

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

E

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

CL 2020/51-OCS-CF

July 2020

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: **Request for comments on work related to mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products**

DEADLINE: **30 September 2020**

BACKGROUND

1. For information, please refer to document [CX/CF 20/14/12](#).
2. In view of the postponement of 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF14) from 2020 to 2021 due to the pandemic situation, Codex members and observers are kindly invited to consider the conclusions and recommendations in the discussion paper regarding the development of a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products.
3. Comments in reply to this Circular Letter will assist the Electronic Working Group (EWG), established at CCCF13 (2019), chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana, to further develop the discussion paper, in view of the additional time available following the postponement of CCCF14, on possible work on mycotoxins in cassava and cassava-based products in order to facilitate their consideration at CCCF14 which may include the submission of a project document¹ for new work on the development of a COP and present an outline¹ of the COP to facilitate the consideration of the proposal at CCCF14.
4. The focused request for comments is based on the information, conclusions and recommendation provided in the discussion paper in relation to mycotoxins in cassava and cassava-based products and on the understanding that work on the establishment of maximum levels (MLs) for hydrogen cyanide (HCN) in cassava and cassava based products is not yet possible with the data and information available up to date as presented in CX/CF 20/14/12.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

5. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments on the development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products as follows:
 - a. Whether there is a need to develop a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava products, if so,
 - b. Whether it is feasible to develop such a COP based on the management practices available to date, if so,
 - c. Whether there is room for the EWG to further develop the discussion paper, and if so,
 - d. Provide information on good management practices currently available that are proven to be effective and applicable worldwide to control mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products to supplement the information provided in Appendix I to CX/CF 20/14/12.
If such information is available from the website, please provide links.
If the publication can be provided as an attachment, please send the file directly to the EWG Chair: adeboyee.a@nafdac.gov.ng cc to codexsecretariat@son.gov.ng and codex@fao.org.
 - e. Provide other considerations as may be appropriate.

Such considerations may be: Identification of key points to consider for the development of the COP (e.g. scope and relevant mycotoxins based on management practices available); key Codex texts that should be referenced to complement the application of the this COP; any other key points Codex members / observers consider relevant for the development of the COP.

¹ The submission of a project document and an outline of the COP does not imply CCCF agrees on initiating new work on the COP but can facilitate the consideration of the proposal and, in the affirmative, to already have a general discussion on the COP to better guide its development in the EWG and at subsequent sessions of CCCF.

6. In submitting comments on the above, Codex members and observers are invited to consider the background information and conclusions provided in CX/CF 20/14/12. The document has been uploaded on the CCCF14 website: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/pt/?meeting=CCCF&session=14>

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

7. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>
8. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
9. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
10. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>.
11. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.