



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

**Seventh Session
Moscow, Russian Federation, 8 – 12 April 2013**

**PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR WEED CONTROL TO PREVENT AND REDUCE
PYRROLIZIDINE ALKALOID CONTAMINATION IN FOOD AND FEED**

Comments at Step 3 submitted by Costa Rica, European Union, Ghana, India, Russian Federation, USA and African Union

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on document CX/CF13/7/12 Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Weed Control to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed.

Comment:

Costa Rica does not have comments on the document. We support the proposal of the working group to return the proposed draft code of practice to Step 2 for redrafting, comments and consideration at the next session of CCCF, directing their views on the structure of the document, the content and considering any other required matter.

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) welcome and appreciate the good work performed by the electronic Working Group under the lead of the Netherlands on the elaboration of a draft Code of Practice for weed control to prevent and reduce pyrrolizidine alkaloid contamination in food and feed.

The EUMS underline the importance of this Code of Practice.

As regards the recommendations to the CCCF, the EUMS agree with the proposed structure based on type of land, even if this results in a repetition of management practices in certain cases. The EUMS have not identified other matters to be addressed.

As a specific comment, the EUMS question the need and appropriateness to mention specific active substances as example of herbicides (see § 45).

GHANA

Comment: Ghana supports the recommendation that the proposed draft code of practice is returned to step 2 for redrafting and comments.

Rationale: There are still some discussion points such as the structure and content of the document as well as uncertainties regarding the risk of PAs to humans.

We however, encourage the eWG to continue with the development of the Code of Practice as it would provide guidance to member countries on how to prevent contamination of food and feed with PAs and /or reduce contamination.

INDIA

Paragraph 9: Evaluation of compliance with relevant legislation

The recommendation to return the proposed draft code to Step 2 for redrafting, comments and consideration at the next session of the CCCF is acceptable.

We also note that the draft code has a lot of guidance that is being repeated at different places. It would be useful to consider changing the structure of the code so as to avoid these repetitions.

Specific comments

Paragraphs 26, 36, 40, 59 and 64: These paragraphs recommend use of hermetically sealed bags for handling and transporting the PA containing plants after their removal from soil. This management practice appears to be restrictive.

It is, therefore, proposed that the texts in the above paragraphs be appropriately amended to indicate in a generic manner that the PA containing plants that have been pulled from the soil should be handled and transported in a manner that prevents their spread, and the use of hermetically sealed bags may be retained as an example.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

We support the proposal of the Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, to develop approaches to reduce pyrrolizidine alkaloids in food and feed, proposed in document CX / CF 13/7/12.

USA

The US supports the eWG recommendation to return the proposed draft code of practice to Step 2 for redrafting, comments and consideration at the next session of CCCF.

AFRICAN UNION

<p>Document not yet uploaded.</p> <p>African Union supports the proposed Draft Code of Practice for weed control to prevent and reduce pyrrolizidine alkaloid contamination in food and feed.</p> <p>When document is uploaded it should be examined to ensure that the recommended practices are attainable in the African setting.</p>	<p>We support work on PAs because of the potential health threatening effects on humans and the fact that in most African countries cattle are allowed to graze freely and they may eat plants (weeds) containing PAs especially in times of drought which could result in carry-overs into humans through food.</p>
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