

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2(a)

CX/FFV 06/13/2
September 2006

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

13th Session
Mexico City, Mexico, 25 - 29 September 2006

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES¹

DECISIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Rome, July 2005)

Draft standards and related texts adopted at Step 8 of the Procedure

1. The Commission adopted the draft Codex Standard for Rambutan as proposed by the Committee².

Elaboration of new standards and related texts - *New work on a Codex Standard for Bitter Cassava*

2. The Commission agreed with the elaboration of a single Standard for Bitter Cassava with the understanding that the Committee might consider, at a later stage, the possibility of having a single Standard applicable to both sweet and bitter varieties of cassava, consistent with the Codex approach to develop more horizontal and inclusive standards when possible³. Further details on this matter is given in working document CX/FFV 06/13/9 and will be fully considered under Agenda Item 4(c).

Other matters of interest to the Committee

Notification of Acceptance in Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables

3. The Commission agreed to delete the footnotes to Sections 1 - Definition of Produce and 7.2 - Non-retail Containers on the notification of acceptance throughout Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables, for consistency with its previous decision to abolish the Acceptance Procedure in the Procedural Manual⁴.

Revision (specific) of Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables

4. The Commission noted the request of the Committee on the possibility to establish a more expeditious procedure for the revision of Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables when considering minor changes such as additions and/or deletions for some provisions (e.g. the introduction of new varieties) for which the presentation of a project document might not be considered imperative. The Commission noted that a similar situation might arise in relation to updating of other commodity standards.
5. The Commission agreed that this matter should be considered in a general context and requested the Committee on General Principles to look into this issue at its next session⁵.

¹ This document contains information on matters arising from or referred to by the Commission that are specific to the activities of or required action by the Committee. The Codex Secretariat will report verbally on matters of horizontal nature as appropriate to the discussion of the Committee.

² ALINORM 05/28/41, Appendix V.

³ ALINORM 05/28/41, paras. 99-101 and Appendix VIII.

⁴ ALINORM 05/28/41, para. 197.

29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, July 2006)**Revision (partial) of Codex standards and related texts**

6. The Delegation of Mexico requested clarification on the procedure to be followed when the revision to the additives section of an individual standard was undertaken, i.e. whether it was considered as new work and should therefore require a project document in the framework of the Critical Review. The Delegation also recalled the request from the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables concerning the possibility to apply simplified procedures when making minor amendments to adopted standards, which was referred to the Committee on General Principles by the 28th Session of the Commission.

7. The Secretariat recalled that the provisions in the Elaboration Procedure exempted certain new work from the mandatory submission of project documents, as was the case for the maintenance of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), and noted that the Committee on General Principles was considering the revision of the *Guide to the Procedure for the Revision and Amendment of Codex Standards* in order to clarify and streamline the procedures to be applied when addressing amendments to or revisions of adopted standards and related texts⁶.

GENERAL DECISIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

8. The 29th Session of the Commission endorsed⁷ the proposal of the 57th Session of the Executive Committee (December 2005) to recommend to Codex Committees and Task Forces:

- To prioritize work when the agenda of the Committee includes many items of work;
- To invite all Chairpersons, or host countries for adjourned committees, to provide their comments on the items of work that have been under consideration for more than five years; and
- To inform the Executive Committee and the Commission of the proposed timeframe for completion of all items that have been approved as new work prior to 2004.

9. The Committee is therefore invited to propose a timeframe for all items under consideration in the Step Procedure, with the exception of Agenda Item 4(c) that was approved in 2006.

⁵ ALINORM 05/28/41, para. 198-199.

⁶ ALINORM 06/29/41, paras. 192-193.

⁷ ALINORM 06/29/41, para. 8 and ALINORM 06/29/3, paras. 64-65.