

# UNECE - Commercial quality standards and more

## Fresh and Dried Fruit, Vegetables, Nuts, Meat, Seed Potatoes

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**UNECE**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



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European Commission- EC



European Union



**UNECE**

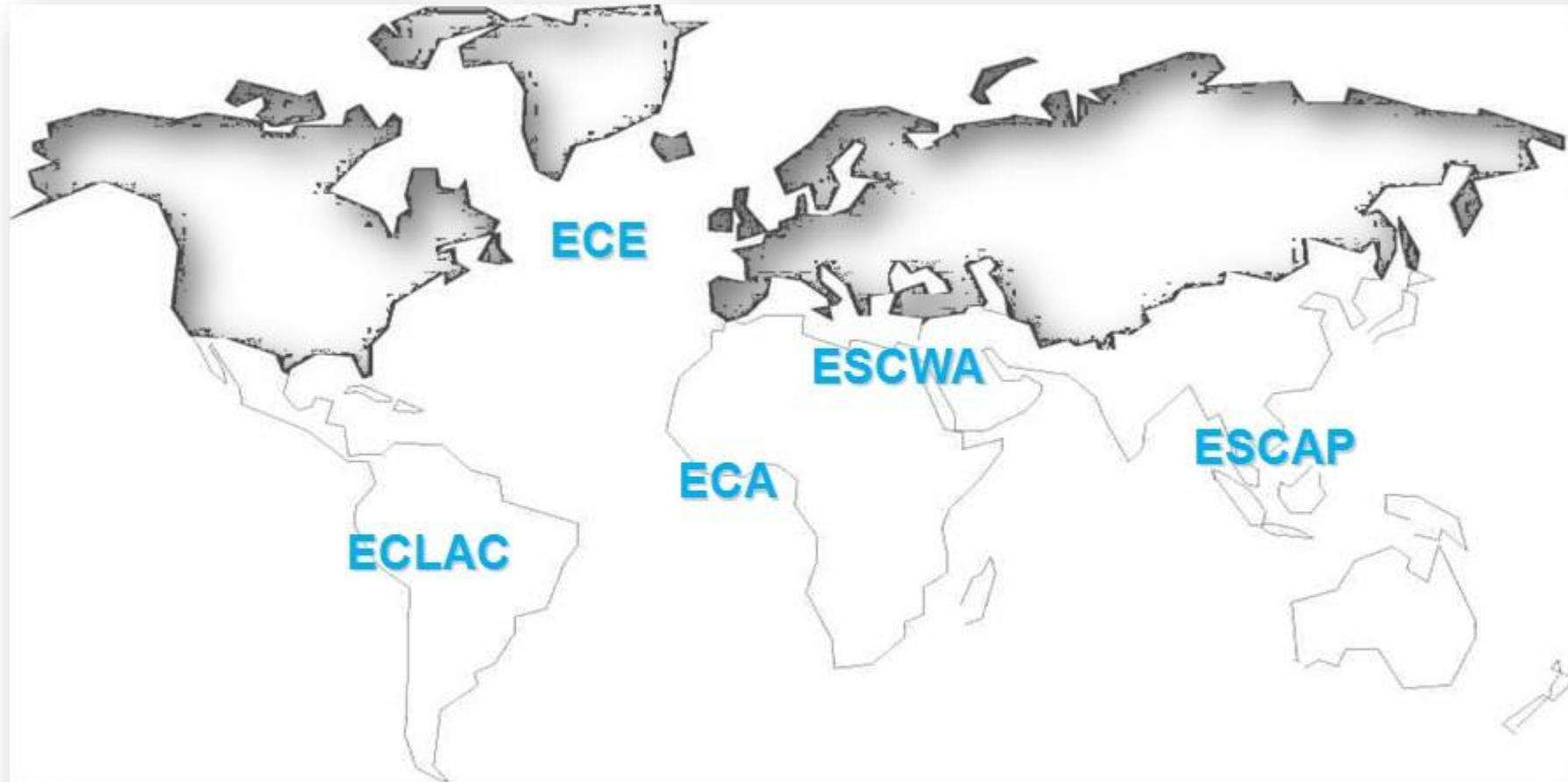


**UNITED NATIONS**



**UNECE**

## Five Regional Commissions of the United Nations



**ECE – only regional commission working on agricultural quality and marketing standards**

**All UN Member States participate in its work**



# UNECE Agricultural Quality Standards



**United Nations General Assembly** New York

**United Nations Economic and Social Council**

**UNECE - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** Geneva (and all other Regional Commissions)

**UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards**

**UNECE Working Party of Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)**



**UNECE Specialized Sections**

Fresh Fruit and vegetables

Dry and dried Produce

Seed potatoes

Meat

## WHY only UNECE and Agricultural Quality Standards?

### History - after World War II in UNECE region:

- National quality standards regulated trade in agri products within each country's national borders

National regulations were barriers to the growing international trade in Europe.

