

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
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Agenda Item 16 (d)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS

Thirty-seventh Session

The Hague, the Netherlands, 25 – 29 April 2005

DISCUSSION PAPER ON AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IN BRAZIL NUTS

COMMENTS

The following comments have been received from: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Cuba

Argentina:

Argentina appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on this document.

Paragraph 14: Argentina considers it appropriate to amend the text as follows:

There are various analytical methods for the identification and quantification of aflatoxins. For analysis of these mycotoxins in tree nuts, thin layer chromatography (TLC), high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), and immunochemical methods of analysis have been validated. TLC is still used for determination of aflatoxins in many countries. However, HPLC methods with fluorescence detection are most common in developed countries. TLC and LC methods for determining aflatoxins in food are laborious and time consuming. Also, there are immunochemical methods (ELISA) that can be used as a fast screening method for detection of aflatoxins in foods and. If positive results are obtained, close to unaccepted limits, these results should be confirmed using methods like TLC and HPLC.

Bolivia:

Even though the Bolivian government has already set a proposal on aflatoxin level for Brazil nuts, according to the received information this proposal has been sent to the general partnership for approval and will be forwarded to the international Committee in the future.

Brazil:

Brazil welcomes the document and thanks Iran for the work, however, some improvements could be made in order to have a best characterization of the Brazil Nuts: to point out the extrativist character, in agreement with the Code of Practice proposed by Brazil, to replace in all document the expression “tree nuts” for “Brazil Nuts”; concerning the contamination data on aflatoxin B1 and total, data should be displayed in graphs and tables in discrete levels of contamination, and mean, median, 95th percentile, analytical method, performance of the method and sampling plan for the two categories of Brazil Nuts (shelled and in shell) should be given. Brazil also requests not to consider paragraphs 17 to 22, for the reasons mentioned above and to remove paragraph 11, as it is not considered pertinent to the section “toxicological evaluation”. Regarding the section “conclusions and recommendations”, it is requested to only maintain item 2, because item 1 and its subitems are already being treated in the specific code of practice for Brazil Nuts proposed by Brazil.

Brazil recommends that the producing countries of Brazil Nuts continue working on the implementation of the Good Extrativistic Practices, Good Transportation Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices and Good Storage Practices. Also, points out that it is necessary to establish a specific code of practice for prevention and reduction of the contamination by aflatoxin for Brazil Nuts, and that at this point it is not possible to establish maximum limits, because the ingestion of Brazil Nuts is low and the data on contamination available at the moment are not still enough.

Cuba:

In our opinion the document provides very valuable information and we have no new comments concerning it.