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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



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# REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMERCIAL QUALITY STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR COUNTRIES OF AFRICA

# Cape Town, South Africa, 20 – 22 April 2010







#### Introduction

1. The purpose of the workshop was threefold: to promote the use of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) standards for fresh fruit and vegetables as international standards of reference; to explain how UNECE standards are interpreted in the export markets; and to harmonize the practical application and interpretation of the standards among countries of Africa. The workshop also had the core objective of building capacity with regard to horticulture fresh produce quality standards and systems in Africa.

2. The event was organized by the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB), in partnership with the UNECE Agricultural Quality Standards Unit, and hosted in partnership with the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (DAFF).

3. UNECE provided a grant under the United Nations Development Account for sponsoring both delegates from outside South Africa, including international speakers, and 15 small-scale farmers within South Africa. The rest of the workshop was funded by PPECB, with contributions from external sponsors and, registration fees.

4. An official welcoming cocktail function was hosted by the Western Cape provincial MEC for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. In his keynote address, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries highlighted that valuable workshops such as this one helped build the capacity of African Institutions and contributed greatly to making of African horticulture globally competitiveness.

5. A total of 109 delegates attended the inaugural workshop. They included government officials from 18 African countries: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Delegates from Nigeria, Senegal, Sierre Leone, and Zimbabwe were unable to attend. A total of 22 provincial and national government officials collectively represented DAFF at the workshop.

6. Twenty-two South African small-scale farmers attended the workshop sponsored by the UNECE and the South African National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC). Local exporters of fresh fruits and vegetables, together with the South African Table Grape Institute (SATI), Hortgro, Pioneer Foods, Freshmark, Woolworths, Le Roux Fruit Exporters, Farm secure Agri Science, Swift Laboratories, Extradex, Joburg Market, and Capespan were among the constituents participating in the workshop.

6. The workshop was officially opened by Mr. Molefe Mokoena, Vice Chairperson of the PPECB Board, with a keynote address made by Mr. Bigman Maloa, Deputy







#### United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Trade, Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (UNECE) Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa (DAFF) Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB)

Director General: Food safety and Bio security of DAFF. This was followed by a short introduction made by Mr. Serguei Malanitchev, head of the UNECE Agricultural Quality Standards Unit.

7. The delegations discussed the role and benefits of commercial agricultural quality standards within the broader context of quality assurance, along with food safety, traceability, phytosanitary and other requirements for fresh fruit and vegetable trade. It was highlighted that in order to access export markets consistently, fruits and vegetables should be of an acceptable standard to ensure market access. The UNECE standards, despite their voluntary nature, are internationally recognized in this regard. Technical experts from Germany, Netherlands, and PPECB gave presentations and provided hands-on training on how to apply standards for citrus fruit, table grapes, apples, onions, and sweet peppers.

8. To see growing and packing conditions of fruit within South Africa, the participants visited farms and packing facilities for citrus fruit and table grapes. Delegates were exposed to world-class packing facilities and had the opportunity to pose exploratory questions in respect of optimum production, packing and ensuring compliance with quality, food safety, etc. It was also the first time that the UNECE Explanatory Brochure for Sweet Peppers was used as a reference base to facilitate discussions on sweet peppers. This tool proved very helpful in guiding interpretation of standards on the particular product.

9. Delegates were requested to provide feedback on the status of standards in their countries in terms of the following four factors: status of the legal infrastructure to apply standards, how well the application of standards are developed, what specific standards are applied, and whether countries deemed standards important to their countries competitiveness and sustainability. Despite not all countries having the opportunity to provide feedback at the time of the workshop, it was clear that the quality standards are applied to a minimal level at this stage, with several countries expressing the need for training on quality standards and for governments to provide a conducive legal backing for their enforcement. A further observation was that some countries do, however, monitor compliance with phytosanitary requirements mainly.

10. Daily evaluations on the quality and value of the workshop as well as networking opportunities pointed out delegates' view on the importance of holding similar workshops regularly in Africa, especially in terms of capacity-building. They highlighted the need for funding and for training farmers, traders and inspectors on how to use the standards.