**1949 UNECE** – Europe's only functioning pan-European body –

established Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

- To harmonize national standards into international standards
- To provide a mechanism for their practical enforcement Since

**1954 UNECE introduces UNECE Standard Layout for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables** - simple structure setting **uniform minimum** quality criteria, definitions and classifications and produce –specific tolerances

**UNECE is the only UN regional commission with a mandate in agricultural quality standards**

## HOW WE DEVELOP STANDARDS:

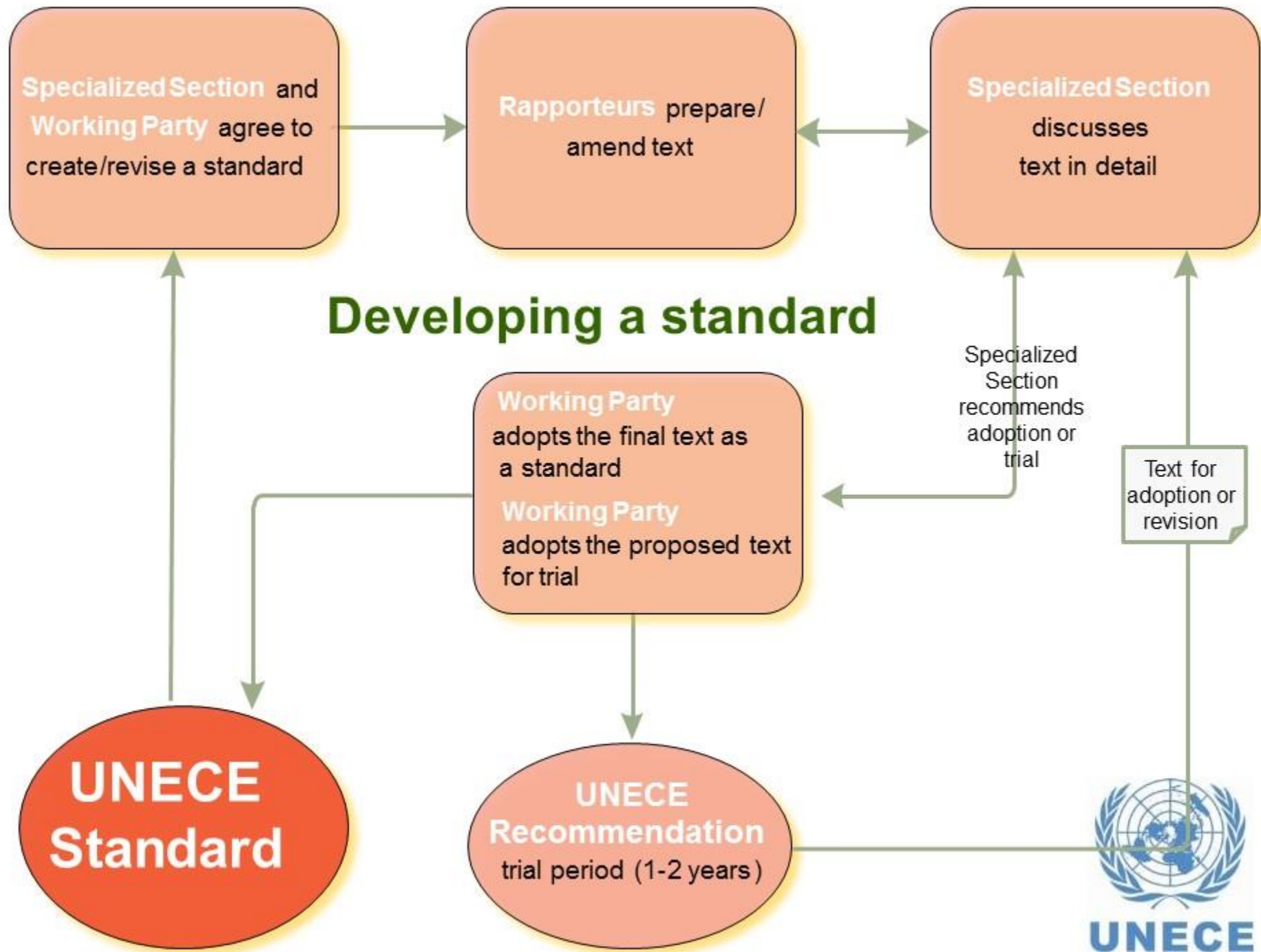
### **Demand-driven, inclusive and open development and adoption process**

