland |
| CANDY – IV | Improved business intermediary organization support program – specialized and comprehensive services for export oriented SMEs in the processing sector |
| DDP -07 | UNECE standard related to sales and commercial quality control for PRUNES |
| DDP -15 | UNECE standard related to sales and commercial quality control for DRIED APRICOTS |
| FFV-25 | UNECE standard related to sales and commercial quality control for ONIONS |
| FFV-29 | UNECE standard related to sales and commercial quality control for PLUMS |
| FFV-63 | UNECE standard related to sales and commercial quality control for PERSIMMONS |
| UNECE | The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |

I. Context

Given the current trends for globalization and increased demand for food, the Central Asian region, with its great capacity for production of fresh and dried fruit and vegetable products, has to address a number of complex issues related to diversification of traditional markets and find new markets for selling its agricultural produce.

Production of fruit and vegetables is of high social and economic importance for the region, as it helps engage substantial labor resources.

The region's fresh and dried fruit and vegetable product industry is mainly export-oriented, boosting the countries' ability to address their social and economic problems.

We should note that acknowledging international standards and re-orienting the local producers to follow them plays a key role in reforms related to diversification and locating new sales markets for the local agricultural produce.

UNECE commercial standards, related to sales and commercial quality control of agricultural produce, play an important role among other international standards required by the main global markets in Europe, USA and Asia.

Central Asian countries have reached a certain level in implementing and promoting UNECE standards over the last two years.

Originally established by the business community, the Central Asian Working Group for Promotion of UNECE Standards Related to Sales and Commercial Quality Control of Agricultural Produce (hereinafter, the Central Asian Working Group) was supported by the governments of the region, and managed to find solutions to the following issues related to implementation of UNECE commercial standards:

- Amended UNECE Standard DDP 15 and started its implementation among regional producers;
- Initiated a review of the standards for prunes and plums, development of a new standard for dried melons and development of explanatory posters to UNECE standards for onions, persimmons, plums and prunes;
- Coordinated the regional countries' policy with regards to agricultural produce.

The activities of the Central Asian Working Group were recognized by the Working Group for UNECE Agricultural Standards at UN headquarters in Geneva.

Figure 1. Activities of the Central Asian Working Group



Meeting I

- Initiated development of an explanatory brochure for UNECE DDP 15 standard (dried apricot)
- Approved an explanatory poster to UNECE DDP 15 standard



Meeting II

- Approved and submitted a draft explanatory brochure to UNECE DDP 15 standard to UNECE Commission
- Initiated a working plan for promoting UNECE DDP 15 standard (NTG established)
- Initiated amendments to UNECE standards



Meeting III

- Agreed CAWG strategy for promotion of UNECE standards
- Initiated a new direction in CAWG work

Considering the established mechanism for cooperation in the region, and taking into account the Fergana Valley countries' strategy to diversify sales markets for agricultural produce, the **third regional meeting of the Central Asian Working Group** was held on **12-13 November 2018**, summarizing the results of work conducted in 2017 and 2018 and discussing the issues of organizing further cooperation in the platform, including other aspects related to promotion of Central Asian produce.

The third regional meeting of the Central Asian Working Group was supported by several international organization projects, whose activities are related to promoting exports of agricultural produce from Central Asia, including:

- Hilfswerk International, as part of its project "CANDY-IV", funded by the EU-Programme "Central Asia Invest IV"
- GIZ Regional Program "Trade Facilitation in central Asia" (TFCA)
- UNDP Regional Project "Wider Europe: Aid for Trade for Central Asia", financed by the Government of Finland

II. Brief Summary of the Meeting

The third regional meeting of the Central Asian Working Group dedicated to promoting quality standards in Central Asia took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 12-13 November 2018.

The main goal of the meeting was to discuss plans for further cooperation and to produce a coordinated position on the projects currently being implemented by the Central Asian Working Group (CAWG).

Objectives:

- Summarize the results of works completed in 2017-2018;

- Develop a strategy and plans for further cooperation.

The discussion involved representatives of key Ministries and standards agencies in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, representatives of the EU Delegation in Tajikistan, the international organisations GIZ, UNDP and HWI, business associations, as well as agricultural producers and processors from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

Day One of the Working Group meeting was dedicated to reviewing the results of CAWG and NTG (national technical group) operations in 2017-2018. The participants listened to the CAWG Secretary's report on the implementation of objectives agreed during the two previous meetings.

The CAWG Secretary covered current issues and prospects for cooperation. In particular, he mentioned that CAWG is being expanded with stakeholders from the Republic of Kazakhstan.

