



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

**13<sup>th</sup> Session  
Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 29 April – 3 May 2019**

**DISCUSSION PAPER ON LEAD AND CADMIUM IN QUINOA**

**BACKGROUND**

1. Noting the existing maximum levels (MLs) for lead and cadmium in cereals in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995) (GSCTFF) explicitly excluded quinoa, the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC40, 2017) requested that the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) consider including quinoa in the MLs for lead and cadmium in cereals in the GSCTFF.
2. CCCF12 (2018) considered this request as follows.
3. The JECFA Secretariat proposed as a way forward that the Codex Secretariat examine the history as to why the MLs for lead and cadmium in cereals in the GSCTFF exclude explicitly quinoa, while the JECFA Secretariat prepare a review of existing scientific data on lead and cadmium in quinoa. Both would report back to the next session of CCCF.
4. CCCF12 noted the view that since quinoa was a pseudo-cereal and the growing conditions were different, it might be appropriate to consider quinoa separately and an ML for lead and cadmium in this commodity could be based on data specific to quinoa.
5. CCCF12 also noted the view that aside from quinoa, the MLs for lead and cadmium in the GSCTFF also do not apply to buckwheat and cañihua. It was further noted that the revised *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXM 4-1989) included pseudo-cereals in the group of cereal grains and that this revision should be taken into account when considering MLs for quinoa.
6. CCCF12 agreed to discuss this matter at CCCF13 based on the paper from the Codex and JECFA Secretariats.<sup>1</sup>

**Conclusion**

7. Due to limitations of the available personnel resources at the FAO/WHO JECFA Secretariats, it was not possible to complete the paper in time for consideration by CCCF13. It is proposed to grant another year for the finalization of the paper and present the conclusions and recommendations for consideration by CCCF14 (2020).

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<sup>1</sup> REP18/CF, paras. 11-14.