

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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AGENDA ITEM NO. 4B

CX/FL 05/33/5-ADD.3

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
THIRTY-THIRD SESSION**

KOTA KINABALU, MALAYSIA, MAY 9 – 13, 2005

***PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE
PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND MARKETING OF
ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS:***

**PROPOSED DRAFT REVISED ANNEX 2 - TABLE 1
(NATURAL SODIUM NITRATE)**

(ALINORM 04/27/22, APPENDIX VIII & CL 2004/22-FL)

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

COMMENTS FROM:

KENYA

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSUMER FOOD ORGANIZATIONS (IACFO)

PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS:

**PROPOSED DRAFT REVISED ANNEX 2 – TABLE I
(NATURAL SODIUM NITRATE)
(ALINORM 04/22, APPENDIX VIII & CL 2004/22-FL)**

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

KENYA:

Kenya supports the usage of Natural Sodium Nitrate in organic farming since organic farming does not allow to usage of synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. It was noted that other substances which were controversial such as nitrite and nitrates were included in the list in step 6. Natural sodium Nitrate constitutes a unique source of 16% Nitrogen, 26% sodium and many other trace elements.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSUMER FOOD ORGANIZATIONS (IACFO):

IACFO is opposed to the inclusion of sodium nitrate in Annex II given that natural sodium nitrate does not fulfil the criteria on paragraph 5.1 of Section 5:

- Natural sodium nitrate is not necessary to grow organic crops;
- Manufacture, use and disposal of natural sodium nitrate can harm the environment through groundwater contamination;
- Alternative sustainable agriculture solutions, such as crop rotations and use of legumes, are available; and
- Natural sodium nitrate is neither a renewable resource nor available in most parts of the world. Thus, the use of natural sodium nitrate does not meet consumer expectations for products labeled as “organic.”