- **All UN member countries participate with the same rights**
- **Input comes from all parties involved** (public and private; producing and importing countries) at all stages (development and evaluation before standards are adopted).
- **Cooperation with all other international organizations**

### **Flexible, inter-active, responsive process (revisions when needed)**

- **Standards are adapted** to reflect emerging new varieties or changing producing, marketing, trading and regulatory conditions
- Standards can be **revised at any moment per request**
- Decisions are taken on a **consensus basis**







## UNECE's cooperation partners (agri)

- National, regional and international governmental organizations (such as OECD, Codex, FAO, EU, WTO, ITC, UNCTAD) and NGOs
- Professional organizations and the private sector

**UNECE's products go through an important trial phase and consultative process**

### **Result:**

- Including industry concerns helps develop standards that reflect trading practices, rather than normative ideals of what the product requirements should be.
- Increased use of standards by industry



## The Scope of UNECE standards

UNECE Standards have a **simple structure** (standard format) with **produce specific tolerances** and set **uniform minimum** quality criteria, definitions and classifications and produce –specific tolerances

### **PURPOSE:**

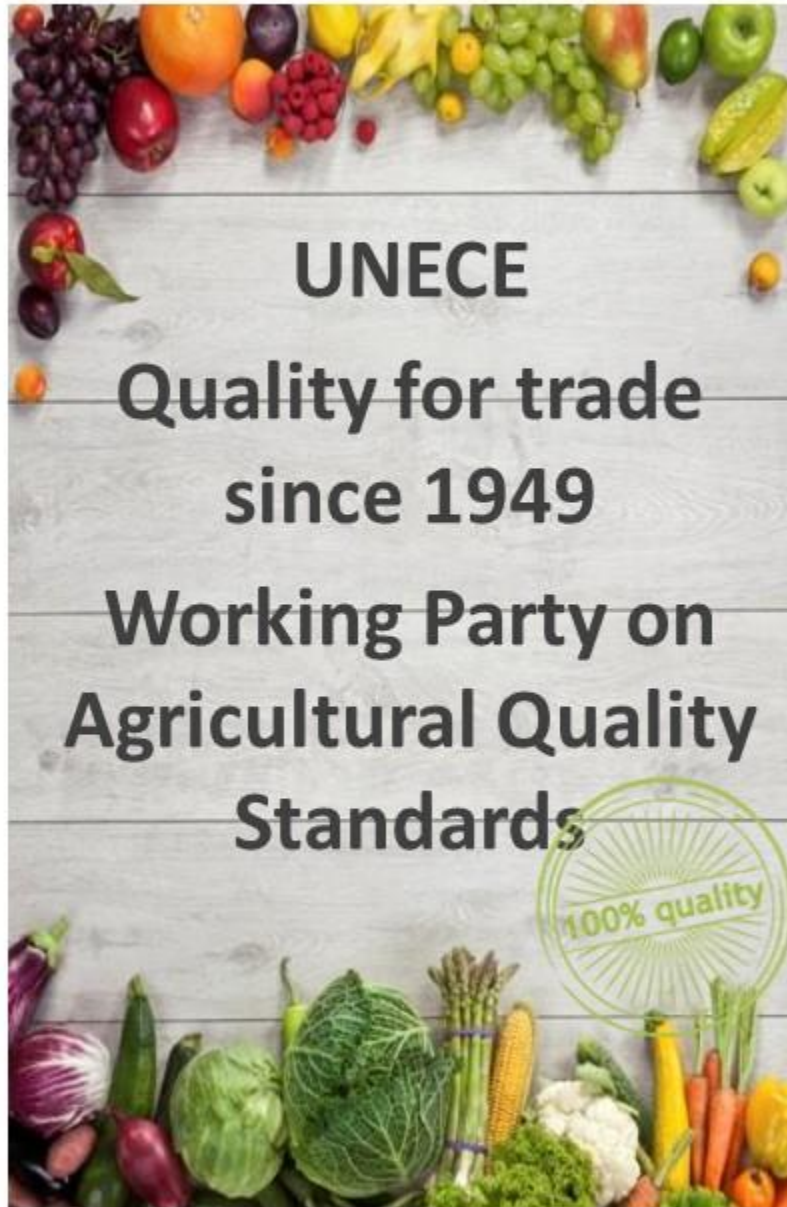
define the quality requirements at the export-control stage, after preparation and packaging

### **SCOPE:**

apply to produce **intended for direct consumption** or for food when intended to be mixed with other products for direct consumption without further processing.

