



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Hydrocyanic acid and Mycotoxins in food commodities

**Request for data on Hydrocyanic acid
and Mycotoxins in cassava and cassava products
(including fermented cooked cassava-based products)**

Issued August 2017

Background

The 11th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from April 3—April 7, 2017, agreed to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) led by Nigeria to advise on the need and feasibility to establish a maximum level (ML) for Hydrocyanic acid (HCN) in all fermented cassava products as well as to consolidate information on Mycotoxin occurrence in these products, for consideration by CCCF12 in 2018.

We are requesting submission of the following data:

- occurrence data on HCN and mycotoxins in cassava and cassava products (including fermented cooked cassava-based products);
- information on processing (cooking) methods; and
- consumption patterns

Indication of the implementation of the Code of practice for the reduction of hydrocyanic acid in cassava and cassava products (CAC/RCP 73-2013) for the generation of the relevant data is desirable.

We are requesting submission of new data covering approximately the years from the last JECFA evaluation in 2011 of HCN in cassava and cassava products and at least 10 years of mycotoxins. Data should be submitted by September 30, 2017, to allow time for data analysis and drafting of the paper by the EWG.

Data that were submitted to JECFA for the 2011 HCN risk assessment do not need to be resubmitted.

The call for data can also be viewed online at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/call-data-expert/en/> or <http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/calls-data-experts/en/>.

Date for submission

The submission of data is requested before

30 September 2017

This deadline applies to all data to be submitted.

WHO will be compiling data for the EWG. **All new data EXCEPT DATA ON CASSAVA CONSUMPTION PATTERN (see below) must be uploaded in the GEMS database, which is now easily accessible on the web.** To access the GEMS database, go to http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/gems-food/en/. Please read the “GEMS/Food Database Manual” before attempting to submit data to GEMS. To submit data, you will need an account, and instructions on creating an account are found on page 2 of the manual. For technical questions about submitting data to GEMS, please contact Philippe Verger at WHO (vergerp@who.int).

When submitting data to the GEMS/Food database for this work, please:

- Provide complete information on the LOQ and LOD of analytical methods.
- Provide information in the “Local Food Identifier” or “Notes” fields of the database to allow more specific identification of samples, e.g., Is a food fresh or processed (e.g. fermented, dried / dehydrated, chips, boiled, flour, etc.)?
- Provide information on “State of Food Analysed” e.g., cooked or raw.

Data on cassava consumption pattern should be sent in Excel to Philippe Verger at WHO (vergerp@who.int and cc changk@who.int). Annex A should be filled and attached to the Excel sheet.

Annex A: Information on food consumption data.

General Information :				Food report's details			
Country: _____				Portion Size Assessment: _____		Portion estimation tool: _____	
Name of Survey: _____				Recipe Disintegration: _____		Expression of food intake _____	
Reference : _____				Composite food: _____		Number of Food items _____	
Institutional Information				Survey's details			
Institution's name: _____				Number of record days: _____		Sampling unit _____	
Institution contact details: _____				Survey period: _____		Sample design _____	
Name of contact person: _____				Survey methodology: _____		Over sampled subgroups _____	
Email of contact person: _____							
Population Information				Results			
Number of subjects: _____				Under reporters: _____		Representativeness: _____	
Age range: _____				Exclusion of under reporters: _____		Response rate: _____	
Sex ratio: _____ % ♂ / % ♀							
Body weight _____				Publication permission: _____		Exclusion criteria during data cleaning: _____	
Population's body weight _____ See Annex I							
Annex I: Body weight mean according to age and sex.							
Age groups	♂	♀	Total				
0 - 35 months	kg	kg	kg				
3 - 5 years	kg	kg	kg				
6 - 14 years	kg	kg	kg				
15 - 49 years	kg	kg	kg				
50 - 74 years	kg	kg	kg				
> 75 years old	kg	kg	kg				
> 15 years old	kg	kg	kg				
General population	kg	kg	kg				