



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS  
Eleventh Session  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 – 7 April 2017**

To be held at the Windsor Marapendi Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Comments submitted by Nigeria on agenda item 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10

**Agenda Item 2: MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND/OR ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES CX/CF 17/11/2**

**A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION MATTERS FOR ACTION**  
*Emerging issues: A proposed risk management approach to address detection in food of chemicals of very low public health concern*

**Comment:**

Nigeria supports the new work and the proposal for ad-hoc FAO/WHO expert consultation.

**Rationale:**

The report and findings of the expert meeting will guide this Committee on the need for undertaking this new work and the priority of the work, if any.

**B. MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION MATTERS FOR ACTION**  
**FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa *Proposed draft Regional Standard for Fermented Cooked Cassava Based Products***

**Comment:**

Nigeria commends the working group led by Cameroon for the development of this draft regional standard. However we observed that the commodity described in the draft standard seems like ready-to-eat products prepared domestically which will make the standard unenforceable. Nigeria nevertheless will like to propose for a change to the title of the document as follows:

*Proposed draft Regional Standard for **Semi-processed** Fermented ~~Cooked~~ Cassava Based Products*

**Rationale:**

The semi-processed products used for preparation of ready-to-eat products are traded, packaged and probably more enforceable than the prepared ready-to-eat products.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Proposed draft and draft maximum levels for lead in selected fruits and vegetables (fresh and processed) and other selected food categories in the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995) (at Step 7 and 4) CL2017/23-CF***

Nigeria commends the electronic Working Group led by the United States for the long running task of managing the reviewed process of lead levels in traded food products. While on the fruit and vegetable categories, Nigeria wishes to inform the Committee of the existence of Vegetable juices and nectars in the Nigerian market and also distributed along the West African sub-region. We would like to find out if the standard for fruit juices is applicable to vegetable nectars and if this confirmed, we propose inclusion of vegetable nectars in the proposed standard.

Nigeria is collating safety data for this subject and this will be available before the next CCCF.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Proposed draft maximum levels for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-derived products (at Step 4)**

**Comment:**

Nigeria commends the electronic Working Group led by Ecuador for the preparation of the proposed draft maximum levels for Cadmium in Chocolate and Cocoa-derived products. Nigeria supports the MLs for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa –derived products as proposed in this document.

**Rationale:**

Contamination of cadmium in food has become a concern in many countries. The metal can accumulate in kidneys leading to irreversible renal tubular dysfunction. High cadmium intake is also associated with the formation of kidney stones as well as problems with the skeletal and respiratory systems. Cadmium is abundant in nature and can be released to the environment in different ways including natural activities such as volcanic activities and through anthropogenic activities such as mining and smelting of ores containing zinc, burning of fossil fuels and emissions from discarded batteries.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Proposed draft Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of arsenic contamination in rice (at Step 4) CL 2017/25-CF**

**Comment:**

Nigeria commends the efforts of electronic Working Group led by Japan in drafting this document. Nigeria supports the Proposed Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Arsenic Contamination in Rice.

**Rationale:**

The COP will provide national and relevant food control authorities, manufacturers and other relevant bodies with guidance on prevention or reduction of arsenic contamination in rice.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Proposed draft maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts (at Step 4). CL 2017/26-CF**

**Comment:**

Nigeria commends the electronic Working Group led by India for the preparation of the proposal for establishing MLs for AFT in RTE peanuts. Nigeria supports the proposed ML of 15µg/kg of AFT in RTE.

**Rationale:**

Based on the impact assessment of different MLs by JECFA83 evaluation, ML of 15µg/kg has least impact on trade while impact on dietary exposure is within acceptable limit. The other options have significant impacts on trade while the advantage on dietary exposure is insignificant.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Proposed draft annex on ergot and ergot alkaloids in cereal grains (Annex to the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cereals (CAC/RCP 51-2003)) (at Step 4) CL 2017/27-CF**

**Comment:**

Nigeria commends the electronic Working Group led by Germany for developing a new Annex for the prevention and reduction of contamination by ergot and ergot alkaloids in cereal grains for inclusion in the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cereals. Nigeria supports the proposed draft Annex and recommends its adoption.

**Rationale:**

The producing fungal species (*Claviceps* species, mainly *C. purpurea*) have been identified on African small grains. Hence, the inclusion of a separate Annex can be justified on the basis of inclusivity of all mycotoxin problems in different areas of the world and which may require more specific interventions than are contained in the General Code of Practice.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Proposed draft Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in spices (at step 4) CL 2017/28-CF 1**

**Comment:**

Nigeria commends the electronic Working Group led by Spain to prepare this draft Code of practice. Nigeria supports having a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in spices. We also support the other recommendations made by the ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUP:

- That there were no grounds for developing specific Annexes to the general provisions;
- That the Committee to stop working on the annexes at this stage until more information on specific management practices becomes available.

**Rationale:**

The revised COP having covered GAP, GMP and GSP, and addressed the comments and recommendations of CCCF 10 by including packaging technologies and smoke drying practices (which is a common African practice) will provide guidance towards management of food safety risks associated with mycotoxin contamination in spices. It will therefore protect consumer health and enhance international trade. More so most of the practices recommended in the document are achievable in Nigeria.