



OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables

Activities Report 2022-2023

Bonn, Germany
14-16 March 2023



Brief history of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

- established in 1962 (inter-governmental organization)
- 28 participating countries
- 30+ **Explanatory Brochures**
- OECD Conformity Certificates
- 7 OECD Guidelines
- 10 Peer Reviews
- Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services



What is the OECD Fruit and Vegetables scheme?

The main objective of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme is to facilitate international trade through the harmonization of implementation and interpretation of **marketing standards**. A further objective is to facilitate **mutual recognition of inspections** by participating countries. The Scheme is well known for its explanatory brochures on standards, but is also involved in defining inspection procedures that are recognized in many countries, and in sponsoring training courses. The Scheme also organizes peer reviews with the goal of helping the reviewed country improve its quality inspection system.



OECD Explanatory Brochures

- Reference guidelines in the OECD quality inspection system
- 60 years experience
- Approval by consensus
- Pragmatic approach (trade facilitation)
- Uniform content and high quality
- OECD Guidelines on Development Explanatory Brochures
- Currently available for 33 products
- Hard copies
- Free E-Versions





Structure of the Explanatory Brochure

- Text
 - Follows the Standard layout
 - Standard + OECD interpretation
 - Classification table
- Illustrations
 - Follow the Standard layout
 - Illustrate all quality parameters (as far as possible)



Text - Overview

Reference to the applied standard

On the following pages, the official text of the tomatoes standard [UNECE FFV- 36, version 2017] is indicated in **blue bold**, the OECD interpretative text of the Standard is indicated in *black italic*.

Official standard text (blue bold)

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the tomatoes must be:

- intact;

*OECD general explanatory notes (black italic)
(general and –as needed- product specific)*

The tomatoes must not have any damage or injury affecting the integrity of the produce.

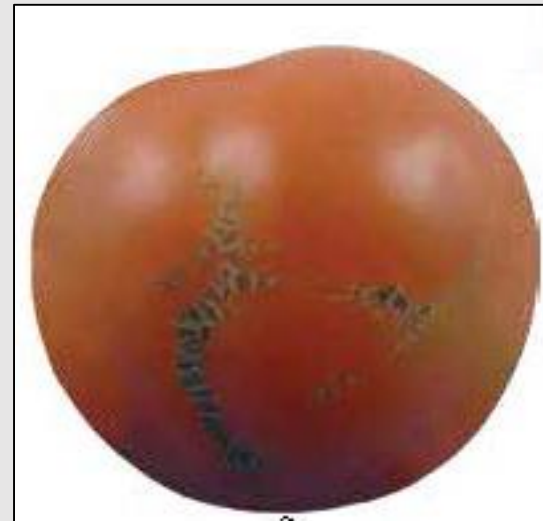
Illustration No.	Name of illustration
5	<i>Intact</i>

Reference to the illustrations




Illustrations - Principles

- Quality parameters and defects are determined at export stage after preparation and packaging
- ‘2D interpretation’ – all defects are shown on the visible part of the product – other side is perfect
- 1 type of defect per photo
- Minimum requirements – ‘not allowed’ photos (‘limit for practically free – allowed in all classes)
- Classifications – Limit allowed photos







Inte Normes internat


Title of the illustration

Reference to the Standard text

Suberization of the stigma
Cca tricoe pistillaires

Classification – Ribbed tomatoes
Classificati on – Tomates à côtes


Photos



Limit allowed - Extra Class
Limite admise - Cat. «Extra»