As the next step in the agenda, the participants listened to the reports by the National Technical Groups (NTG) established by CAWG members and standards agencies in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. In particular, along with organizational issues, NTG representatives included the following aspects in their presentations:

- NTG Uzbekistan presented the process of promoting (at the UNECE meeting in Geneva) and developing the Standard for dried melons. It also presented update on testing the draft new standard for dried melons and the issues of SME interaction;
- NTG Kyrgyzstan presented information on the status of amendments to the existing DDP-07 standard for dried plums;
- NTG Tajikistan informed the participants about the progress in drafting explanatory posters for onions and persimmons. APEAT (Association of producers and exporters of Agriproducts of Tajikistan) representatives updated on the status of implementation of DDP-15 standard for dried apricots.

The NTG presentations resulted in an intense discussion. In particular, NTG representatives from all countries emphasized the importance of using the right terminology when identifying the defects and when preparing the clarification posters, etc. Not all the employees involved in NTG work have the relevant knowledge and skills to work with UNECE standards. It was suggested to send a glossary of terms developed by UNECE, to all CAWG participants. The participants also suggested complementing the Standards with references to terms used and engaging international experts (UNECE) to consult NTGs and build their capacity.

Next, NTG (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan) introduced the current draft explanatory posters to CAWG members:

- NTG Tajikistan presented:
 - Draft explanatory poster on the quality defects of fresh onions (including a review of FFV-25 standard)
 - Draft explanatory poster on the quality defects of fresh persimmons (including a review of FFV-63 standard)
- NTG Uzbekistan presented the following issues for discussion:
 - CAWG action plan for promoting UNECE standard for dried melons
 - CAWG action plan for promoting UNECE standard for dried grapes
- NTG Kyrgyzstan presented:
 - Draft explanatory poster on the quality defects of fresh plums (including a review of FFV-29 standard)
 - Draft explanatory poster on the quality defects of prunes (dried plums) (including a review of DDP-07 standard)

Along with these technical issues, CAWG members discussed the issues of translating the posters into local languages, final review and design, printing, etc. The participants also suggested setting specific deadlines for finishing each draft.

CAWG members paid special attention to the issue of negotiating awareness-raising meetings with industry representatives (producers and exporters of onions, persimmons, melons and plums). They emphasized the importance of organizing and conducting information seminars on commercial quality and marketable appearance of the produce using explanatory materials. It was suggested to produce a manual for conducting the awareness-raising meetings/sessions. As a separate issue, it was suggested to review the need to organize and conduct brief information sessions and seminars for producers of dried apricots on the provisions of DDP-15 standard, particularly for producers from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Day Two (13 November 2018) of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the CAWG strategy and mechanisms of interaction between CAWG and NTG (national technical group), as well as defining new areas of activity and action plans for CAWG and NTG.

At the beginning of the session, representatives of UNDP Regional Project “Wider Europe: Aid for Trade for Central Asia” informed the meeting of their intentions to conduct studies on value chain and selected products in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. It was mentioned that the project is considering the possibility to get UNDP involved in CAWG and NTG activities for selected products and value chains.

Next, a representative from the CAWG Secretariat and an independent expert presented the CAWG strategy for discussion. They emphasized that CAWG main goal is to assist the promotion of the interests of export-oriented participants and products in the external markets. A key area in this work is the promotion of UNECE Standards, in which a certain progress has been achieved to date.

With regards to the promotion of UNECE standards, CAWG has established a proven working format (methods for promoting changes/amendments to the standards in the interests of regional producers, and explanatory materials facilitating growing the produce, packaging and transportation in accordance with the current regulations and lobbying the respective standards), as well as specific topics for discussion and interaction structure (regular CAWG meetings, NTG formation and the availability of the Secretariat ensuring coordination and interaction between the countries). The countries have expressed interest in the program, which is supported by international institutions.

This aspect of the Strategy provides for categorization and regulation of the established relations, namely:

- Expanding the responsibilities of competent authorities in each country for supporting NTG work, given the support for the principles of private-public partnership and dialog. It should be noted that CAWG is a private-sector initiative, and it has to be developed further in the interests of all stakeholders;
- Defining the responsibility for establishing the Secretariat and its format;
- Defining the intervals of CAWG meetings and instruments for interaction with NTG

While discussing the format and methods for interaction, the participants agreed on an interaction structure given the tasks defined in the short run (CAWG and NTG structure is presented in Annex 2).

