

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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Agenda Item 3(b)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Twelfth Session

Chiang Mai, Thailand, 23 - 26 November 1999

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 23RD SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

FEASIBILITY OF ELABORATING A CODEX STANDARD FOR INSTANT NOODLES

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS

INDONESIA

We strongly support the elaboration of a Codex standard for instant noodles as instant ramen noodle products are one of the most important food items in the Region and they will be so worldwide in near future.

We wish to provide some information on instant ramen noodles that supplements the information contained in CX/ASIA 99/3.

Instant ramen noodles are highly rated as a source of food relief in times of natural disasters and other emergencies and are thus recognized globally as a food of great value in condition of peace, war and emergency. Instant ramen noodles have played a great role as emergency food supply during severe flooding in China in 1998, and food crisis in Asia. Emergency food supplies for victims of regional conflict and natural disasters expected to occur worldwide because of abnormal weather and the problem of feeding rapidly increasing world population.

In many developing countries as well as some developed countries instant ramen noodles have been used as a vehicle for nutrient fortification programmes to eliminate malnutrition of vitamins and trace elements, particularly, vitamin A, iron, folate and other vitamins and trace minerals.

Detailed statistics on the production and consumption of instant ramen noodles is contained in Tables 1 and 2.

TABLE 1. PRODUCTION AND PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF INSTANT RAMEN NOODLES IN 1995

Country	Annual production (million packs)	Per capita Consumption (pack/person/year)
China	17330 ¹	14 ¹
Indonesia	10000	54
Japan	5200	42
Republic of Korea	3550	80
United States of America	2000	7
Thailand	1340	23
Vietnam	900	12
Canada	800	3
The Philippines	600	9
Malaysia	330	17
Brazil	290	2
United Kingdom	120	2
Australia	90	5
Singapore	70	24
Germany	70	1
Nepal	50	6
Saudi Arabia	50	3
The Netherlands	30	2
Belgium	10	1
New Zealand	10	3
Sweden	10	1
Others	1750	-
Total	44600	-

¹ Not including Hongkong.

TABLE 2. NATIONAL TRENDS IN INSTANT RAMEN DEMANDS (100 million of packs)

Country	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
China (excl. Hongkong)	* 13.0	* 30.0	* 40.2	132.7	150.0	160.0	149.0
Indonesia	47.6	56.0	70.0	76.5	79.7	86.0	80.0
Japan	48.7	50.2	50.4	52.0	53.0	53.2	52.0
Republic of Korea	36.1	35.6	37.1	35.2	37.3	38.9	36.0
United States of America	14.0	15.3	18.0	20.0	20.0	24.8	26.0
The Philippines	2.5	7.8	9.2	10.0	10.4	11.3	14.4
Thailand	5.5	9.5	12.0	13.4	13.4	13.7	12.0
Vietnam	6.4	5.7	8.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Brazil	1.5	2.2	3.2	4.7	5.8	6.7	7.9
Malaysia	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.6
Former Soviet Union	0.3	0.5			3.0	3.0	2.5
United Kingdom	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.7
India	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.6
Australia	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.4
Germany	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.3	1.3	1.3
Singapore	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.0
Canada	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Mexico	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.9
Fiji					0.8	0.8	0.8
Myanmar					0.7	0.7	0.7
Saudi Arabia	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
Nepal		0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
New Zealand	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4
The Netherlands	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
France	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Sweden	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Belgium	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Denmark					0.1	0.1	0.1
Poland					0.1	0.1	0.1
Peru	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Others	10.0	10.4	10.8	11.4	11.7	11.5	12.1
Total	179.6	202.7	228.5	375.8	407.9	434.2	417.4

*) Estimated