1

Classification lines



Limit allowed – Class I
Limite admise – Cat. I

2



Limit allowed – Class II
Limite admise – Cat. II

3

Reference number

30

Explanatory table

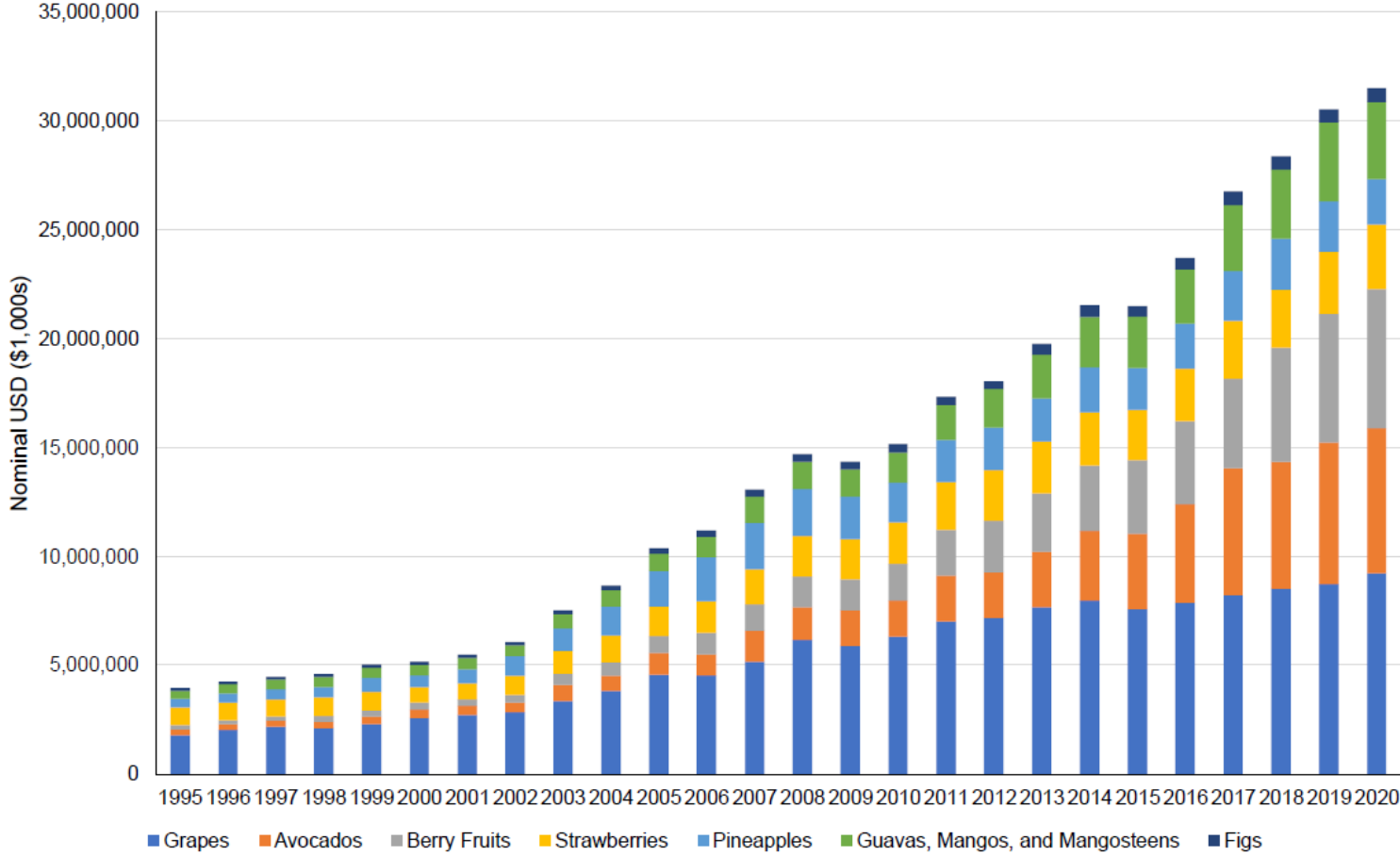
Tomatoes / Tomates	Extra Class Cat. «Extra»	Class I Cat. I	Class II Cat. II	Not allowed Exclu	Notes
Suberization of the stigma Cca tricoe pistillaires	1	2	3	-	1. Suberization of the stigma. / Cca tricoe pistillaire. 2. Suberization of the stigma ≤ 1 cm ² - Class I. / Cca tricoe pistillaire ≤ 1 cm ² - Cat. I. 3. Suberization of the stigma ≤ 2 cm ² - Class II. / Cca tricoe pistillaire ≤ 2 cm ² - Cat. II.

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Economic Impact of Standards and Harmonized Inspections



Figure 1a. Exports of Fresh Berries and Other Fruit



Notes: Data, available since 1995, are from BACI (Gaulier and Zignago, 2010) and denominated in nominal U.S. dollars (thousands).