The participants were also presented another future working area regarding the promotion of exports from Central Asia, which involves developing instruments and methods for raising awareness about regional (Central Asian) produce in the foreign markets. A representative of the State Patent Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Programme Manager and Attaché of the EU Delegation in Tajikistan provided comprehensive input to the topic and

clarified different aspects of the GI and its advantages for the food sector in Central Asia. The discussions of the new working area for CAWG – raising awareness of Central Asian produce by implementing GI (Geographical Indication) – showed a substantial interest among the majority of CAWG members. The participants suggested studying the issue further in order to determine legal framework and institutions through which the work can be conducted.

During the CAWG meeting, national NTGs held national discussions and developed draft action plans for the NTGs. The drafts were generally approved by CAWG members, subject to approval in each specific country before making a summary presentation to CAWG Secretariat. Draft action plans for different NTGs are presented in Annex 3.

Overall, CAWG meeting was very constructive and met the organizers' expectations.

III. Conclusions

3.1 Key directions in CAWG operations

Further promotion of UNECE standards for agricultural produce

- CAWG Secretariat shall send a glossary of terms used in UNECE to all CAWG participants by the end of November 2018;
- Review the issue so adding links to the terms used in standards;
- Build NTG capacity, possibly by engaging international (UNECE) experts to consult the NTG. For this purpose, CAWG Secretariat shall hold negotiations with UNECE Secretariat to engage the experts for online consultations and coaching sessions;
- CAWG Secretariat, together with NTG in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan shall organize awareness-raising sessions and seminars for producers of dried apricots on the requirements of DDP-15 Standard, particularly for producers from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan;
- National NTGs shall review the issue of conducting awareness-raising sessions for the farmers, engaging exporters and processors;
- National NTGs shall ensure that all explanatory and other materials are posted on the standards authorities' websites

Objectives for specific projects:

Explanatory poster on fresh onions:

- NTG Tajikistan shall complete the development of draft explanatory poster on fresh onions by 31 January 2019 and send the draft to NTGs in other countries by 28 February 2019. National NTGs shall review the draft poster over one month (by end of March 2019) and send their comments to the developers. The recommendations shall include changes to the photographs of defects. Names of the defects and structure of the explanatory poster shall not be amended;
- After receiving recommendations and proposals from other NTGs and CAWG, NTG Tajikistan shall amend the draft by the end of April 2019 and send the final version of the explanatory poster on fresh onions to the CAWG Secretariat;
- When developing and finalizing the explanatory poster on fresh onions, one variety of onions shall be used if possible.

Explanatory poster on fresh persimmons:

- NTG Tajikistan shall complete the development of draft explanatory poster by 31 January 2019 and sends the draft to NTGs in other countries by 28 February 2019. National NTGs in other countries shall review the draft poster over one month (by end of March 2019) and send their comments to the developers. The

recommendations shall include changes to the photographs of defects. Names of the defects and structure of the explanatory poster shall not be amended;

- After receiving recommendations and proposals from other NTGs, NTG Tajikistan shall amend the draft by the end of April 2019 and send the final version of the explanatory poster on fresh persimmons to the CAWG Secretariat.

Explanatory poster on dried plums:

- NTG Kyrgyzstan is responsible for the development of draft explanatory poster for dried plums and sending the draft to NTGs in other countries. NTG Tajikistan shall provide consultancy support to NTG Kyrgyzstan, considering the addition of defects for pitted dried plums (it is suggested to add two columns: one for whole dried plums and one for pitted dried plums)
- NTG Kyrgyzstan shall complete the development of draft explanatory poster on dried plums by 01 January 2019 and send the draft to NTGs in other countries by 31 January 2019. National NTGs shall review the draft poster over one month (by end of February 2019) and send their comments to NTG Kyrgyzstan. The recommendations and changes to the explanatory poster shall include changes to the photographs of defects. Names of the defects and structure of the explanatory poster shall not be amended;
- Within one month after receiving recommendations and proposals from other NTGs, NTG Kyrgyzstan shall amend the draft explanatory poster and send the final version to the CAWG Secretariat.

Explanatory poster on fresh plums:

- NTG Kyrgyzstan is responsible for the development of draft explanatory poster for fresh plums and sending the draft to NTGs in other countries;
- NTG Kyrgyzstan, after reviewing the standards and discussing with the experts, shall select and coordinate with CAWG Secretariat (engaging CAWG participants) the type and variety of plums for the development of explanatory poster on fresh plums;
- NTG Kyrgyzstan shall consider the option of developing two versions of the poster on fresh plums: one describing the quality defects of fresh plums for immediate consumption (B2C), the other explanatory poster for the produce intended for industrial processing (B2B);
- NTG Kyrgyzstan shall complete the development of draft explanatory poster on fresh plums by 30 September 2019 and send the draft to NTGs in other countries by 31 October 2019. National NTGs shall review the draft poster over one month and send their comments to NTG Kyrgyzstan. The recommendations and changes to the explanatory poster shall include changes to the photographs of defects. Names of the defects and structure of the explanatory poster shall not be amended;
- Within one month after receiving recommendations and proposals from other NTGs, NTG Kyrgyzstan shall amend the draft explanatory poster and send the final version of the explanatory poster on fresh plums to the CAWG Secretariat.

