

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

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Agenda Item 7(d)



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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

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COMMENTS on Proposed draft revision of the Classification of Food and Feed at Step 4: Selected commodity groups (Group 024 - Seeds for beverages and sweets), submitted by Canada, Ecuador, European Union, Kenya, Republic of Korea, United States of America, African Union

Canada

Background:

The 48th Session of CCPR (CCPR48) (April 2016) agreed that the EWG on the revision of the Classification would continue to work on Group 021 Seeds for Beverages and Sweets to

- a) look into the possible expansion and grouping of this Group
- b) look into the possibility for multiple entries of commodities in different groups of the Classification

Current Status:

The EWG has submitted a document (CL 2017/21-PR) which outlines the current status of the proposed revisions to Group 024. In summary, the EWG

- does not support expanding Group 024 to include plants (other than seeds) that could also be used for the production of beverages or syrups
- does not support basil seed (HS 0722) being included in Group 024 as it is already in Group 028A Seeds (Subgroup from herbs and spices)
- does not support adding commodities to this group that are not "after processing, used in the production of beverages and sweets" as stated in the description of Group 024
- does not propose any other plant commodities be included in this group

The classification of water chestnut, foxnut and lotus seed remains to be determined.

- China previously proposed the inclusion of water chestnut, foxnut and lotus seed in Group 024.
- In 2013, CCPR removed water chestnut and foxnut from the group of root and tubers with the suggestion that they be placed in the Type 04 Nuts and Seeds group.
- Type 04 includes three Groups: 022 Tree Nuts, 023 Oilseeds and 024 Seeds for Beverages and Sweets. For Groups 022 and 023 an agreement was already reached by CCPR in 2010 (oilseeds) and 2011 (tree nuts) and it was indicated that it did not seem appropriate to include water chestnut, foxnut and lotus seed in one of these groups.

Possible options proposed are:

- 1) To include water chestnut, foxnut and lotus seed in Group 024 – Seeds for beverages and sweets.
- 2) To create a new group in Nuts and Seeds: "Group 025 - Miscellaneous nuts and seeds". Water chestnut, foxnut and lotus seed can be included in this new group.
- 3) To develop a system within the Classification to provide codes for commodities that don't meet the criteria.

Request to CCPR:

Codex members and observers have been asked to provide comments on Group 024 Seeds for Beverages and Sweets taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the EWG.

Canada's Position on the Revised Seeds for Beverages and Sweets (Group 024)

- As a member of the Electronic Working Group on the Revision of the Classification, Canada provided comments through this working group on the proposed revisions to Group 024.
- Canada has no additional plant commodities to propose for inclusion into Group 024.
- Canada is in agreement with the proposed Group 024 Seeds for Beverages and Sweets as provided in Appendix II of CL 2017/21-PR.
- Water chestnut, foxnut and lotus seed are all harvested from aquatic plants, however water chestnut shares very little similarities to foxnut or lotus seed. The “nuts” are actually corms grown underground/underwater while the foxnut and lotus seeds are actually seeds that are harvested from the fruit of the plant.
 - Unless there are other aquatic plants whose seeds or corms are used for human consumption, there does not seem to be any justification to create a new group for water chestnut, foxnut and lotus seed.
 - Canada supports the development of a system within the Classification to provide codes for commodities that do not meet the criteria for crop grouping.

Ecuador

Ecuador thanks to United States of America and the Netherlands for the work done by electronic means on the proposed draft revision of the Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds at Step 4: Selected commodity groups (Group 024 - Seeds for beverages and sweets)

After analysing the document (CL 2017/21-PR), Ecuador indicates that option 3 (develop a system within the Classification to provide codes for commodities that don't meet the criteria for crop grouping), would be the most appropriate in the case of products that do not meet the criteria for grouping.

European Union

European Union Competence

European Union Vote

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification of food and feed chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands for the preparation of the draft revision of the Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds, in particular for the crop group 024 - Seeds for beverages and sweets.

The European Union (EU) would like to submit the following comments to the document CL 2017/21-PR.

The EU acknowledges the thorough discussion which took place within the electronic Working Group on different options to amend the group 024 and the possible inclusion of additional species.