11. The delegations were informed that all of the workshop presentations and material used for technical sessions would be placed on the websites of UNECE (<u>www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm</u>) and PPECB (<u>www.ppecb.com</u>). The material for the technical sessions includes presentations facilitating the discussion







of the standards, pictures of all samples discussed, and key findings leading from the various groups during the breakaway technical sessions held over two days.

12. The workshop programme including the field visit and the list of participants are contained in annexes I and II of the current report.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

1. Implementing commercial quality standards, as a common trading language, is essential for accessing export markets. It is also an important component of a broader system of quality assurance, along with food safety, traceability, phytosanitary aspects and other requirements.

2. An adequate legal and technical infrastructure is required for implementing agricultural quality standards. Enforcing standards is the responsibility of Governments; however, this function can be delegated to assignees of government e.g. the PPECB in South Africa and the Kwailiteits Controle Bureau (KCB) in Holland.

3. Specific governmental policies should be formulated to support the creation of an appropriate inspection infrastructure.

4. Inspection systems should be handled on a risk management basis, as seen in international inspectorates in Germany, Holland and the United Kingdom. However, the history and track record of countries are paramount to such system determining frequency of inspections and sample sizes.

5. Countries should participate in international standards development forums and incorporate standards in their national legislation, keeping legislation updated in accordance with the latest technical considerations. This would enhance market transparency, provide clear information to all stakeholders and protect both industry and the consumer. The benefits of attending these meetings considerably outweigh the cost.

6. Countries are encouraged to use the existing internationally agreed standards and related explanatory material, particularly those developed by UNECE and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables. The UNECE standards are becoming increasingly important following the standards reform process within the European Union (EU) during 2009 and are accepted as a common denominator under EC 1580/2007 and EC 1221/2008 to ensure that produce complies with the general marketing standard in case of no specific marketing standard.







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7. UNECE standards provide the platform for regional standards as they lend themselves to a good balance between acceptable and marketable quality, as well as providing a language of trade required for facilitating orderly exports. Africa, as a trading block, could consider adopting the application of UNECE standards regionally.

8. UNECE standards are important not only to facilitate international trade, create market transparency, promote quality agricultural products and keep unsatisfactory produce out of the market, but also to protect consumers and improve profitability.

9. Capacity-building and continuous awareness campaigns on the interpretation and practical application of standards are critical to the development of small-scale producers' readiness for export. PPECB could provide considerable value here both in South Africa and in Sub-Saharan Africa. Stakeholders have therefore been informed of the PPECB's openness to being approached in this regard. PPECB is prepared to enter into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), which could be a vehicle for exploring opportunities with countries. Similarly, provincial government structures could prove valuable to the sustainability of these initiatives across South Africa.

10. Setting up an efficiently functioning quality inspection system takes time and resources. This work should therefore be phased in gradually, and by exploring collaborative and partnership opportunities. Accreditation under the EC 1580/2007 regulation is strongly recommended for competent inspectorates.

11. The importance of having an established system for inspection recognized within the EU under the equivalence principle is paramount to the sustainability of quality produce to export destinations. This system can only be maintained through the necessary knowledge and skills for competency and the harmonization thereof among inspectors. PPECB highlighted its ability to build capacity, with its existing robust harmonization system to standardise its nearly 150 inspectors countrywide. PPECB is also en route to ISO 17020 accreditation as a mechanism for ensuring competency of inspectors.

12. Investment into Research and Development and post-harvest cold chain management is critical to the success of the fresh fruit and vegetables trade across Europe and inter Africa.

13. As a global benchmark and for reasons of efficiency, the harmonization of foodsafety certification systems and their integration into a single recognized alternative e.g. Kenya GAP, is an option that might be explored. Compliance with the EU General Food Law under Regulation EC178/2002 and the relevance of a national control system for third countries was stressed during the SAGAP presentations on food-safety systems.







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14. Interaction with other ministries such as departments of trade and industry is important to explore. Similarly, benchmarking needs to be done to obtain a holistic view of what needs to happen in practice to be sustainable and competitive.

15. Representatives of leading fresh produce markets in Africa alluded to the fact that modern fresh produce marketing is synonymous with quality, food safety and orderly cold chain management.

16. For small-scale agriculture sectors, support such as capacity-building initiatives, continuous improvement of pack houses and logistics, as well as a better balance among the different distribution channels, is required for this sector to develop further.