**Do not apply to produce for industrial processing.**





## Four Specialized Sections:

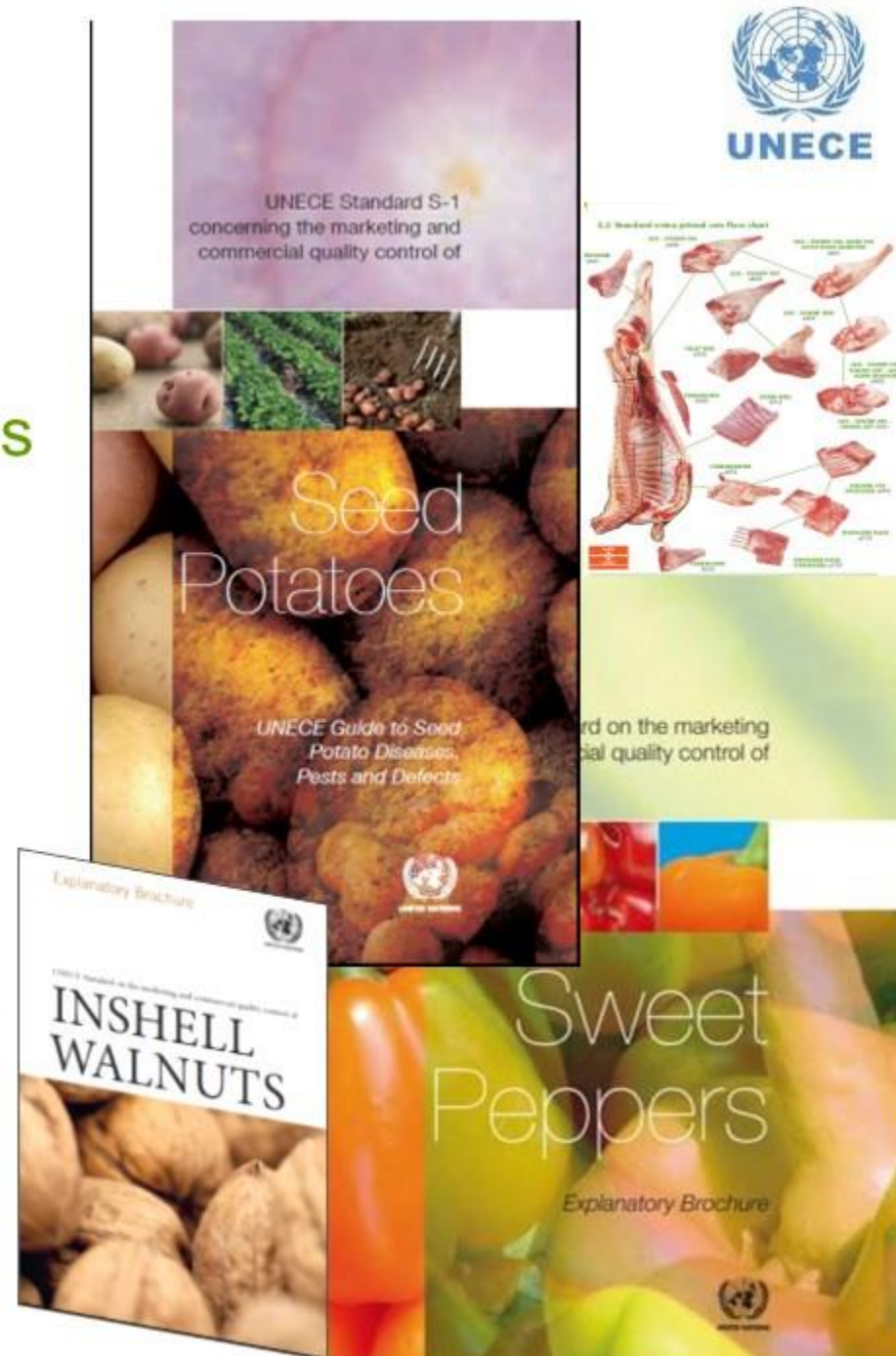


- 🍏 **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables** (56 standards; Lists of Varieties; Explanatory Guides for Sweet Peppers, Pineapples, Chilli Peppers, soon Persimmon)
- 🍏 **Dry and Dried Produce** (28 standards; Guides for Walnuts and Dried Chilli Peppers; Colour Gauges)
- 🍏 **Seed Potatoes** (1 standard; Guides to Seed Potato Field Inspection; Guide to Seed Potato Diseases, Pests and Defects)
- 🍏 **Meat** (16 standards, plus 2 **egg** standards)

