



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS
Second Session**

Goa, India, 14 – 18 September 2015

**PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK (Replies to CL 2014/4-SCH)
Comments of Cameroon, Costa Rica, Grenada, India, Sudan and Thailand**

CAMEROON

Project Document on a Standard for Dried and Dehydrated Ginger (India).

Import and export data by country submitted by Nigeria maybe used to improve on the document in order to justify that the product is traded worldwide. Use either dried or dehydrated ginger in the document as both of them are synonyms.

Project Document on a Standard for Dried Ginger (Whole and Ground) (Nigeria)

Production data from 2008 to 2012 submitted by India maybe used to improve on the document. Both project documents submitted by India and Nigeria are complementary.

Project Document on a Standard for Basil (Egypt)

Volume of production by country should be included to justify that the product is widely cultivated and likely to be internationally traded.

Project Document on a Standard for Coriander (Egypt)

Volume of production by country should be included to justify that the product is widely cultivated and likely to be internationally traded.

Project Document on a Standard for Dried or Dehydrated Chilli. (India)

Reasons should be given for the exclusion of Paprika (*Capsicum annuum*) from the list of Chilli species to be considered.

Project Document on a Standard for Nutmeg (Indonesia)

Volume of production for a period of time and volume of production by country should be included to justify that the product is widely cultivated and likely to be internationally traded.

Project Document on a Standard for Dried and Dehydrated Garlic (India)

Volume of production by country should be included to justify that the product is widely cultivated and likely to be internationally traded.

Project document on a standard for Cloves (Nigeria)

Volume of production by country should be included to justify that the product is widely cultivated and likely to be internationally traded.

Project document on a Standard for Saffron (Iran)

Include an introduction, highlighting product morphology, uses, origin etc. Update information on production data and patterns of trade

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica supports the advancing of PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK.

GRENADA

Annex VI – Proposal for New Work on Codex Standard for Nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans* Houtt) - Proposal submitted by Indonesia

Nutmegs and Mace are two of Grenada's main export crops to the international market but there is little or no priority (by Grenada) for the development of an international minimum standard for these two commodities at this point in time.

The Nutmeg Association in Grenada has developed operating procedures as part of its quality infrastructure to remain competitive in the Nutmeg industry. The procedures are operationalized through rigorous field and facility inspections and quality control from the farm to the receiving and processing stations. There have been many interventions and investments aimed at continuous improvement of the quality of Grenada's Nutmeg and Mace. As a result, Grenada has been able to consistently provide the highest quality Nutmeg and Mace to the international and local markets. Given the above Grenada does not have the following in relation to Nutmeg and Mace:

1. trade issues;
2. poor quality;
3. food safety issues.

At this point the introduction of **minimum** standard for Nutmeg will not be beneficial to Grenada's Nutmeg Industry since as the supplier and our end users (international buyers, retailers and consumers) have long gone past this phase.

It is within this context that Grenada **cannot support** Indonesia's proposal for the development of a Codex Standard for Nutmeg.

Additionally, Grenada will like to point out that the proposal does not adequately justify the need for the development of the standard:

1. The need for the standard is identified by the supplier (Indonesia) and not the end users (buyers, retailers, etc). Minimum standards developments are normally demand driven generally, from the end users point. In that case the proposal does not take into consideration the end users concerns. Within the document there is no reference to specific trade, quality and food safety issues from the end users.
2. Within the document it is stated that '**the scope of the standard will cover Nutmeg and Mace from *Myristica fragrans* Houtt**' (refer to item **1.The Purpose and Scope of the Standard**). Nutmeg and Mace are traded separately as two different commodities and as such separate standards should be proposed for each. Nutmeg a nut, is handled differently from Mace, the latter being more fragile requires detailed handling and processing.
3. The proposal makes reference to ISO Standards and 'to incorporate all existing different standards in a single improved comprehensive standard...' (refer to item 4 (b). Grenada would like to point out that:
 - i. ISO standard can only be used as working document in part or whole by full member. We are not aware that Codex is a full member of ISO.
 - ii. Internet search did not provide any results for standards for Nutmeg apart from ISO 6577:2002.

Having cited the above inconsistencies and given Grenada's robust quality assessment and assurance systems and the positive feedbacks from its international customers we are reluctant to engage and subscribe to the development of Codex Standard for Nutmegs at this time.

INDIA

PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON CODEX STANDARD FOR DRIED OR DEHYDRATED CHILLI (Submitted by India)

General Comment:

- 1) The scope of the proposal could be extended to cover minced chilli, chilli threads, chilli rings, chilli flake (without seeds), chilli seeds (for culinary purpose), and based on stalk or stalkless.
- 2) As different varieties of chillies vary in terms of size and shape, grouping of different varieties of chillies is proposed.

