

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5a and 5c

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEx COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-Second Session

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General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA): Reports of the EWG on the GSFA

And

Discussion Paper on the Development of Wording for An Alternative
to Note 161 Relating to the Use of Sweeteners

Comments of Kenya

Agenda Item 5a

Issue 1: Appendix A: Recirculation of specific draft and proposed draft provisions from Appendix 4 of CX/FA 20/52/7: additives intended for use as a glaze or in a glaze/coating or wax for surface treatment in food categories 04.1.1.2 and 04.2.1.2

Comment: Kenya supports the adoption of the final working group recommendation as provided for the various food additives provided in appendix A of this document.

Justification: Kenya has considered the advantage of reducing post-harvest food waste associated with spoilage of fruits and vegetables. Application of approved glazing agents will significantly contribute to mitigation of food loss thus improving global food security. We also note that the safety of additives in question have fully been evaluated by JECFA and declared safe for use.

Issue 2: Appendix B: Recirculation of draft and proposed draft provisions from Annex 2 of Appendix 6 of CX/FA 20/52/7 and Annex 2 of Appendix 7 of CX/FA 20/52/7: acesulfame potassium (INS 950) in food categories 14.1.4 and 14.1.5 and saccharins (INS 954(i)-(iv)) in subcategories of food categories 14.1.4, and additives with the functional class of colour in FCs 14.1.4 and its subcategories

Comment: Having carefully considered both annex 1 (sweeteners) and annex 2 (colours), Kenya supports the adoption of final recommendation of working group as provided in annexes 1 and 2 of this appendix.

Justification: Considering the approach adopted during CCFA51 and recognizing that the use of sweeteners either as sweetening agents or flavour enhancers as well as colours is an expected in this food categories, there is need to have the levels of use adopted in the Codex Standard for harmonization purposes. We particularly support the proposed replacements of Note 161 with either of the alternative Note 477 or 478.

Issue 3: Appendix C: Recirculation of adopted provisions from Annex 3 of Appendix 6 of CX/FA 20/52/7: provisions in the step process for Table 3 additives with sweetener function in food category 14.1.5

Comment: Kenya supports adoption of the food additives as provided in annex 2 of this appendix.

Justification: The replacement of note 161 with alternative notes 477 and 478 is consistent with resolution of this committee in CCFA51 for this particular food category.

Issue 4: Appendix D: Provisions for colours in FCs 01.0 through 03.0 and their subcategories including adopted provisions for colours with Note 161 and draft and proposed draft provisions

Comment: Kenya Supports the final recommendation of the working group including discontinuation of work as proposed. We also support consideration of the food additives in sub categories rather than parent categories for this Food Categories. We strongly support the discontinuation of use of colours in whey cheeses as this may be used to mislead the consumers on the true nature of the product.

We also support the proposed discontinuation in FC 02.1 as use of additives in this category is not justifiable.

Justification: Milk and milk category is a sensitive food category and thus it will be very important to discuss use of additives in sub category rather than parent category. In some cases, additives may be used in a misleading manner inconsistent to the preamble of GSFA in this particular category..

Agenda Item 5c

Issue 1: Recommendation 1: Specific to provisions (both adopted and in the Step Process) in the food categories listed in Appendix 1 of the current document - replace Note 161, move, or revoke/discontinue those provisions as designated in the horizontal approach for that food category.

Comment: Having considered the recommendation in appendix 1 of this document and taking into account the step wise approach reached during CCFA, Kenya supports the adoption of the final working group recommendation as provided in the annexes to replace note 161 with the alternative notes 477 or 478.

Justification: The use of sweeteners in this food category is justified and consumers too expect such additives to be used. It is also not possible by use of this additives to either mislead consumers or introduce conflict with the provisions of the preamble of CXS 192.

Issue 2: Recommendation 4: EWG co-chairs recommend that CCFA52 reconvene the current EWG to discuss provisions with Note 161 attached to them in food categories 05.1.1, 07.1, and 12.2 and its subcategories and provide recommendations either for a replacement of Note 161 or whether such provisions should be revoked/discontinued, and whether the descriptors of these food categories should be revised to address the use of food additives, including sweeteners.

Comment: Kenya support the recommendation to have the EWG continue with the work as proposed.