# Explanatory guides

- interpret provisions of the standards
- provide guidance in related matters (disease guides, terms used, coding references)
- help with the grading of produce
- ensure uniform interpretation
- reduce risk of rejection
- help resolve disputes

Provide useful guidance and background information for producers, inspectors and traders

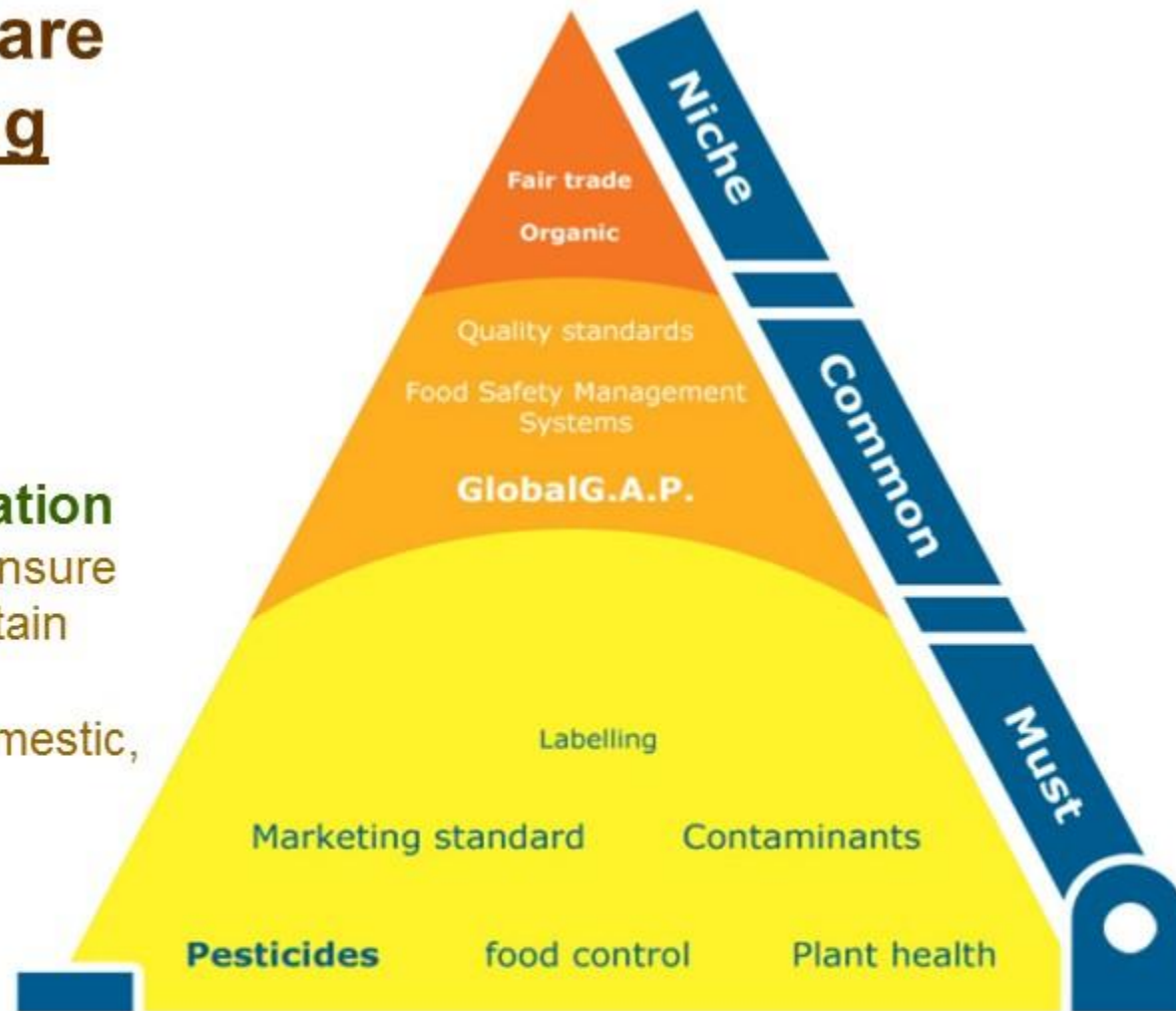


# UNECE standards are voluntary marketing standards for international trade

incorporated into national or regional legislation

- As export requirements to ensure that the produce have a certain quality level
- As a requirement for the domestic, export and import markets

