

## New UNECE standard for certain small fruits

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The presentation New Standard for “Certain Small Fruits” of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - UNECE, will show pictures and information about Peruvian ground-cherry (*Physalis peruviana*), Jaboticaba, Camu-camu, Brazil cherry, Surinam cherry, Barbados cherry (Acerola or West Indian cherry), Strawberry guava (Gooseberry guava), Marula, Jelly palm, Craboo (Nance), Spanish plum and Umbu (Imbu), all listed in the UNECE Standard.

The standard proposal intents were to be in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in an attempt to promote Bioeconomy for resilience and sustainability, as well as a feature to facilitate trade of these exotic fresh fruits from tropical and subtropical regions, for the people of the forests as well as for smallholding farmers and for the fruit's industry.

The Certain Small fruits Standard was proposed by Brazil in 2022, during the 70th Meeting of the UNECE's Specialized Section on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (GE.1 - WP.7).

The Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs aligned with the proposal are nr. 12 (sustainable sources of production), nr. 13 (adapted agriculture to their biomes), nr. 15 (underpinned sustainable farming through biodiversity) and nr. 17 (international collaboration).

The distribution of most of the listed fruits is worldwide.

The Standard was approved by the Specialized Section on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables of UNECE for a one-year round for further collaboration and adjustments. It is possible to include other small fruits such as Açaí and Bacuri, well known fruits from the amazonian region, among others.

The Standard for Certain Small Fruits follows the Standard Layout of the UNECE's Specialized Section on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and provides ways for the classification of those listed fruits in Three Categories: Extra Class, Category I and Category II, allowing a structured entry into the international market.

The presentation also provides a link to the work in place and the actual list of the traded Small Fruits at the international market. For the future, a list of traders and sources of those fruits will be easily accessible link (<https://sites.google.com/agro.gov.br/wgsmallfruits/home-page>). Since finalizing the proposal, the question “Why having a UNECE' Standard for such exotic and low traded fruits?” has always been raised. Notwithstanding this situation, and to stay at the silver lined zone, highlighting the actual valuable characteristics of being fresh, healthy and delicious are key to promote the future of those listed fruits, as this may have been the case (same question and approach) at the initial years for most of the currently worldwide traded Berry fruits.

The Specialized Section on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables' support to this proposal was a humbled recognition, as well as a powerful movement to amplify the intent to the knowledge of those fruits.

Taking into consideration that the listed fruits are adapted to their biomes and some of them originated from semi-arid and equatorial regions, there is ample space and possibilities to provide income to the people of the forests to protect harassed biomes, notwithstanding the fostering effect for the resilience of smallholding farmers with fruits adapted to extreme environmental conditions (e.g., draughts, besides semi-arid and rainforest regions) and the promotion of a sustainable industry in the future.

International data and production and export data are not available for those fruits as Harmonized System codes for all listed Certain small Fruits as listed at the UNECE's Standard are under HS code “Other fresh fruits” - “Other”.

To specify the potential and coverage of the new UNECE Standard for Certain Small Fruits, official data from Brazil (IBGE, 2017) illustrates that the frequency of rural and indigenous establishments that picks wild small fruits are: 1,204 (2 of native indians) for Jelly palm (fibers only); 177 (125 of native indians) for Camu-camu; 2,276 (288 of native indians) for Craboo (Nance); and 14,512 (141 of native indians) for Umbu (Imbu). Concurrently, official commercial data from Brazil (CONAB, 2022) specifies the volume of the listed fruits at wholesalers, being the volume traded in Kg as follows: 57.223.112 for Barbados cherry (Acerola or West Indian cherry); 15.322.761 for Jaboticaba; 43.140 for Surinam cherry; and 6.813.985 for Spanish plum. Remaining fruits do not have available data in Brazil, being *Physalis* exports from Colombia valued US\$ 29,862,441 in 2022.