Explanatory poster on dried melons:

- NTG Uzbekistan shall complete the development of draft explanatory poster on dried melons by 01 January 2019 and send the draft to NTGs in other countries by 31 January 2019. National NTGs shall review the draft poster over one month (by end of February 2019), prepare their comments and recommendations and return the feedback to NTG Uzbekistan;
- Within one month after receiving recommendations and proposals from other NTGs, NTG Uzbekistan shall amend the draft explanatory poster and present the final version of the document to the CAWG Secretariat;

- The decision on the final version of the explanatory poster for dried onions shall be made by CAWG participants after a review and adoption of the final version of the standard at the upcoming UNECE meeting in Geneva;
- NTG Uzbekistan shall launch a testing process for the draft version of the UNECE standard DDP-?? for dried melons and prepare a report on the results for the next meeting of the Specialized Section for the Development of Standards for Dried Produce in Geneva (May-June 2019).

Promoting GI “geographical indications”

- Proposals on promoting geographical indications as an awareness-raising tool have been taken into account by CAWG members;
- CAWG Secretariat shall develop terms of reference for assessing legal issues on geographical indications in the four countries (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan) and coordinate with the four national NTGs. Based on the discussion results, a funding opportunity will be sought together with international organizations;
- CAWG Secretariat shall prepare an information material on geographical indications and send it to CAWG members.
- The EU Delegation in Tajikistan expressed its interest to support this initiative by initiating and organizing an international conference on Geographical Indications in March-April 2019 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

3.2 Conclusions on further interaction and cooperation methods within CAWG

CAWG and NTGs

- It has been stated that CAWG is a collective body for coordinating the approaches and roadmaps for implementation of quality standards among regional producers, which consists of producers and exporters, representatives of business structures (associations, consultancy companies) and government institutions from the four countries (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan) and international organizations;
- CAWG meetings shall be held at least once a year. As necessary, CAWG may decide on conducting additional meetings during a year;
- It was suggested to hold the next meeting in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The decision on the date and venue of the meeting shall be made by NTG Uzbekistan and coordinated with other CAWG participants via the Secretariat;
- The Secretariat shall summarize the plans for national NTGs (following an internal approval process) and develop a single CAWG plan.

The Secretariat

- It has been stated that CAWG Secretariat is a body responsible for support of the CAWG operations, including organizing meetings, coordinating NTG activities, approving various issues related to CAWG operations, monitoring decisions and facilitating the implementation of CAWG resolutions, representing and promoting CAWG interests in other platforms;
- The Secretariat consists of: Secretariat Coordinator and 4 NTG representatives from the four NTG member states: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan;
- By general vote, HWI Representative in Tajikistan Umed Aslanov was appointed the CAWG Secretariat Coordinator;
- National NTGs present their candidates for the Secretariat via internal vote;

- CAWG Secretariat shall by 01 January 2019 amend the Regulation on CAWG Secretariat and develop terms of reference for the CAWG Coordinator and Secretariat members (NTG representatives).

National Technical Groups (NTG):

- NTGs are groups responsible for implementing the resolutions made at CAWG meetings in their respective countries: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan;
- Resolution on the NTG composition and structure shall be made by the respective Group's members;
- It is recommended that NTGs are composed of representatives from the government, business structures (associations and consultancy companies) and private sector, depending on the NTG work directions. NTGs can engage single-subject specialists as necessary. Each NTG shall elect a Coordinator (who will represent the NTG at the Secretariat level);
- NTGs can consist of several Working Groups specializing in different work areas and topics;
- NTG Tajikistan shall consist of the representatives of the government, associations, consultancy and private sector companies; depending on the specifics of NTG operation, it may also engage single-subject specialists;
- NTG will have the following responsibilities and authorities:
 - Studying and devising proposals for amending existing and/or developing new UNECE quality standards in the interests of national/regional actors;
 - Developing explanatory and information materials;
 - Developing the conditions for implementing quality standards into practice;
 - Conducting information sessions;
- It has been agreed that NTGs together with CAWG Secretariat shall make the respective changes to the NTG regulations by 01 January 2019;
- National NTGs shall approve draft work plans and present them to the Secretariat for communication and further work;
- It has been proposed that the next meeting of the national NTGs shall be held in March-April 2019 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. NTG Tajikistan shall be responsible for organizing and conducting the meeting, in cooperation with international organizations;
- The Secretariat shall discuss with international organizations the issue of technical support of NTGs in the four countries, which includes photographic facilities and equipment and special accessories (photo boxes) for producing high-quality and precise shots of produce samples to be reflected in the respective explanatory materials;
- NTGs shall submit to the Secretariat a list of topics and areas in which NTG members need capacity-building. CAWG Secretariat will summarize the results and hold negotiations with UNECE to engage consultants and conduct practical trainings (quality inspection methods, defects, allowances, etc.);
- CAWG Secretariat shall organize experience sharing between NTGs in member countries and thematic meetings;