17. Leading table-grape exporters highlighted that to be successful in the value chain of this commodity, role players need to be responsible, with an entrepreneurial approach supported by the necessary expertise.

18. For citrus farms to be successful, staff should be trained in techniques, made aware of the requirements, and of the importance of using suitable equipment. It is essential that investments should be economically viable and orchard mapping and environmental impact studies done.

19. Following the two-day technical sessions, the defects identified as requiring harmonization were: russeting on apples, minimum colour on different citrus types, blemishes on lemons and easy peelers, colouring and sun scorch on grapes, shriveling and shape defects on sweet peppers, mould on onions, and missing outer skins on onions. It was highlighted that, notwithstanding the technical sessions having provided a solid base of what standards on each product entails, there is a noticeable need for harmonization with regard to the practical application of quality standards in terms of the tools, techniques, and interpretation required for inspection.







Annex 1.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Department (DAFF), South Africa Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB)

# International Harmonization Workshop on Commercial Quality Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for Countries of Africa

South Africa, 20 – 22 April 2010

Venue: Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West Cape Town

## Draft programme

- Promoting the use of the UNECE standards for fresh fruit and vegetables as international references
- Building capacity on horticulture fresh produce quality standards and systems in Africa
- Harmonizing the practical application and interpretation of UNECE standards in Africa
- Explaining how UNECE standards are interpreted in the export markets
- Encouraging participation in UNECE standards development

# Monday, 19 April

**9:00 - 17:00** Delegates arrival Preparatory meeting of the organizers and speakers (14:00 - 17:00)

**18:00** Welcoming cocktail, registration and dinner

## Tuesday, 20 April

07:15 Registration

# **OPENING SESSION**

- 08:15 Workshop convenes
- **08:30** Opening of the workshop







# United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Trade, Working Party on Agricultural 9 Quality Standards, Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (UNECE) 9 Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa (DAFF) 9 Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) 9

Ms. Molefe Mokoeane, Vice Chairperson: PPECB Board

*Mr. Serguei Malanitchev*, Chief, Agricultural Quality Standards Unit, UNECE

09:00 Keynote address

*Mr. Bigman Maloa*, Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, SouthAfrica

#### Session 1. INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE

Chaired by Mr. Dean Martin and co-Chaired by Dr. Bothle Modisane

- 09:30 The role of UNECE in developing standards for international trade *Mr. Serguei Malanitchev*, Chief, Agricultural Quality Standards Unit, UNECE Focus on: how UNECE develops agricultural quality standards, links to other standards organizations, why should Africa adopt UNECE standards
- **09:50** Implementation of international standards in South Africa *Mr. Alex Serumula*, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Directorate, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa Focus on: how South Africa monitors, interprets, and implements requirements of international standards to ensure compliance
- **10:15 10:45** Tea break
- 10:45Practical application of standards by PPECBMr. Dean Martin, Executive, Value Added Services, PPECBFocus on: PPECB integrated model on implementation of quality, cold chain,<br/>foodsafety, and phytosanitary requirements
- 11:10
   South Africa GAP: Food safety requirements

   Mr. Nigel Alexander, PPECB, South Africa

   Focus on: SAGAP and how it relates to GlobalGAP as a global food safety

   system
- **11:35** Presentation of standards for the practical sessions

Standards for citrus fruit and apples: Room 1 for Groups 1 and 2 Standards for table grapes and vegetables: Room 2 for Groups 3 and 4

- 13:00 14:00 Lunch
- Session 2. TECHNICAL SESSIONS
- 14:00 Delegates move to breakaway rooms 1 to 4 as per schedule