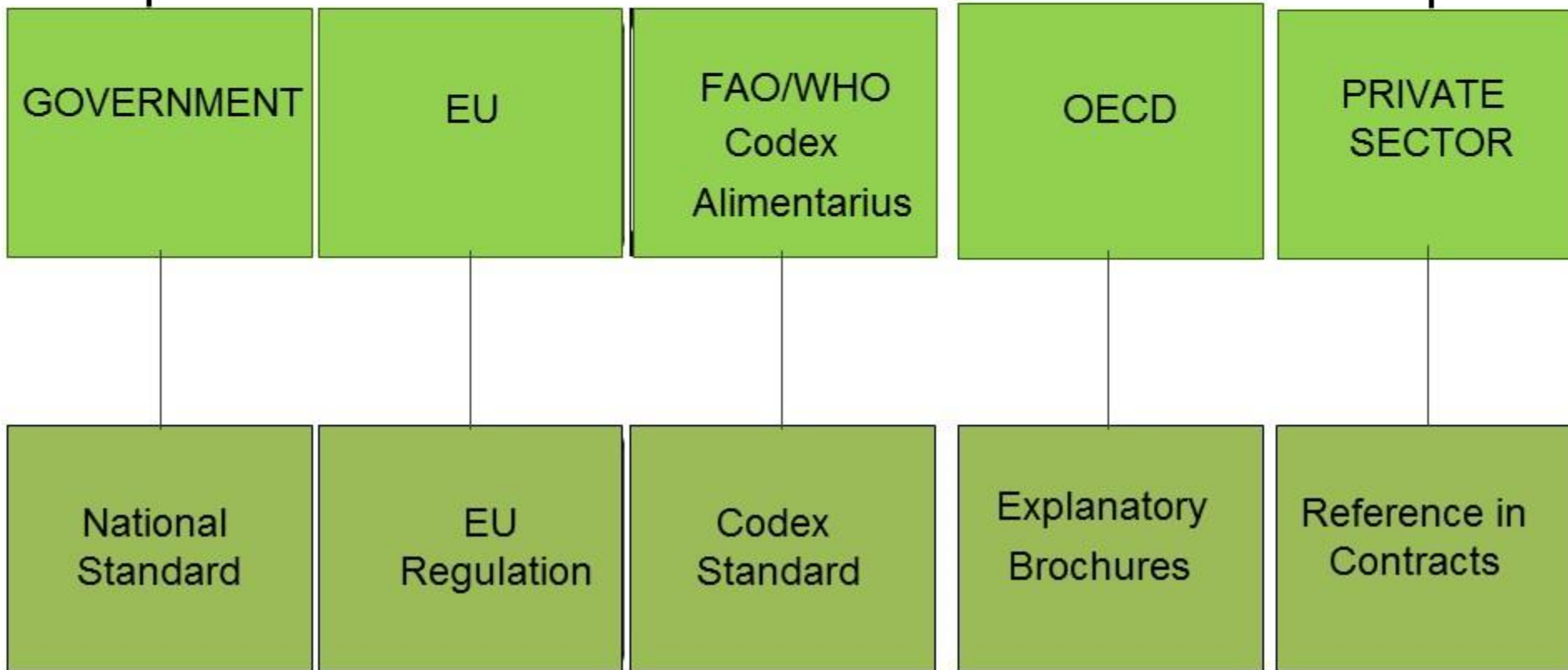
incorporated into commercial contracts



**UNECE  
STANDARD**

**Implementing  
UNECE Standards**

**Creating  
international best  
practice**





## Production, export and standards



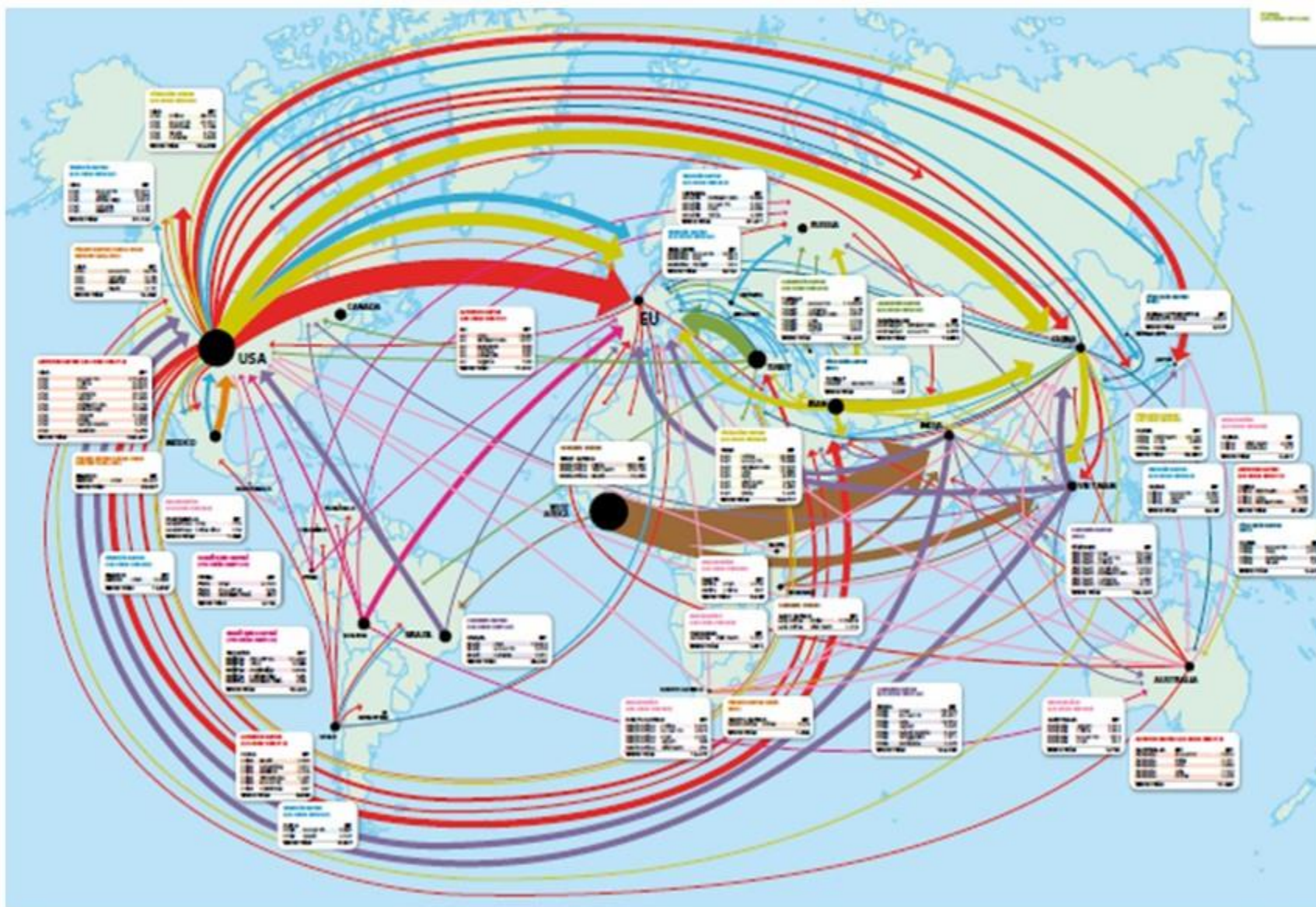


## Arrival at destination inspection





United Nations Economic Commission for Europe UNECE  
Covers the largest dried fruit and nut market in the world  
(based on per capita consumption & expenditure)



## UNECE Specialized Section on Dry and Dried Produce

Chairpersons: USA, South Africa, Turkey

**2016 28 Standards** (newest: Dried Pineapples)  
**2 Explanatory Brochures** (Whole Dried Chilli Peppers, Walnuts, 1 more in preparation) **color scales and gauges – poster layout in development**

**Rapporteurs** for development and revisions of standards selected (whenever possible) among **major producing countries** (e.g. for Cashew nuts – India; for Dates – Saudi Arabia etc.)





**Over the years UNECE  
has evolved into a  
platform  
for the development of  
agreed  
international best practice  
for international trade in  
agricultural produce**



## International best practice, standards, guides and training can help countries to:

- **Keep existing markets**
- **Access new markets**
- **Grow brands**
- **Stay competitive**
- **Differentiate in oversupplied markets**
- **Ensure consistent quality**
- **Establish trusted and sustainable trade relations**



# Standards and related best practice facilitate trade and help open opportunities

## What is needed?

- **Comprehensive, balanced input from all regions** to ensure that standards reflect actual market realities, include new production areas (their problems, their produce)
- **Public-private sector cooperation** (e.g. delegations)

## What is at stake?

- **Non-participation in the development of standards can have consequences** (e.g. changes in tolerances can result in the de-classification of produce, or loss in market shares )
- **Standards need to be applied (uniformly) to make them work**



**Only cooperation can help develop comprehensive, inclusive global standards and assure their uniform application**



# UNECE's approach:

## WIDER SCOPE

**Linking experts and expertise from different areas** (trade facilitation; electronic business; risk management; environmental concerns; supply chain management; transport issues)

