

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

National Workshop on

**Fostering Integration of the Dried Fruits Value Chain of Uzbekistan into
Regional and Global Value Chains**

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Fostering Exports of Dried Fruits

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Mandatory Trade Standards

- ▶ Role of food safety organisations at national and international level
- ▶ Maximum levels of contaminants in dried fruit, especially mycotoxins, aflatoxins and pesticide residues
- ▶ Rapid Alert System for Food and Feeds (RASFF) and analogous systems
- ▶ Whole supply chain approach
- ▶ Importance of Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) systems in Uzbekistan
- ▶ Packaging requirements

Useful Actions

- ▶ Maintain a list of all responsible food safety organisations in each relevant importing country.
- ▶ Keep a database of all relevant CODEX, UNECE and EU standards as well as relevant academic literature and apply them to all dried fruit exports.
- ▶ Participate in the activities of relevant CODEX and UNECE Working Groups.
- ▶ Monitor USDA and FAO reports on national and international food import regulations
- ▶ Study EU food hygiene regulations and equivalents in other jurisdictions to determine conformity in Uzbekistan
- ▶ Liaise with organisations in relevant jurisdictions responsible for reviewing phytosanitary certificates.
- ▶ Move to regulating the aflatoxin level of all (initially perhaps only the pilot) dried fruit exports to 4 µg/kg (Sum of B1, B2, G1 and G2).
- ▶ Move to regulating the level of Ochratoxin A at 10 µg/kg of for all (initially perhaps only the pilot) dried grape exports.
- ▶ Regularly consult the EU database on Minimum Residual Levels for pesticides, and the regulations of other jurisdictions, to ensure conformity.

Commercial Standards

- ▶ Optional and attached to mandatory standards, e.g. moisture and size requirements
 - ▶ Control lists from supermarket requirements
 - ▶ Food certification systems: IFS, FSSC22000 and BRC – all limited in use locally
 - ▶ Proof of sustainable and ethical sourcing practices
 - ▶ Existence of companies experienced in adjusting domestic production to international standards
- ▶ A complex game between exporters, importers and retailers, with governments and numerous other certifying institutions as competing suppliers to a market.

Useful Actions

- ▶ Regularly test for salmonella and foreign matter, including pests, in dried fruit exports
- ▶ Ban colourings, flavourings and sweeteners in all dried fruit exports.
- ▶ Regularly test for compliance with UNECE moisture content standards in dried fruit exports
- ▶ Engage in dialogue with importers to obtain clarification of exact business guidelines, and then work with farmers and exporters to ensure accurate calibration.
- ▶ Keep a database of regulatory and business labelling and packaging requirements in all relevant jurisdictions to ensure conformity of exports with both sets of requirements.
- ▶ Introduce a system of random checks of dried fruit exports in the country to ensure compliance and reinforce confidence in the commitment to high phytosanitary and other standards.

Useful Actions

- ▶ Develop a database of import procedures, including customs duties, in each relevant jurisdiction, with a view to negotiating cost reductions and efficiency gains in the future.
- ▶ Work to increase Uzbek farmers' conformity with international standards through the introduction of financing schemes, including where desirable co-operatives.
- ▶ At the same time, continue and intensify work with development agencies for the establishment of recognised laboratories in Uzbekistan and the training of qualified staff, as this is the only affordable eventual solution to quality issues with the export of dried fruit from Uzbekistan.
- ▶ Keep an up-to-date record of the volume of trade, levels of tariffs and other non-tariff measures imposed on dried fruit by each relevant country and negotiate for trade harmonisation at the lowest possible tariff level

The prize: branding for Uzbek dried fruits

- ▶ Depends on success with mandatory and commercial standards
- ▶ Increasing importance of branding globally
- ▶ Success of Turkey in fruit exports (including dried fruits and especially dried apricots)
- ▶ Potential importance of an Exporters' Association
- ▶ Differentiations in varieties and impact on export markets
- ▶ Can Uzbekistan take the lead in branding dried grapes?