	<ul> <li>ns Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Trade, Working Party on Agricultural andards, Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (UNECE)</li> <li>Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa (DAFF)</li> <li>Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB)</li> </ul>	)
	Room 1/Group 1 - Citrus fruit (oranges, lemons, grapefruit, easy peelers) Facilitators: Cyril Julius, Jurgens Bence and Dawie van Niekerk	
	Room 2/Group 2 - Apples Faciltators: Mat Kersten and Evelyn Ferreira	
	<b>Room 3/Group 3 - Table grapes</b> Faciltators: Ian Hewett and Francois Smit	
	Room 4/Group 4 - Vegetables (sweet peppers, onions) Facilitators: Ulrike Bickelmann and Leon Barnard	
15:00	Room 1/Group 4 - Citrus fruit (oranges, lemons, grapefruit, easy peelers) Room 2/Group 1 - Apples Room 3/Group 2 - Table grapes Room 4/Group 3 - Vegetables (sweet peppers, onions)	
16:00 - 16:30	Tea break	
Session 3.	TRADE DYNAMICS AND DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN AFRICA	
	Chaired by Mr. Shawn Coetzee	
16:30	Modern fresh produce marketing in Africa Mr. Patrick Maphalela, Joburg Market, South Africa Focus on: Development initiatives on fresh produce marketing and quality within the African continent	
16:50	<b>Post Harvest and Research &amp; Development</b> <i>Mr. Mduduzi Ngobo, PPECB</i> , South Africa Focus on: The importance of Research and Development and Post Harvest management of fresh fruits and vegetables	
17:10	<b>Farmers' production challenges for export</b> <i>Mr. Mphangeli Mpukane</i> , emerging farmer, South Africa Focus on: Overcoming the challenges to supply and meet requirements of export markets.	
17:30	Close of day 1	
	Wednesday 21 April 2010	
Session 4	PRODUCTION AND HANDLING OF FRESH PRODUCE TO MEET	

# Session 4. PRODUCTION AND HANDLING OF FRESH PRODUCE TO MEET INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Chaired by Dr. Ulrike Bickelmann and co-Chaired by Mr. Mat Kersten

08:30 Table grapes production, packing and exporting chain







#### Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB)

*Mr. Gerhard de Kock*, Grape Alliance Marketing (Pty) Ltd, table grape producer/packer/exporter Focus on: how produce are grown and packed to meet international standards and requirements on quality and food safety

08:55Growing and packing citrus fruit to meet requirements of export markets<br/>*Mr. Jaco Smit*, Capespan, South Africa<br/>Focus on: how citrus are grown, packed, and treated to ensure compliance with<br/>quality, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements (IPPC)

#### 09:20 Presentation of standards for the practical sessions

Standards for citrus fruit and apples: Room 1 for Groups 3 and 4 Standards for table grapes and vegetables: Room 4 for Groups 1 and 2

- **10:45 11:15** Tea break
- Session 5. TECHNICAL SESSIONS
- **11:15** Delegates move to breakaway rooms 1 to 4 as per schedule

Room 1/Group 3 - Citrus fruit (oranges, lemons, grapefruit, easy peelers) Room 2/Group 4 - Apples Room 3/Group 1 - Table grapes Room 4/Group 2 - Vegetables (sweet peppers, onions)

**12:15** Delegates move to breakaway rooms 1 to 4 as per schedule

Room 1/Group 4 - Citrus fruit (oranges, lemons, grapefruit, easy peelers) Room 2/Group 3 - Apples Room 3/Group 2 - Table grapes Room 4/Group 1 - Vegetables (sweet peppers, onions)

#### 13:15 - 14:15 Lunch

Session 6. INSPECTION SYSTEMS

Chaired by Mr. Robbie Robinson and co-Chaired by Mr. Cyril Julius

14:15 New EU regulation on marketing standards
 Dr. Ulrike Bickelmann, Head of Section, Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung, Germany
 Focus on: EU legislation, how quality standards are enforced in EU countries, impact of the new EU regulation on developing countries trade

14:40 Quality problems detected by the inspection service of the Netherlands at the point of entry

*Mr. Mat Kersten*, KCB, Netherlands Focus on: how KCB controls quality of imported produce and most common quality defects found at the point of import (particularly for the products discussed at the workshop)







15:05 - 15:30	Tea break
15:30	National quality inspection service in the United Kingdom Mr. Ian Hewett, Inspections Delivery Manager, Rural Payments Agency, United Kingdom Focus on: how DEFRA controls quality of imported produce by means of a risk- based system
15:55 workshop	Wrap-up of key findings during technical sessions, conclusions of the
workshop	Dr. Ulrike Bickelmann, UNECE and Mr. Shawn Coetzee, PPECB.
16:30	Close of day 2
19:00	Dinner, Lord Charles Hotel

