

**Agenda Item 5c**CX/ASIA 12/18/7  
September 2012**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA***18<sup>th</sup> Session**Tokyo, Japan, 5–9 November 2012***PROPOSED DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR LAVER PRODUCTS (N14-2011)**

(Prepared by Republic of Korea)

**BACKGROUND**

1. At the proposal by the Republic of Korea to develop a Regional Standard for Laver Product, the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCASIA agreed that a standard for laver products be developed as a global standard in view of the significant amount of products exported outside the region. The 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCASIA recommended that the Republic of Korea submit the proposal for new work to the Codex Committee for Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) (REP11/ASIA *para.* 144). The Coordinating Committee further agreed that should the proposal for new work not be supported by the CCFFP, the Republic of Korea would forward a proposal for new work on the development of a regional standard for laver products to the next session of the Commission (REP11/ASIA *para.* 144).
2. At its 31<sup>st</sup> Session, the CCFFP noted that it might be necessary to amend its terms of references to work on laver product, as its current terms of reference did not cover the product. Therefore, the Committee agreed not to start the new work at that time, but to encourage the CCASIA to develop a regional standard for laver products (REP11/FFP *para.* 173 and 176).
3. The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission approved new work on the regional standard for laver products and agreed that the Republic of Korea would invite all interested countries in the region to prepare a first draft for circulation at Step 3 and discussion in the next CCASIA (REP11/CAC *para.* 147).

**STATUS OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR LAVER PRODUCTS**

4. Following the request from the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, the Republic of Korea invited China and Japan, which expressed their interest to participate in the work as the major producers and/or consumers of laver products, to develop the proposed draft standard for Laver Products for discussion at the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCASIA.
5. In March 2012, the Republic of Korea shared a draft version of the proposed draft standard with China and Japan and used it as a starting point for their discussion. The Republic of Korea, China and Japan proceeded with discussion in the development of the proposed draft standard in two physical meetings (March and July, 2012) and electronically.
6. The first draft was revised a few times with the objective to prepare a final draft. However, it was not possible to prepare a final draft due to a time constraint.

7. During the discussion several key points were agreed regarding the standard as follows.

1) Scope

Laver Products of the genus *Porphyra* for direct consumption.

2) Description

Laver products are those prepared mainly with raw laver which belongs to the genus *Porphyra* and shall have drying, roasting and/or seasoning processes. The products types are dried laver, roasted laver and seasoned laver.

3) Essential Composition

The basic ingredient is the raw laver and some optional ingredients may be used such as seasonings.

4) Hygiene & Labeling

The provisions are established in accordance with the appropriate section of the General Standard of Codex.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

8. The Republic of Korea, China and Japan made considerable progress on the development of the standard. However, due to time constraints, it was not possible to complete all the sections of the proposed draft standard to be circulated for comments at Step 3 and discussed at this Session of the CCASIA.

9. Therefore, it is recommended that the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCASIA establish an electronic Working Group to finalize the proposed draft regional standard for laver product, for circulation for comments at Step 3 and further consideration at the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the CCASIA in 2014.

10. In order to facilitate the discussion at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session, the CCASIA might consider the establishment of a physical Working Group, to meet immediately before its 19<sup>th</sup> Session to consider the comments submitted and facilitate the discussion at the Plenary. Such physical Working Group would benefit from a wider participation of CCASIA members.

11. A revised timeline for the completion of the work is provided in the table below.

### PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THIS WORK

Step	Date
Establishment of e-WG and/or p-WG by the 18 <sup>th</sup> CCASIA	November 2012
Preparation of the Proposed Draft Standard by e-WG	April 2014
Circulation for comments at Step 3 on the Proposed Draft Standard by Codex Secretariat	May-October 2014
Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standard including comments at Step 3 and forward to the 38 <sup>th</sup> CAC for adoption at Step 5 by the 19 <sup>th</sup> CCASIA	November 2014
Adoption as a Draft Standard at Step 5 by the 38 <sup>th</sup> CAC	July 2015
Circulation for comments at Step 6 on the Draft Standard by the Codex Secretariat	May-October 2016
Consideration of the Draft Standard including comments at Step 7 by the 20 <sup>th</sup> CCASIA	November 2016
Final Adoption as a regional standard at Step 8 by the 40 <sup>th</sup> CAC	July 2017