NTG Tajikistan:

- NTG Tajikistan consists of representatives from the following bodies:
 - Executive staff of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan (**as observer**);
 - Agency for Standardization, Metrology, Certification and Trade Inspection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (TajikStandard);

- Scientific Center for Plant Protection under the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- State Committee for Investment and Management of State Property of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Export Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- International Association of Agricultural Producers and Exporters of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Quality Management Center;
- Center for Implementation of Private-Public Partnership projects;
- Representatives of government authorities, QMC and MAPEST are engaged in the NTG as permanent members;
- NTG Tajikistan voted the following persons as NTG Coordinator and NTG Representative at CAWG Secretariat:
 - Nozahnin Isomuddinova, representative of the Scientific Center for Plant Protection under the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan, has been appointed NTG coordinator;
 - Sitorai Sherzod, Deputy Director of the Agency for Standardization, Metrology, Certification and Trade Inspection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (TajikStandard), has been appointed NTG Tajikistan representative at the CAWG Secretariat.

NTG Kyrgyzstan:

- NTG Kyrgyzstan is composed of the following representatives:
 - Center for Standardization and Metrology under the Ministry of Economy of Kyrgyz Republic (KyrgyzStandard);
 - Agency for Promotion and Protection of Investment of Kyrgyz Republic;
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Amelioration of Kyrgyz Republic;
 - Agrarian Platform of Kyrgyzstan Public Organization;
 - Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyrgyz Republic;
 - Universities
- The Working Group on Dried Plums (a decision was made at the NTG Kyrgyzstan meeting to establish a Working Group for Development and Amendment of Standards on Prunes) is composed of the following representatives:
 - Center for Standardization and Metrology (Dinara Aitmurzaeva);
 - BIO Service consultancy company (Buzhar Raimkulova, Nurmat Erkinabiev);
 - Prune producers (Aizhan Duulatov and Maskat Torobekov);
 - AFC Consultants International LTD consultancy company, Chinara Serkebaeva)
- NTG Kyrgyzstan voted the following persons as NTG Coordinator and NTG Representative at CAWG Secretariat:
 - Dinara Aitmurzaeva, representative of the Center for Standardization and Metrology under the Ministry of Economy of Kyrgyz Republic, has been appointed NTG coordinator;
 - Salmoorbek Asanaliev has been appointed NTG Kyrgyzstan representative at the CAWG Secretariat.

NTG Kazakhstan:

- NTG Kazakhstan is composed of the following entity representatives:
 - Kazakh Association of Sugar Processing Industry;

- Kazakhstan Institute of Standardization and Certification (KazInst);
 - Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
 - “Atameken” National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan.
- Aizhan Nauruzgalieva, representative of Kazakh Association of Sugar Processing Industry, has been appointed NTG coordinator

NTG Uzbekistan:

- NTG Uzbekistan is composed of the following entity representatives:
 - Uzbek Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (UzStandard Agency);
 - Ministry of Food Industry of Uzbekistan;
 - Private companies: LLC JAXON EXIM GROUP, LLC ALIMKHAN EXIM
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Tashkent State Agrarian University.
- Abdulatip Rakhmatov, representative of UzStandard agency, has been appointed NTG coordinator