Descriptive Statistics

- **Products Covered:** *apples, [pears & quinces], cherries, [peaches and nectarines], [plums and sloes], apricots, grapes, avocados, strawberries, [melons and watermelons], [guavas, mangoes, mangosteens], figs, [onions and shallots], garlic, leeks, lettuce, chicory, hazelnuts, mushrooms, [cauliflowers and broccoli], asparagus, carrots, beans, etc.*
- **Period:** *1995-2020*
- **Countries:** *196*
- **Source:** *BACI (Gaulier and Zignago, 2010) and denominated in nominal U.S. dollars (thousands).*
- Trade flows in USD



Equation

- We want to measure the impacts on trade flows between two countries.
- Measure the impact in case both countries are members of the OECD Fruit and Vegetable Scheme and UNECE.
- We check the impact in case only one country is member of the Scheme/UNECE.
- We measure the impact of the OECD Explanatory Brochures (Mkt standards) and other control variables

Trade= BothFVS + OneFVS + Explanatory Brochure (MKT Standard) + other control variables



Figure 2. International Trade by OECD FVS Scheme Membership Status

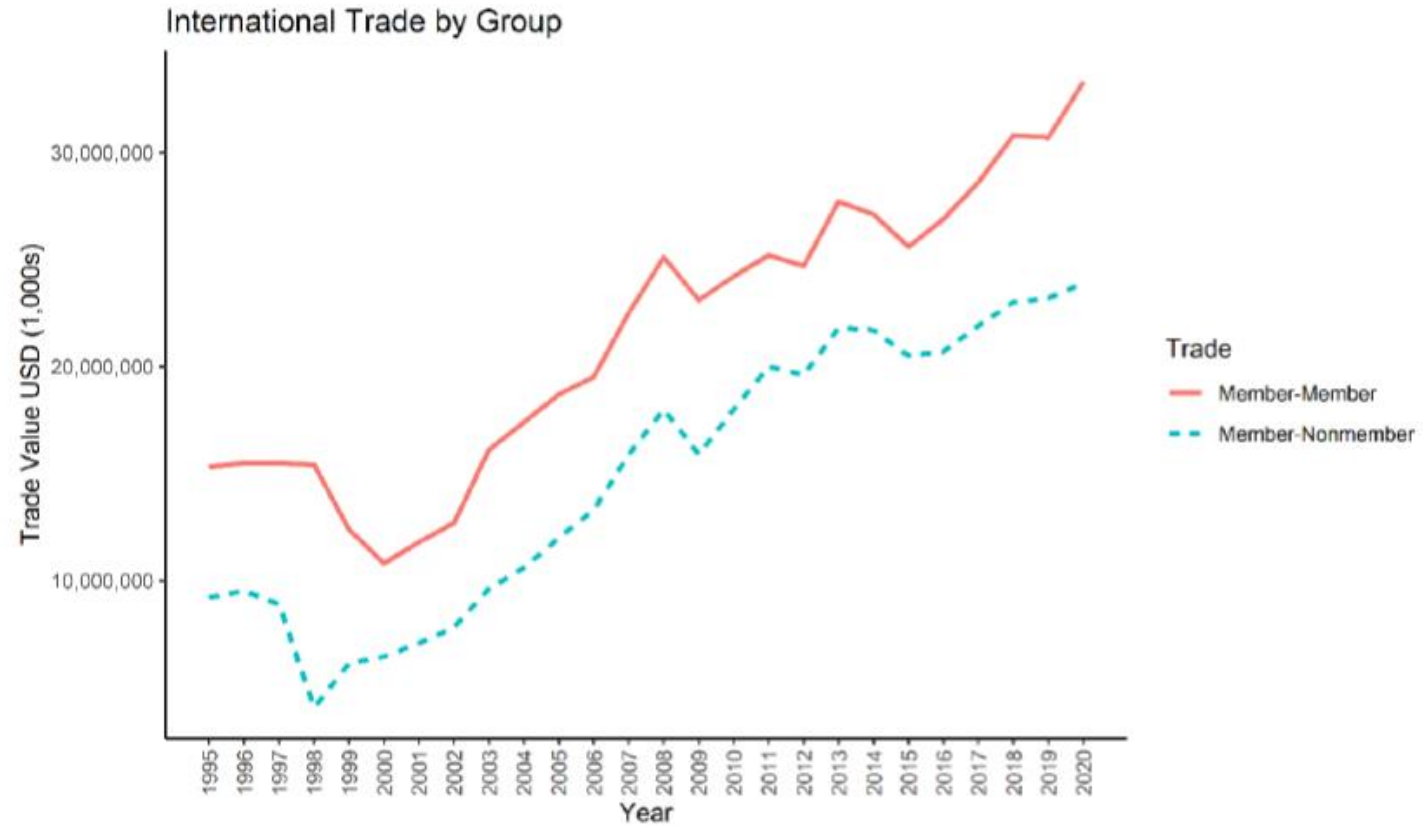
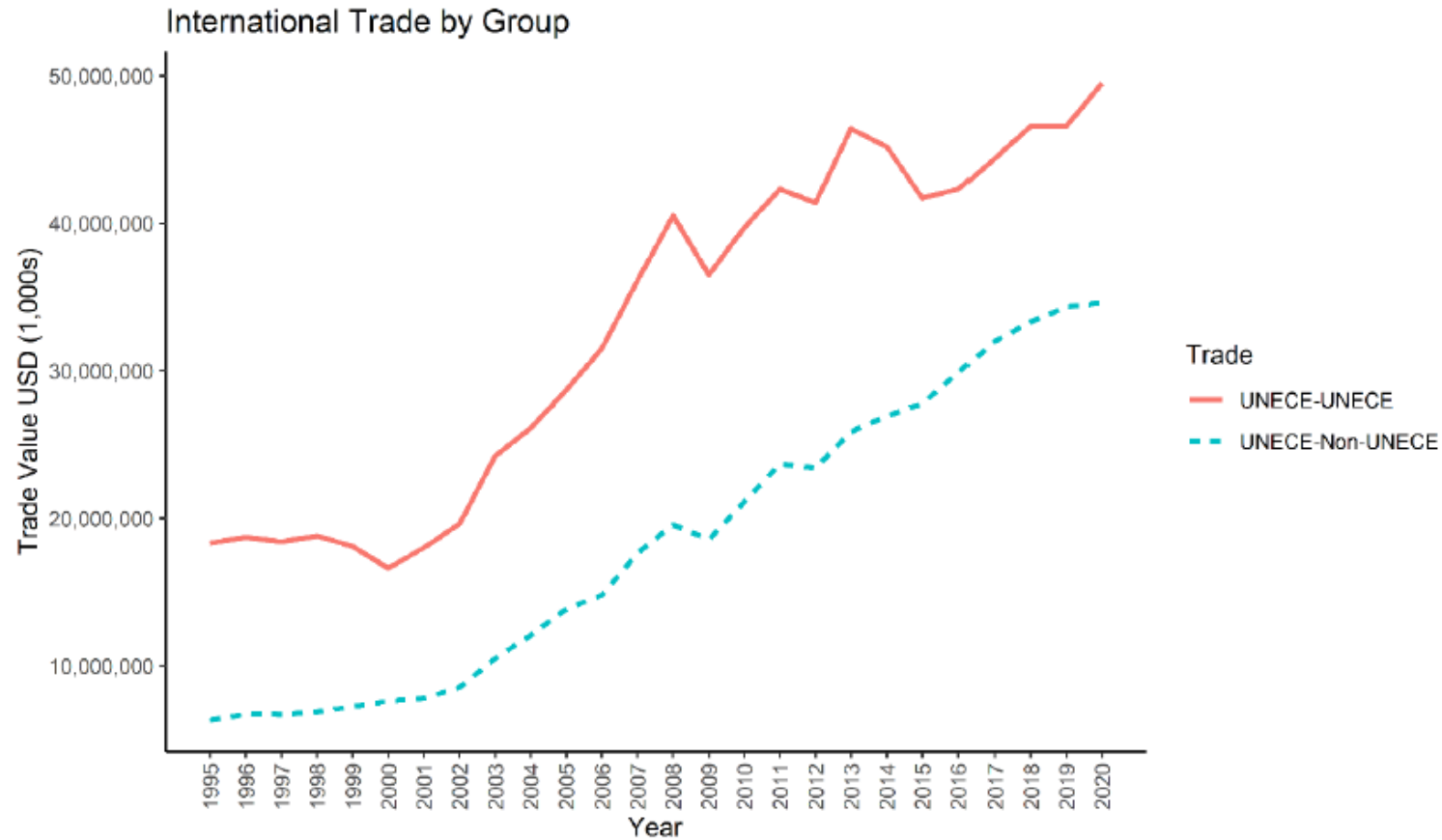




