
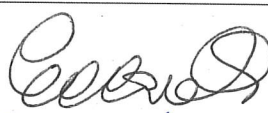
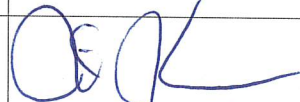


## Management Response

<b>Evaluation Title:</b>	<b>Strengthening national capacities of the CIS countries to implement ECE agricultural quality standards (E236)</b>		
<b>Period of Review:</b>	October 2014 to February 2018.		
<b>Date of Evaluation Report:</b>	September 2018		
<b>Approved by:</b>	Chief, Programme Management Unit Ms. Catherine Haswell	Date 01/11/19	Signature 
<b>Cleared by:</b>	OiC Economic Cooperation and Trade Division Ms. Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli	28/12/18	
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Manager of the evaluation Mr Mika Vepsäläinen	20/12/2018	

### **Recommendation 1:**

The UNECE needs to finalise negotiating with the Shushary lab about disposing the equipment, e.g. by transferring ownership to the Shushary laboratory according to the UN rules and regulations.

### **Management Response:**

The secretariat accepts the recommendation. The transfer of the equipment to the Shushary lab, in accordance with the UN Financial Rules and Regulations, will be completed by 30 June 2019.

### ***Follow up actions and responsibilities:***

Mika Vepsäläinen, Chief, Market Access Section.

### **Recommendation 2:**

It is recommended that the technical report on traceability in the poultry sector prepared by VNIIPP (Russian Research Institute for Poultry Processing Industry) be translated into English, to share experiences under and beyond projects E160 and E236 to support wider knowledge and use of traceability mechanisms. At the very least, title should be presented in Russian on the UNECE website and these materials can be labelled as RUS language materials to enhance searchability by Russian-speaking experts.

**Management Response:**

The secretariat does not accept the recommendation due to a lack of resources. The technical reports are available in Russian on the ECE website. However, as there was not provision for translations in the project, the total number of pages (428) is too large to be translated in-house as apart of meeting documentation. Should funding become available, the secretariat will reconsider the recommendation.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Secretary to WP.7

**Recommendation 3:**

The UNECE secretariat is encouraged to consider supporting strengthening and facilitating formalized links between Lorkh Institute, Shushary Lab and Laboratory in North Ossetia to co-develop action planning or facilitate implementation of strategies for self-sustaining operations, to further effect and potential impact of UNECE contributions on Russian market.

**Management Response:**

The secretariat accepts the recommendations within the limits of its mandate of providing a platform for member States' cooperation. UNECE will contact the three laboratories and invite them to participate in the work of the Specialized Section on Seed Potatoes (GE6) in order to link the laboratories up with each other and with other member States.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

Mika Vepsäläinen, Chief, Market Access Section

**Recommendation 4:**

For future similar kinds of engagement under potential consideration by UNECE in future projects, it is recommended that the procurement of the equipment component be separated, and equipment is delivered by the agency with specialised expertise in procurement (e.g. by UNOPS, UNIDO or other). UNECE role should be limited to advisory services, training and capacity building activities in the framework of provision of expertise through Specialized Sections for Seed Potatoes and other relevant bodies within the framework of the UNECE technical cooperation strategy.

**Management Response:**

The Secretariat does not accept this recommendation, noting that procurement for all UN Secretariat departments in Geneva is conducted by UNOG. The use of UNOPS would duplicate the procurement action required and add an additional level of support to this process that is not required.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

Michael Sylver, Executive Officer

**Recommendation 5:**

It is recommended that a practical guide/brochure be developed by the Shushary lab outlining the lab concept, list of equipment, its application, capacity building activities (trainings, conferences, etc.), lessons learnt, etc. for broad dissemination and placement on the web site). UNECE secretariat or individual technical experts who have been involved in the project are encouraged to participate, to increase likelihood of impact of the project and create opportunities for showcase this work and translate it to other projects/regions/ etc. showcase effects and increase impact.

**Management Response:**

The secretariat partially accepts the recommendation. The secretariat will convey the recommendation to the Shushary laboratory. However, this being outside the scope of the United Nations, UNECE can only recommend the said action to the Shushary laboratory.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

Mika Vepsäläinen, Chief, Market Access Section

**Recommendation 6:**

It is recommended that UNECE Secretariat involves all relevant staff members while developing and implementing the project interventions to ensure knowledge and expertise transfer. The mechanism should be in particular in place in case of soon to retire staff.

**Management Response:**

The secretariat accepts the recommendation.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Mika Vepsäläinen, Market Access Section

**Recommendation 7:**

In developing similar agricultural projects oriented at CIS countries, the UNECE Secretariat, need to fully consider agricultural needs, primary agricultural products (persimmons, potatoes, soya beans or dried apricots) and different climatic zones. This will help streamline the project activities and render better results.

**Management Response:**

UNECE accepts the recommendation. This project clearly highlighted the need to adapt to the local conditions. In the design of future projects, this component will be given due attention.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Mika Vepsäläinen, Market Access Section

**Recommendation 8:**

UNECE Secretariat should engage with government, beyond research institutions, in order to attain better performance, outcomes and increase likelihood of sustainability or project's outputs and learning, and wide dissemination of results.

**Management Response:**

The secretariat accepts the recommendation. The secretariat will make all efforts to improve the performance of the cooperating partners in the recipient organizations in order to ensure the sustainability of projects after the completion of the UNECE activities and the dissemination of projects' results beyond the immediate partnerships.

**Follow up actions and responsibilities:**

Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Mika Vepsäläinen, Market Access Section