IV. Annex 1. Agenda

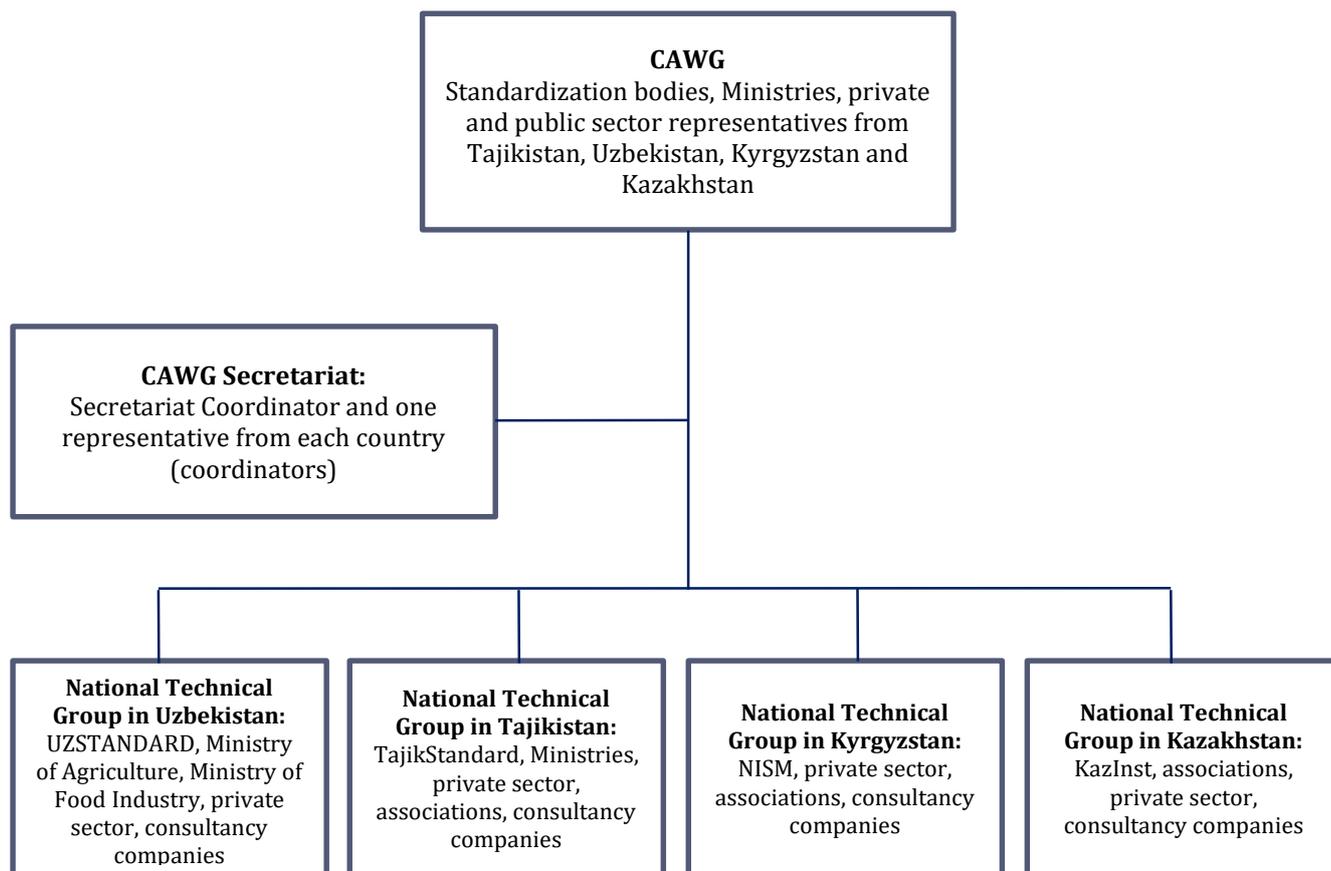
| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Arrival of the participants – 11 of November (throughout the day) 2018 | | | | |
| DAY ONE – 12 of November 2018 | | | | |
| Venue: Park Hotel, Bishkek, Orozbekov str 87, tel: +996 (312) 622694. | | | | |
| Day One | | | | |
| 08:30-09:00, Registration | | | | |
| | | | | Center for Standardization and Metrology under the Ministry of Economy Of the Kyrgyz Republic "Kyrgyzstandart " |
| 09:00-09:30 | Welcome speech on the importance of the Geographical Indication (GI) for the promotion of Central Asian agricultural products | | | Mr. Francesco Straniero, Programme Manager Attaché Delegation of the European Union to Tajikistan |
| | Welcome speech | | | UNDP AFT |
| | Welcome speech | | | GIZ TFCA |
| 09:30-09:40 | Goals and objectives | | | Umed Aslanov |
| Monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the Central Asian Working Group (CAWG) | | | | |
| 09:40-09:50 | Review of the results achieved in 2017 – 2018 | | | Umed Aslanov |
| 09:50 – 10:40 | NTG reports on the work completed in 2018: NTG Tajikistan report (status of the projects on clarification posters for onions and persimmons, clarification brochure for dried apricots (DDP-15), including the results of UNECE DDP meeting in Geneva; NTG Tajikistan report by APEAT (Association of Producers and Exporters of Agriproducts of Tajikistan) on the status of DDP-15 implementation into production; | | | Representatives of NTG Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | <p>NTG Uzbekistan report (results of UNECE DDP meeting in Geneva, update on trials of the new standard for dried melons, promoting the standards/meetings with SMEs)</p> <p>NTG Kyrgyzstan report (results of UNECE DDP meeting in Geneva, status of DDP-07 standard trials and discussions, promoting the standards/meeting with SMEs)</p> | |
| 10.40 -11.00 Coffee break | | |
| Current projects of the <i>Central Asian Working Group (CAWG)</i> | | |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | Draft explanatory poster on quality defects for fresh onions (including a review of FFV-25 standard) | Mirzoravshan Kobilov, speaking on behalf of the initiative group |
| 11:20 – 11:30 | Participants' feedback, discussion | CAWG members |
| 11:30 – 11:50 | Discussing further actions (translation into local languages, finalizing the design, printing, implementation issues, etc.) | TajikStandard |
| 11:50 – 12:00 | Participants' feedback, discussion | CAWG members |
| 12:00 – 12:20 | Draft explanatory poster on quality defects for fresh persimmons (including a review of FFV-63 standard) | Mirzoravshan Kobilov, speaking on behalf of the initiative group |
| 12:20 – 12:40 | Discussion of the actions (translation into local languages, finalizing the design, printing, implementation issues, etc.) | CAWG members |
| 12:40 – 13:00 | Negotiating issues related to conducting information meetings sector representatives (producers and exporters of onion and persimmons) | TajikStandard UzStandard |
| 13:00 -14:00 Lunch break | | |
| 14:00 – 14:20 | Draft explanatory poster on quality defects for fresh plums (including a review of FFV-29 standard) | NTG KR (national technical group), speaking on behalf of the initiative group |
| 14:20 – 14:30 | Participants' feedback, discussion | CAWG members |
| 14:30 – 14:40 | Draft explanatory poster on quality defects for prunes (including a review of DDP-07 standard) | NTG KR (national technical group), speaking on behalf of the |

