



**Economic and Social Commission  
for Western Asia (ESCWA)**



**Arab Organization for  
Agricultural Development**

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
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Expert Group Meeting on the Harmonization of Norms  
and Standards for Selected Agricultural  
Commodities to Facilitate Trade in  
the ESCWA Region  
Beirut, 27-29 April 1999

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**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PLAN OF ACTION  
FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS FOR  
SELECTED TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE  
IN THE ESCWA REGION**

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**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS & PLAN OF ACTION TO HARMONIZE  
STANDARDS FOR SELECTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE FROM THE UN /  
ESCWA REGION.**

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**ESCWA EGM**(Expert Group Meeting) on  
Harmonization of Norms and Standards.  
**BEIRUT (LEBANON), 27 APRIL 1999**

**UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

- ◆ **BODY:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.  
UN / ESCWA.
- ◆ **HEADQUARTERS:** UN House. Beirut ( Lebanon).
- ◆ **SECRETARIAT:** Sectoral Issues & Policies Division.  
Agricultural Section.
- ◆ **PARTICIPANTS:** Member Countries (13)  
Interested Parties.
- ◆ **LANGUAGES:** Arabic / English / French.
- ◆ **SCOPE OF APPLICATION:** Trade from and to UN/ESCWA member countries.

**UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

- ◆ **BODY:** United Nations Economic and Social for Western Asia. UN / ESCWA.
- ◆ **UPPER BODY:** Committee on Agriculture / Trade.
- ◆ **PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES:**
  - 1.- Working Party on Standardization of Agriculture Produce.
  - 2.- Ad-Hoc Meeting of Experts for Group of Products.
    - i.e. 2.1.- Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.
    - 2.2.- Dry and Dried Fruit.

## **UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

PARTICIPANTS(I): Member Countries (12) and PLO.

- BAHREIN
- EGYPT
- IRAK
- JORDANIA
- KUWAIT
- LEBANON
- OMAN
- QATAR
- SAUDI ARABIA
- SIRIA
- UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
- YEMEN

## **UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

PARTICIPANTS(II):

Other UN Member Countries, according to UN/ESCWA Terms of Reference.

Interested Parties:

◆ Professional Associations: General or Specific.

— Grower Associations

— Trader Associations:

• EXPORTER ASSOCIATIONS.

• IMPORTER ASSOCIATIONS.

◆ Standardization Organization:

— INTERNATIONAL OR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

— GOVERNMENTAL OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL.

## **UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

ACREDITATED DELEGATIONS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES

Official Member Countries PARTICIPATION:

Delegates from relevant Ministries in each country.

Expert / Administrative Responsible in this area.

**Allowed Interested Parties PARTICIPATION :**

National Professional Associations:  
(Technical or Elected Representatives)

—National Grower Associations

—National Trader Associations:

•NATIONAL EXPORTER ASSOCIATIONS.

•NATIONAL IMPORTER ASSOCIATIONS.

**UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL  
STANDARDS.**

**M. C. DELEGATES**

**ESCWA BODY**

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Technicians and Experts.     | Meeting of Experts (Ad-Hoc). |
| • Administrative Responsibles. | Working Party.               |
| • P.M. STAFF.                  | Committee.                   |
| • P.M. AMBASSADORS.            | Commission.                  |

**UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL  
STANDARDS.**

**ACTIONS**

**ESCWA BODY**

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Technical discussions | Meeting of Experts (Ad-Hoc). |
| • Adoption              | Working Party.               |
| • Endorsement           | Committee.                   |
| • Decission             | Commission.                  |

## **UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

◆DEMAND / CONFORMITY: Relevant Ministries from Member Countries (12) and PLO.

◆ BODY: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. UN / ESCWA.

◆DECISION: UN / ESCWA (COMMISSION) set-up a Working Party on Standardization of Agricultural Produce.

◆PURPOSE: Elaboration and Revision of Commercial Quality Standards for Selected Agricultural Produce.

◆REFERENCE: Existing International Standards from UN Bodies.

◆STAGE OF APPLICATION: At Export Control Point.

## **UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

◆REFERENCES: Existing International Standards from UN Bodies.

UN/ECE REVISED GENEVA PROTOCOL.

UN/ECE STANDARD LAYOUT FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

UN/ECE STANDARD LAYOUT FOR DRY AND DRIED PRODUCE.

UN/ECE STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. (CODE FFV).

UN/ECE STANDARDS FOR DRY AND DRIED PRODUCE. (CODE DDP)

## **UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

### **FRESH SELECTED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES**

#### **FRUIT**

APPLES AND PEARS

APRICOTS

CITRUS FRUIT

KIWIFRUIT

MANGOES

MELONS  
STRAWBERRIES  
TABLE GRAPES  
WATERMELONS

VEGETABLES

- BEANS
- CABBAGES
- CARROTS
- CAULIFLOWER
- CUCUMBERS
- GARLIC
- ONIONS
- POTATOES: Early&Ware
- SWEET PEPPERS
- TOMATOES

**UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL  
STANDARDS.**

**DRY AND DRIED SELECTED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES**  
**FRUIT**

- UNSHELLED HAZELNUTS
- UNSHELLED PISTACHIO NUTS
- UNSHELLED SWEET ALMONDS
- UNSHELLED WALNUTS
- WHOLE DATES

**UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL  
STANDARDS.**

- ◆ ADOPTION: WP on Standardization of Agricultural Produce.
- ◆ ENDORSEMENT: Committee on Agriculture/Trade, and / or Commission for WA.
- ◆ LAID DOWN: Relevant Authority or Ministry of each Member Country, according to its own legal system.
- ◆ PUBLICATION: As Regulation (Decree, Ministerial Order, Resolution, etc.) in the Official Journal.
- ◆ APPLICATION: Compulsory at export / import stage.
- ◆ CONTROL: Official Control Services established and developed in each Member Country.

## **UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

◆APPLICATION: Voluntary or optional for the domestic market in each Member Country.

◆APPLICATION: Compulsory at export / import stage.

INTRA-ESCWA TRADE:  
Among Member Countries.

EXTRA-ESCWA TRADE:  
To or From Third Countries.

## **UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

◆CONTROL: Official Control Services established and developed in each Member Country.

◆CERTIFICATION: After verification of conformity with the Standard, by means of Sampling and Checking.

### **BORDER INSPECTIONS**

INLAND FRONTIER:

LORRY OR TRUCK STATIONS  
RAILWAY (WAGONS) STATION  
AIRPORTS  
SEA PORTS

## **UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS.**

◆REFERENCES: Existing International Guides.

ISO RECOMMENDATION 874 ON SAMPLING OF  
FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

OECD OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTROL OF THE QUALITY  
OF PRODUCE EXPORTED UNDER THE SCHEME.

UN/ECE GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF QUALITY CONTROL FOR FRESH  
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EEC) N° 2251/92 ON QUALITY INSPECTION OF  
FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

## **UN / ESCWA INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL**

# **STANDARDS.**

SUMMARY OF WORKING PROCEDURES.

UN / ECE **WORKING PARTY** ON STANDARDIZATION OF PERISHABLE PRODUCE AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENT  
(WP7) **AND**

ITS SUBSIDIARY **MEETING OF EXPERTS** (GE) FOR  
THE ELABORATION OF COMMERCIAL QUALITY STANDARDS.