- **Business Process Analysis (BPA) - analyze export chain and processes involved**
- **Traceability issues**
- **Food loss/waste**
- **Eating quality**
- **Linking phyto and quality projects**

**AIM: increase competitiveness, sustainable development, link issues and actors and create jobs**



# Capacity-building and promotion



**Present and promote UNECE standards and best practice:** help countries understand the quality requirements that have to be met for exporting to major agricultural markets e.g. in UNECE region

**Explain how standards are applied in practice, how compliance is checked:** outline legal, institutional and technical infrastructure required in practice

**Explain the importance of quality and its control in an overall agricultural development agenda**

**Involve and explain the role of the private sector**

**Partner with other international organizations and donor agencies to maximize impact and pool resources**



# Capacity-building and promotion



**Over past 8 years trained close to 2000 participants** (incl. capacity-building projects, development of guides, assessment studies, policy advice and train-the trainer seminars):

## **Example: Project on Cross-border agricultural food supply chains**

- training on trade and food safety for meat (Geneva) ; training on cross-border trade in nuts and dried fruit (Turkey, Uzbekistan)
- case studies (Business Process Analysis) on export of dried apricots and dried grapes
- agri platform (underway)

**Example:** Project on Information management in agri food chains for trade facilitation

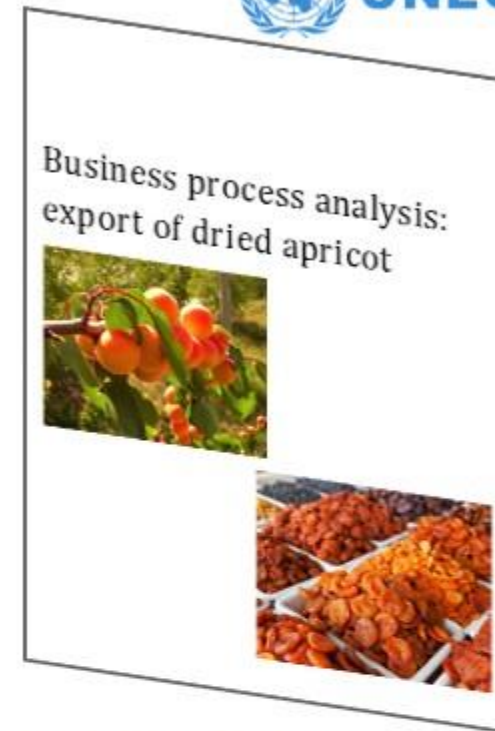
**Example:** Enhancing capacity of developing countries to implement international standards for agri products to improve their trade competitiveness





# What we do: Capacity-building, practical training, analysis

Turkey- Central Asia- Balkan



## Sustainability Xchange Standards Map



# What we do: Promotion and Education



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

UNECE Dry and Dried Produce Standards in  
International Trade



## From trees to your table

Behind the scenes – production,  
science and processing

19 June 2013

14:00

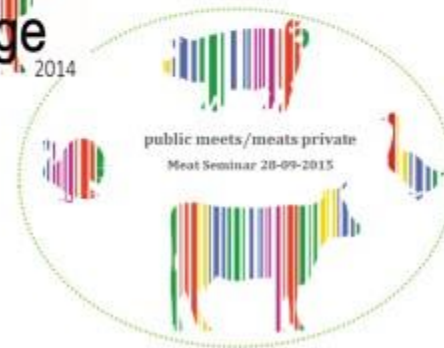
Salle VIII

Mr. Sam Keiper

Dried Fruit Association California, USA

Mr. Lothar Boers

Eurofins Laboratories, Germany



# Dried Fruit and Nuts Expo UNECE Commission April 2015



## Examples: Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Training: Africa and Latin America



# Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Training: Spain, Russia, Central Asia, Croatia



SDG Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture  
Improving inspection procedures – export control Spain  
UNECE-led training for Greek inspectors



SDG Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture  
Quality for export - UNECE standards and guides in practice –  
UNECE-led training for Greek inspectors in France



# Training on meat and egg standards Slovakia, Poland, Russia, Argentina



# CHALLENGES

Today, the **UNECE**, national, regional, international regulators and the private sector have to take into account:

- **New import and export markets**
- **More, and diverse players, more complex international supply chains and retailers** that operate globally
- **Concerns of consumers** about the origin of their food, its safety and quality



**International nature of trade (in all area covered by UNECE** require standards reflecting this

## UNECE's strengths

- **simple structure of UNECE standards**
- **open development and adoption process**
- **many years of experience**
- **large pool of international experts (public and private sector)**
- **strong public and private sector support and use**





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**THANK YOU**



**UNECE**