Figure 3. International Trade by UNECE Country Status





Impacts on Trade (MKT Standards/ Membership common system/ Explanatory Brochures) **UNECE Standards**

- Evidence on the effects of the UNECE standards and standard revisions is comparable to that of the OECD FVS brochures.
- Of the 37 standards and/or standard revisions examined, there are positive, statistically significant effects on trade in artichokes (35%), asparagus (27%), broccoli (11%), carrots (14%), ribbed celery (25%), citrus fruits (16%), lettuce and endives (8%), mangoes (22%), cultivated mushrooms (82%), roots and tubercles (29%), shallots (16%), tomatoes (12%), and truffles (1,418%).
- The very large effect size for truffles reflects the tenfold growth in global exports of truffles that occurred between 2006 and 2007—a high level of trade that was sustained through 2011 before a ten-fold decrease in exports between 2011 and 2012.



Impacts on Trade (MKT Standards/ Membership common system/ Explanatory Brochures) OECD Brochures

- Publication of FVS brochures have considerable positive effects on trade in fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Of the 25 brochures investigated, fully 14 indicated large and statistically significant effects on trade. In particular, in the years following publication, trade is statistically significantly larger for fruits and vegetables related to these brochures: apples (by 22%), apricots (22%), beans (25%), citrus fruits (27%), cucumbers (22%), figs (18%), grapes (9%), mangoes (29%), melons (24%), onions (23%), pears (25%), potatoes (42%), shallots (18%), and watermelons (34%).
- Note that all effects are with respect to the pre-brochure period. Thus, for example, after controlling for a wide variety of economic factors deemed to affect fresh produce trade, we find that trade in apples is 22% larger in the post-brochure period (2011-15) relative to 1995-2015.



Key Messages

- The analysis suggests that **publication of OECD FVS brochures and implementation/revision of UNECE standards are associated with substantial increases in international trade** across multiple product categories.
- Having a common system (**same marketing standards, harmonized interpretation and common inspections methodologies**) amplifies the positive impact on trade.

Key Beneficiaries

- **Farmers/Traders** benefit from harmonized inspection methods and clear quality standards classification that promote fair trade
- **Consumers** benefit from quality assurance and fair prices.





New Brochures 2022-2023

Root Vegetables



Green Bananas



Passion Fruit



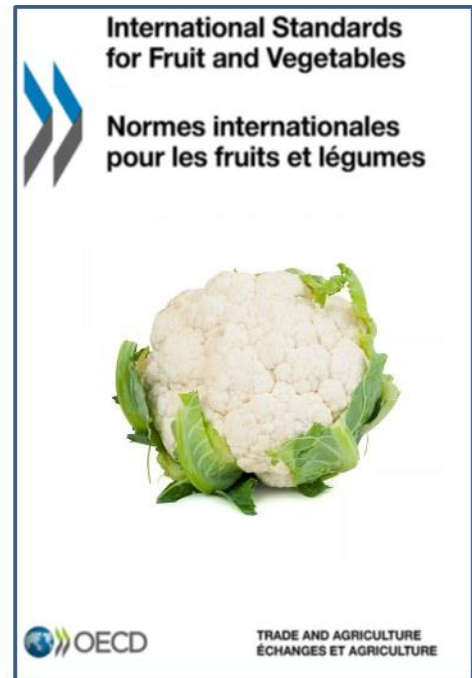
Berry Fruits





Under development 2022-23

Cauliflower



Papayas





Capacity building activities

- International Training Course (annual), Slovakia – **5-7 September 2022**
- Harmonisation meeting 2022, Zoetermeer, The Netherlands - **June 2022**
- International Meeting on Quality Control of Fruit and Vegetables, Bonn, Germany – **14-16 March 2023**
- Asia – Africa (Kenya) – Latin America (Brazil 2018 - Costa Rica 2019) – **next Brazil and Africa 2023.**
- Cooperation with other international organisations. UNECE – Dried Produce 2023.