#### Note: Demonstration alleys during tea breaks

### Thursday, 22 April 2010

## FIELD VISITS

#### **GROUP 1**

- 07:30 Departure from Lord Charles Hotel
- **09:00** Arrival at the citrus packhouse, Paarl, Sandrivier, Jan le Roux Visit to orchards and packhouse, explanation of citrus packing process, final product packaging, cold treatment and degreening of produce
- **11:00** Departure from citrus packhouse
- 12:30 Lunch at restaurant De Doorns (Groups 1 and 2 meet)
- 14:00 Closure of the workshop, handing out certificates Mr. Luvuyo Mabombo, Chief Executive Officer, PPECB Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann, Chairperson of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Mr. Serguei Malanitchev, Chief, Agricultural Quality Standards Unit, UNECE
- 14:30 Departure from the restaurant
- **15:00** Arrival at the table grape farm, Boplaas, Anton Viljoen Visit to orchards and packhouse, explanation of the farm composition, orchard practices, and packing process
- **17:00** Departure from the table grape farm







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18:00 **Arrival at Lord Charles Hotel GROUP 2** 07:30 **Departure from Lord Charles Hotel** 10:00 Arrival at the table grape farm, Boplaas, Anton Viljoen Visit to orchards and packhouse, explanation of the farm composition, orchard practices, and packing process 12:00 Departure from the table grape farm 12:30 Lunch at restaurant De Doorns (Groups 1 and 2 meet) 14:00 Closure of the workshop, handing out certificates Mr. Luvuyo Mabombo, Chief Executive Officer, PPECB Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann, Chairperson of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Mr. Serguei Malanitchev, Chief, Agricultural Quality Standards Unit, **UNECE** 14:30 Departure from the restaurant 15:30 Arrival at the citrus packhouse, Paarl, Sandrivier, Jan le Roux Visit to orchards and packhouse, explanation of citrus packing process, final product packaging, cold treatment and degreening of produce 17:00 Departure from the citrus packhouse 18:00 **Arrival at Lord Charles Hotel** 

#### Friday, 23 April

08:00 Delegates depart for flights







## Annex III. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NO	NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY	E-MAIL CONTACT DETAILS	TELEPHONE CONTACT DETAILS
1	Mr. Randy Stravens	Agricultural Officer	Seychelles Agricultural Agency	Seychelles	Rs25goal@hotmail.com	Tel: 0024 867 6400
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4	Mr. Mamy Andriantsoa	General Manager: Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture	Madagascar	Mamy.andriantsoa@moov.mg	Tel: 00261 320723344/00261 331411005
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8	Mr. Domingos João Pereira,	Chefe de Secção de Agro-indústria da Direcção Nacional de Agricultura, Pecuária e Florestas. Passaport nº S0023154,	Angola Trade Office in Johannesburg	Angola	carlosquingolo@yahoo.com.br	Tel: 0711767290
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11	Ms. Hilma Ipumdu	Senior Extension Agriculture Technician	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry Directorate: Extension & Engineering services	Namibia	iipumbuh@mawf,gov.na;kasheetas@ mwaf.gov.na	Tel: 0026 461208 7467
12	Ms. Teboho Moorosi	Principal Crop Production Officer	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Lesotho	setebu2003@yahoo.com	Tel: 0026 658 944260

# United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Trade, Working Party on Agricultural Quality Stantards, Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (UNECE)

#### Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa (DAFF) Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB)

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		Саре				
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25	Mr. Walter Williams	Farm Owner -	Dwarsberg	South Africa	walletfruit@telkomsa.net	023 31 21159/082 8972114
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26	Mr. Hulisani Bushy	Extension Officer -	EciAfrica Consulting	South Africa	bushy.mphephu@eciafrica.com	0799892723
	Mphephu	Vegetables				
27	Mr. Warren Bam	Emerging Farmer	Lushof (Saron)	South Africa	'Warren@lushoffruit.co.za'	0828907287







#### United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Trade, Working Party on Agricultural Quality Stantfords, Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (UNECE) Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa (DAFF) Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB)

		Grapes				
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29	Mr. Leonard Davhana	Chairperson and Sweet Pepper Farmer	Vhembe Garlic Association	South Africa	Picabiz@webmail.co.za	0829 717 270
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# United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Trade, Working Party on Agricultural Quality Stankards, Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (UNECE)

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