| | | |
|---|--|------------------|
| | | initiative group |
| 14:40 – 15:00 | Discussing further actions (translation into local languages, finalizing the design, printing, implementation issues, etc.) | CAWG members |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Negotiating issues related to conducting information meetings sector representatives (producers and exporters of fresh plums and prunes) | CAWG members |
| 15:30 -15:50 Coffee break | | |
| Ideas and plans for new projects by the Central Asian Working Group (CAWG) | | |
| 15:50 – 16:10 | Discussion of further actions by CAWG to promote UNECE standard for dried melons | CAWG members |
| 16:10 – 16:30 | Discussion of further actions to promote the standard for raisins | CAWG members |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Summarizing the results of Day One of CAWG meeting | Umed Aslanov |
| Day Two | | |
| 08:30-09:00Check-in | | |
| 09:00 – 09:10 | Discussing work plans for Day Two of CAWG meeting | Umed Aslanov |
| 09:10- 09:20 | Presentation of "Research carried out in the KR and the RT on VACs and selected products" | Parviz Akramov |
| Strategy of the Central Asian Working Group (CAWG), prospects and directions for further work | | |
| 09:20 – 09:40 | Presentation of the strategy for Central Asian Working Group (CAWG): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives: • Directions and instruments for promoting products (supporting UNECE standards; increasing awareness of Central Asian produce, etc.) | Shuhrat Kodirov |
| 09:40 – 09:50 | Participants' feedback, discussion | CAWG members |
| 09:50 – 10:10 | First direction in the strategy: Promoting the produce from Central Asia. Presentation of the "Geographical Indication" as one possible initiative for CA produce | Koupai Guennadi |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | Promoting Central Asian produce by supporting UNECE standards: developing an action plan to expand the knowledge of UNECE standards among all stakeholders, including presentation of a project for developing professional sorters of agricultural produce in accordance with UNECE standards | Speaker |
| 10:30 -10:50 Coffee break | | |
| Developing plans and activities for CAWG and NTGs (working in small groups) | | |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 hour | <p>Developing interaction instruments (working in country groups):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues to be discussed: Discussion of the interaction, coordination and monitoring instruments (CAWG and NTG, objectives, format of the work, secretariat: the secretariat's status, financing, responsibility, legal status) | Speaker |
| 12:30 -13:30 Lunch break | | |
| 12:30 – 15:30 | <p>Developing objectives and activities for the CAWG strategy directions in two subgroups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First subgroup: promotion of UNECE standards; • Second subgroup: developing measures to increase awareness about Central Asian produce | Speaker |
| 15:30 -16:00 Coffee break | | |
| 16:00 – 16:40 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations of the discussion and group work results | 5 presentations of the group work results |
| 16:40 – 17:10 | Summarizing the results of the 3 rd CAWG meeting and discussing the protocol resolutions | UNDP GIZ Umed Aslanov |

