



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

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Agenda Item 4

CX/SCH 14/01/4 Add.1

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS

First Session

Kochi, India, 11-14 February 2014

COMMENTS ON WORK MANAGEMENT MODALITIES OF THE CCSC

The following comments have been received from the following Codex members and observers

Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Republic of Korea, United States of America and IOSTA,

BRAZIL

In regard to the aforementioned document Brazil would like to congratulate India for the effort and to share some specific comments and suggestions:

Section and sentence/ paragraph	Type of change	Rationale
Paragraph 3	Suggestion	The frequency of the Sessions of the CCSC fell on the same year of CCPFV and on the year and month of CCFFV, commodity Committees closely related with Spices and Culinary Herbs. Such situation may hamper a broad participation of members and effective results.
Proposed changes		
Consider to adjust the Second Session of the CCSC to 2015 ongoing to a 12 up to 18 month pace. Such change may adjust CCSC meetings on odd years and CCPFV and CCFFV on even years, improving participation of specialists on the subject.		

Section and sentence/ paragraph	Type of change	Rationale
Paragraph 7	Clarification/ Change	To improve flexibility as not all Prioritization Criteria established may be needed to every New Work Proposal.
Proposed changes		
As specified in the Codex Procedural Manual, work undertaken by the CCSC should fall within its Terms of Reference, should be consistent with the general procedures established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and should meet , as far as possible, to the Prioritization Criteria set by CCSC based on the Codex Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities (discussed in Agenda 5).		

Section and sentence/ paragraph	Type of change	Rationale
1 st Bullet of Paragraph 13	Clarification/ Change	The word “dried fruits” may be confounded with “dried fruits and vegetables”, already dealt by the CCPFV.

Proposed changes
Consider to change the word “ dried fruits and seeds” to “ dried corns and seeds”, adopting a terminology also related with black pepper and mustard corns and to be more specific.

Section and sentence/ paragraph	Type of change	Rationale
Paragraph 13	Clarification/ Addition	Leaves are not related as a Group Category.

Proposed changes
<p>Consider to elaborate a broader introductory text to encompass future technologies and developments as well as other categories not already listed:</p> <p>“For effective working of the Committee, the spices can may be grouped into the following categories and the Committee can may develop a general standard for the group. <u>A suggested list of the</u> The various categories of the spices and <u>culinary herbs</u> are as follows:</p> <p>Consider to list leaves as a Group Category.</p> <p><u>“• Dried leaves, such as bay laurel.”</u></p>

CANADA

GENERAL COMMENTS

Canada thanks India for the preparation of a paper on work management modalities. We believe it provides a sound basis for the CCSCH discussion on the proposed process to undertake its work.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Provisional agenda

Canada supports maintaining a regular agenda pattern, with standing agenda items and sources for requests for proposals consistent with that of other Codex commodity committees.

With regards to the maximum of four working documents as proposed in Paragraphs 5 and 9, we believe a certain level of flexibility should be maintained for the number of working documents. We anticipate that in time, the committee may be in a position to handle more working documents as the document reach a more advanced state in discussion. In addition, we believe that flexibility should be provided for the split between spices and herbs, in order to optimize the output of the work of the committee.

Use of physical and electronic working groups

Canada supports the use of a physical working group (pWG) to prioritize new work proposals as per Prioritization Criteria set by CCSCH and that the pWG meets immediately prior to every session. However, in order to maximize the efficiency of said group, we would strongly support the use of electronic means to exchange data in advance of the pWG meeting, to ensure that all necessary information will be available to the group for its deliberations.

As noted in Paragraph 11, Canada also strongly supports the use of electronic working groups (eWGs) to assist CCSCH in the development of its standards. We believe that eWGs can significantly enhance the overall capacity of CCSCH to advance its work program.

Grouping of commodities in general standards

In our view, the use of commodity groupings in general standards will make for a more efficient use of resources. Canada supports the use of commodity groupings for both spices and culinary herbs with individual standards being developed as annexes, as required.

EGYPT

Referring to your document CX/SCH 14/01/4 concerning “Work management modalities of the CCSCH” enquiring about EOS comments on this document .I would like to inform you that EOS approves to the above-mentioned document.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Republic of Korea believes that detailed information on the classification system of spices on work management modalities of the CCSCCH needs to be shared to member countries.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States welcomes the opportunity to submit comments on the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) documents' CX/SCH 14/01/4 *Work Management Modalities of the CCSCCH*. We would like to congratulate the government of India on the formation of the committee and look forward to working closely with all of the members of the CCSCCH to ensure its success.

General Comments:

The United States supports the efforts and activities of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) in developing standards to promote fair trade practices and protect consumers. The United States believes that CCSCCH, guided by the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Terms of Reference (TOR) developed for it, will make a valuable contribution to Codex and consumers around the world.

The Committee is commended for promoting existing Codex mechanisms for organizing its work. The United States believes that this will promote consistency with other Codex activities. In particular, reaching agreement on "criteria to score and rank commodities" (CX/SCH 14/01/5, Table 1) will assist the Committee in prioritizing its standards development responsibilities.

Specific Comments:

The U.S. comments below follow the numerical (paragraph number) and heading sequences found in documents CX/SCH 14/01/4.

Paragraph 5: Provisional Agenda

Comment: The United States is encouraged by CCSCCH plans to balance its standards development work. It may be premature, however, to set limits (numerical proportional) on the working documents to be considered at each meeting. We are concerned that this may limit the ability of the CCSCCH to respond efficiently to the needs of its members. Therefore, we recommend that CCSCCH follow the established Codex "Guideline on the Application of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities (Criteria Applicable to Commodities)" as set forth in the Codex *Procedural Manual* (Section II: Elaboration of Codex Texts, Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities, pp 41-43, 21st Ed.). We believe that applying these criteria to all new work proposals submitted, and not limiting it to a proportional balance between spices and culinary herbs, would be of greater benefit to the Committee.

Paragraph 12: Proposed Template to be developed by the Committee, taking into consideration the pre-existing standard layout of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV), the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) and the UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce.

Comment: Development of a standard layout at this session will set a precedent for CCSCCH commodity standards and assist the committee in the efficient conduct of its work. In this regard, the United States recommends that CCSCCH select language and a format that allows its standards to be written in a precise manner without normative sections. A standard layout that promotes uniform international application and interpretation of measurable quality characteristics would be valuable to traders and consumers worldwide. To further these objectives, the United States recommends the following to CCSCCH:

- i. To develop a glossary of terms for use in its standards that reflects product characteristics and language that is accepted in international trade.
- ii. To set a total tolerance for defects allowed in each class/grade, with limits placed on individual defects. Classes/grades should be based on measurable criteria.
- iii. To consider the possibility of setting general minimum quality requirements. This approach may be useful in cases where the product is difficult to subdivide into different classes or grades, or when the economic volumes traded are limited. This may be achieved by applying an amended standard layout.

IOSTA (International Organisation of Spice Trade Associations)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the work management modalities of the CCSCCH (agenda items 4) of the first session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs.

Work Management Modalities

IOSTA supports the concept of grouping commodities to develop general standards. However, we believe the category “dried fruits or seeds” covers items that are too diverse to have a general standard. We would support “seeds” as one category with dried fruits/berries” as a separate category.