Specific Comments:

- **Introduction section, paragraph 2, line 4**

The text may be modified as follows:

"Its extract, capsaicin is used as for flavouring **and imparting pungency** in food."

- **"Main aspects to be covered", bullet 2**

The text may be modified as follows:

1) Styles - Listing/describing the different forms of presentation including sizes of whole chilli, pieces **crushed, cracked** and/or powder and tolerances allowed.

- **Section 4, (b)**

Diversification of national legislations and resultant or potential impediments to international trade:

Following changes are proposed:

The import of chilli take place for many applications and chilli undergoes various operations such as grinding, crushing, cracking, powdering and extraction etc based on specific objectives.

Annex IV PROJECT DOCUMENT: PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON CODEX STANDARD FOR DRIED AND DEHYDRATED GARLIC (*Allium sativum* L.) (Submitted by India)

General Comments:

- Garlic can also be classified as single clove garlic and multiple clove garlic where the former is mostly cultivated in mountainous regions and latter in plains. These varieties and garlic flakes could be included to Scope of the proposal.

Annex V PROJECT DOCUMENT: PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON CODEX STANDARD FOR DRIED AND DEHYDRATED GINGER (*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe.) (Submitted by India)

General Comments:

1. Inclusion of peeled, kibbled and sliced ginger and classification based on colour to the scope of the proposal is suggested.
2. As per the National Standards, ginger bleached by lime only is allowed. Therefore, the same may be included in the proposal.

Annex VI PROJECT DOCUMENT: PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON CODEX STANDARD FOR UTMEG (*Myristica fragrans* Houtt) (Proposal Submitted by Indonesia)

Specific Comments:

- **Section 3 "Main aspects to be covered"**

The main aspects of the product to be covered in the standard are the minimum quality and safety requirements to protect consumer's health and to ensure fair practices in food trade: Establish the minimum quality requirements cleanliness specifications and defects action levels as per the products like quality characteristics of nutmeg like size, colour, odour, ruptured and wrinkled, uniformity, weight, mould, extraneous matter, insect **infested**, broken **or defected seeds**, moisture content, ash total, acid insoluble ash, calcium (CaO), essential oil and aflatoxin levels. Mace based on quality characteristics like colour, odour, mould, extraneous matter, insect, and moisture content. Chemical content like ash total, acid insoluble ash and essential oil.

- **Section 4, Criteria applicable to commodities**

(a) Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries:

In Table 2, World export volume reported is very less. For example, 11,741 tonnes for 1999. It could as 11,741 tonnes. The same change is proposed for all years in the Table 2.

The text could be modified as: "In 1999-2011, Indonesia export market share was 66-76%, Sri Lanka was 8-13%, India was 1-9% and Grenada was 26-3% **3 – 26 %**."

Rationale: The range could be given in ascending order as for other countries.

Annex VIII PROJECT DOCUMENT: PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON A CODEX STANDARD FOR CLOVES (Submitted by Nigeria)

General Comments:

- The term "aromatic" may be removed from the description in the proposal as it has non-food relevance, instead "unopened flower buds" could be included.

- Description regarding headless cloves, Khokar cloves, Tendrils (Mother cloves) may be included in the proposal.

**Annex I PROJECT DOCUMENT:PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON CODEX STANDARD FOR BASIL
(Proposal submitted by Egypt)**

Specific Comments:

- **“Introduction”**

The scientific name of Basil is given as "*Ocimum basilicum*."

- **“Purpose and Scope”**

It is proposed as the standard to cover all species and varieties of basil of commercial interest. Different species of genus *Ocimum* differ in physico-chemical properties. Different varieties of same species have differing properties which is to be considered. At this stage, the proposed standard may cover only *Ocimum basilicum* L. Other species of genus *Ocimum* may be taken in a separate work.

- **“Main aspects to be covered” bullet 3**

1. “Ash content” may be replaced with “total ash content”.

SUDAN

We appreciate the work done by the group of India, Egypt, Iran , Nigeria and Indonesia on other spices and culinary herbs, we hope it can find a chance for discussion in the future.

THAILAND

Thailand would like to support to use the *Codex Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* in order to prioritize the proposal for new work. Furthermore, Thailand would like to support the proposal on dried or dehydrated chilies, dried or dehydrated ginger, and coriander for new works because of its high volume of production and consumption and also the distinct differences of the international and national legislation.