Kenya Plant Health
Inspectorate Service



MINISTERSTVO
PŔOHOŠPODÁRSTVA
A ROZVOJA VIDIEKA
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY



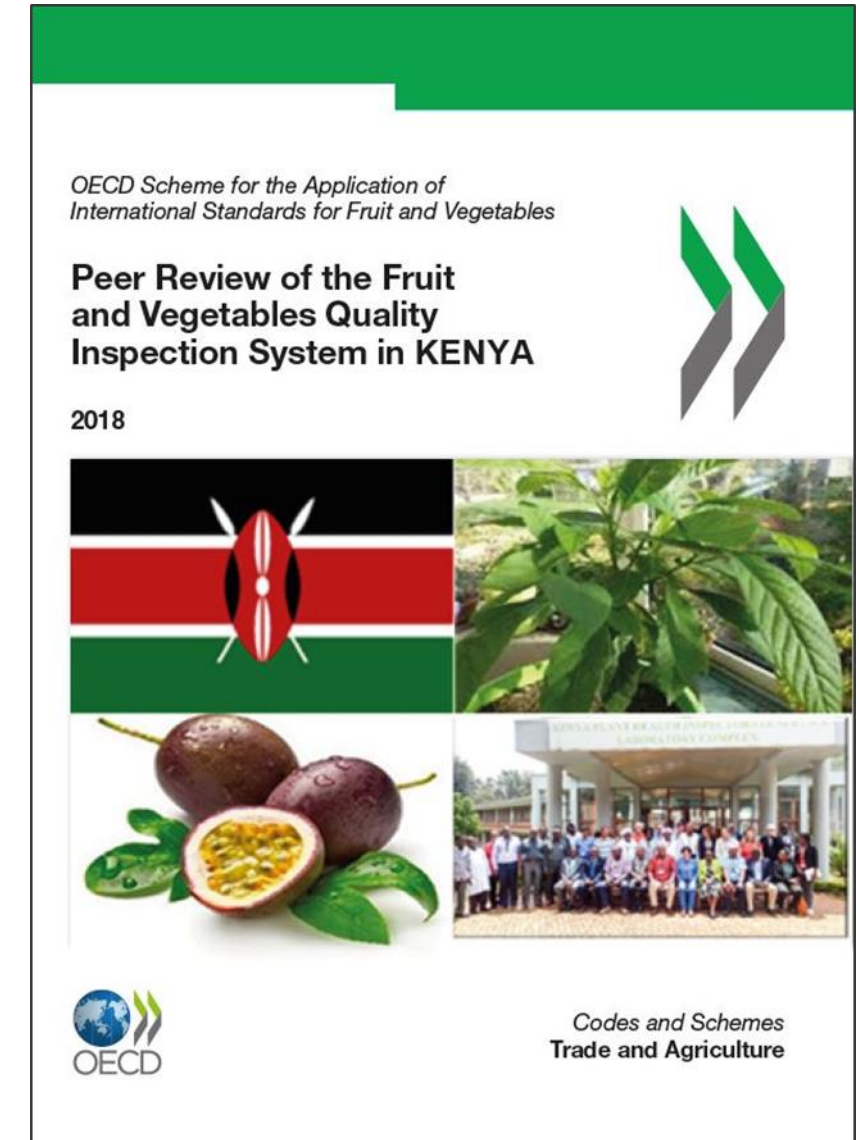
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION





OECD Peer Reviews

- Systematic examination and assessment of the performance of the F&V quality inspection system by experts from other countries under the auspices of the OECD Secretariat
- Conducted on a non-adversarial basis, relies on mutual trust amongst the reviewers
- To improve policy making, adopt best practices and comply with internationally established standards
- 10 OECD Peer Reviews (Hungary, Slovakia, Morocco, Turkey, the Netherlands and Spain, Finland, France, Israel & **Kenya**) **Next Germany 2023!!!**

The cover of the report features a green header bar at the top. Below it, the text 'OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables' is written in a small, grey font. The main title, 'Peer Review of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System in KENYA', is in a larger, bold, black font. The year '2018' is printed below the title. On the right side, there is a large green and grey graphic element consisting of two stylized arrows pointing right. The central part of the cover is divided into four quadrants: the top-left shows the Kenyan national flag; the top-right shows a lush green avocado tree; the bottom-left shows several passion fruits, one of which is cut open to reveal its seeds; the bottom-right shows a group of people standing in front of a modern building entrance. At the bottom left, the OECD logo is repeated. At the bottom right, the text 'Codes and Schemes Trade and Agriculture' is displayed in a small, grey font.



FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME



New activities for 2022-2023

– E-Learning

*Ad-hoc-working Group (AHWG) on exploring how to disseminate information in an interactive and constructive way (short name “on eLearning”) . The Members of the AHWG are **Brazil, Belgium, Slovakia, France, Germany, Kenya, South Africa, Spain and COLEACP.***



– Economic impact of marketing standards on fruit and vegetables trade

Joint work with UNECE

– Guidelines Pandemics/Disruptive events

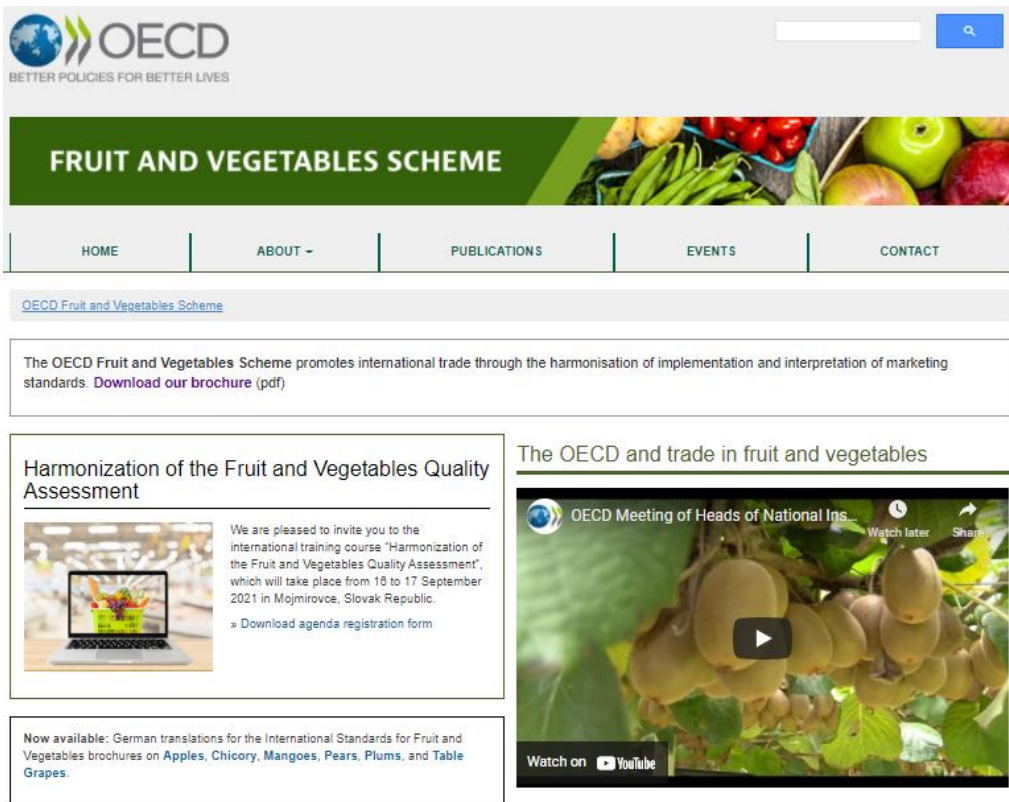
*The following countries volunteered to work on the guidelines: **France (Chair), Germany, Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain and COLEACP.***



– Study on BREXIT impacts on fruit and vegetables trade

– Study on climate change impact on fruit and vegetables quality





The screenshot shows the website's header with the OECD logo and navigation menu (HOME, ABOUT, PUBLICATIONS, EVENTS, CONTACT). Below the menu is a search bar and a link to the 'OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme'. A text box states: 'The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme promotes international trade through the harmonisation of implementation and interpretation of marketing standards. [Download our brochure \(pdf\)](#)'. There are two main content boxes: one for 'Harmonization of the Fruit and Vegetables Quality Assessment' with an image of a laptop and a text box inviting to an international training course in Slovakia, and another for 'Now available: German translations for the International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables brochures on Apples, Chicory, Mangoes, Pears, Plums, and Table Grapes'. A video player shows 'The OECD and trade in fruit and vegetables' with a kiwi fruit image.

For more information

- Visit our website at www.oecd.org/agriculture/fruit-vegetables
- Contact us at tad.contact@oecd.org
- Follow us on Twitter [@OECDtrade](https://twitter.com/OECDtrade)

Download our fruit and vegetables explanatory standards brochures



» Access all brochures