V. Annex 2. Structure of the Central Asian Working Group



VI. Annex 3. Draft action plan

Draft action plan for NTG Tajikistan

| No. | Objective | Actions | Timing | Responsible |
|-----|--|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Brochure on DDP-15 Dried apricots | Translating the brochure into Tajik, approval | January 2019 | NTG, HWI, TajikStandard |
| 2 | Brochure on DDP-15 Dried apricots | Approved at the UNECE Working Group meeting in Geneva | June 2019 | UNECE/CAWG |
| 3 | Implementing DDP-15 standard for dried apricots | Conducting brief information and practical sessions for producers and exporters | 2019 | NTG/ MAPEST |
| 4 | Amending the poster on onions, FFV 25 | Adding missing information, approval by CAWG | End of February 2019 | NTG |
| 5 | Amending the poster for persimmons, FFV 63 | Adding missing information, approval by CAWG | End of February 2019 | NTG |
| 6 | Analysis of FFV 14 standard for citrus fruit | Studying FFV 14 standard | June 2019 | NTG |
| 7 | Analysis of FFV 19 standard for table grapes | Analyzing FFV 19 standard | October 2019 | NTG |
| 7 | Information sessions on the posters produced | Conducting the sessions | November 2019 | NTG |
| 8 | Comments and recommendations on the posters for dried melons, prunes | Introduction and providing comments and amendments to the posters on standards for dried melons and prunes | As received | NTG |
| 9 | NTG capacity-building | Providing proposals to CAWG on expanding the capacity and strengthening technical basis of NTG | End of December 2018 | NTG |
| 10 | Meeting of regional NTG in Dushanbe | Holding the next meeting of regional NTG | Q1 2019 | CAWG, donors |
| 11 | Improving financial stability | Identifying and engaging new donors | Ongoing | |

Draft action plan for NTG Kyrgyzstan

| No. | Objective | Actions | Timing | Responsible | Funding |
|-----|---|---|---------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Brochure on DDP-15 Dried apricots | Translating the brochure into Kyrgyz, approval | January 2019 | HWI, NTG, Kyrgyz Standard | HWI |
| 2 | DDP-15 standard | Distributing the brochure | June 2019 | HWI, NTG, Kyrgyz Standard | |
| 3 | Conducting information sessions on DDP-15 standard (for producers and exporters) | Implementing the standard into production practice | December 2019 | NTG | |
| 4 | Amending the DDP-07 standard on prunes (analyzing the standard and producing proposals) | Producing the explanatory poster for prunes (photo) | February 2019 | NTG | GIZ-NaWi |
| 5 | Analyzing the standard for fresh plums | Analyzing FFV-29 standard, preparing comments | March 2019 | NTG, BIO SERVICE | GIZ-NaWi |

Draft action plan for NTG Kazakhstan

| No. | Objective | Actions | Timing | Responsible |
|-----|---|---|----------------------|--|
| 1 | Obtaining draft poster on fresh onions | | By November 20, 2018 | Association |
| 2 | Reviewing amendments and modifications to the explanatory poster on fresh onions | Information sessions with private sector | End of December 2018 | Food Association |
| 3 | Conducting analysis on the implementation of amendments and modifications to the standard on dried melons | Discussions with private sector and decision-making | May 2019 | KazInst, Food Association, public sector |

Draft action plan for NTG Uzbekistan

| No. | Objective | Actions | Timing | Responsible |
|-----|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| | Brochure on DDP-15 standard for dried apricots | Translating the brochure into Uzbek, including approval | January | HWI, UzStandard, NTG |
| 1 | Draft standard for dried melons | Industry testing (assessment of allowances and production defects) of the draft standard (preparing report) | By May 2019 | NTG / Jaxon exim group, Alimkhan exim, UzStandard |
| | | Review of the explanatory posters by the industry | November 2018 – January 2019 | Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry |
| | | Identifying the specific issues faced by Uzbek produce (suggested by the industry and verified by experts) | November 2018 – January 2019 | Business, consultancy companies, perhaps new partners |
| | | Summarizing and producing recommendations on the existing explanatory posters | February 2019 | UzStandard |
| 3 | Conducting information sessions | | | |
| | | NTG members will hold a number of sessions on DDP-15 and other standards | Throughout 2019 | NTG |
| | | Regional sessions together with GIZ and UNDP | Schedule to be agreed | |