The EU agrees with the overall conclusion reached by the eWG not to expand the group 024 to plants (not only seeds) used for the production of beverages and sweets and to the general principle to include additional commodities in the group 024, only if they are not already included in other groups.

As for the specific cases of the three commodities water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), foxnut (*Euryale ferox*) and lotus seeds (*Nelumbo nucifera*), the EU is in favour of the option 3) presented in the document CL 2017/21-PR. The introduction of the possibility to attribute a code to new commodities, without necessarily forcing every commodity in one or another group, will be also useful in other future doubtful cases, when available information don't suggest an easy classification in any other group.

These three commodities could be introduced in a more appropriate group at a later stage, when more detailed knowledge on each commodity will become available.

The EU would like to note that, whatever option will be chosen, the three commodities are rather heterogeneous. It is therefore impossible to choose an appropriate representative commodity for the three commodities and the EU proposes that the representative commodities for these particular commodities should be:

- ‘water chestnut or foxnut or lotus seeds’.

Kenya

Issue: Proposal by the EWG led by USA and co-chaired by the Netherlands is to expand Group 024 to include Plants (other than seeds) that could also be used for the production of beverages or syrups.

Position:

Kenya would like to thank the EWG for this proposal of Group 021.

In specific comment, we propose the change of the Group name to: "**Seeds, leaves and flowers for beverages and sweets**" Group 024; with the subgroups A, B and C as follows:

1. Subgroup 024A Seeds for beverages and sweets

- Soya beans
- Sorghum

We propose to maintain the commodity codes that are already in existence for these commodities in other Crop group / sub-groups for consistence in the Codex Classification.

Rationale:

The soya beans and sorghum are widely used as beverages in Kenya. Their inclusion would be important to ensure that these commodities have MRLs set for their use in this function.

2. Subgroup 024B: Leaves

- Tea (*Camellia sinensis*)
- Mint (*Mentha*)
 - *Mentha aquatica* – water mint, marsh mint
 - *Mentha arvensis* – corn mint, wild mint, Japanese peppermint, field mint, banana mint
 - *Mentha asiatica* – Asian mint
 - *Mentha australis* – Australian mint
 - *Mentha canadensis* – American wild mint
 - *Mentha laxiflora* – forest mint
 - *Mentha longifolia* (syn. *Mentha sylvestris*) – horse mint
 - *Mentha piperita* – peppermint
 - *Mentha pulegium* – pennyroyal
 - *Mentha requienii* – Corsican mint
 - *Mentha sachalinensis* – garden mint
 - *Mentha crispata* – wrinkled-leaf mint
 - *Mentha diemenica* – slender mint
 - *Mentha spicata* (syn. *M. viridis*, *M. cordifolia*) – spearmint, curly mint (a cultivar of spearmint)

Rationale:

Mint (*Mentha*) is a genus of plants in the family Lamiaceae; and is widely used as a beverage and in sweet making. Where included in other Crop group, we propose that maintenance of the commodity code for Mint, to maintain consistency.

In making the inclusion for tea, we seek clarification on whether this commodity has been included in a separate Crop group as "Plants for infusion".

Subgroup 024C: Flowers for beverages and sweets

- Camomile, also Chamomile; (*Matricaria chamomilla*, *Chamaemelum nobile*)
- Hibiscus

We propose to maintain commodity codes where crops are listed in other groups. We also propose the inclusion of flowers in the "Portion of commodity to which MRL applies, and which is analysed" as applicable.

Rationale:

This will ensure an all-inclusive grouping in classification of food and feed especially on the provision on flexibility for setting Subgroup tolerances. Further, they are grown and exported from Kenya.

Republic of Korea

Republic of Korea (ROK) would like to propose **the addition of Senna seed** into Group 024 Seed for beverages and sweets. In addition, ROK considers that it is necessary to amend the definition of Group 024 as follow.

Existing group: Seed for beverages and sweets**1.1.1.1 Class A****1.1.2 Type 4 Nuts and seeds Group 024 Group Letter Code SB**

The seeds for beverages and sweets are derived from **herbaceous plants**, tropical and sub-tropical trees and shrubs. After processing the seeds are used in the production of beverages and sweets.

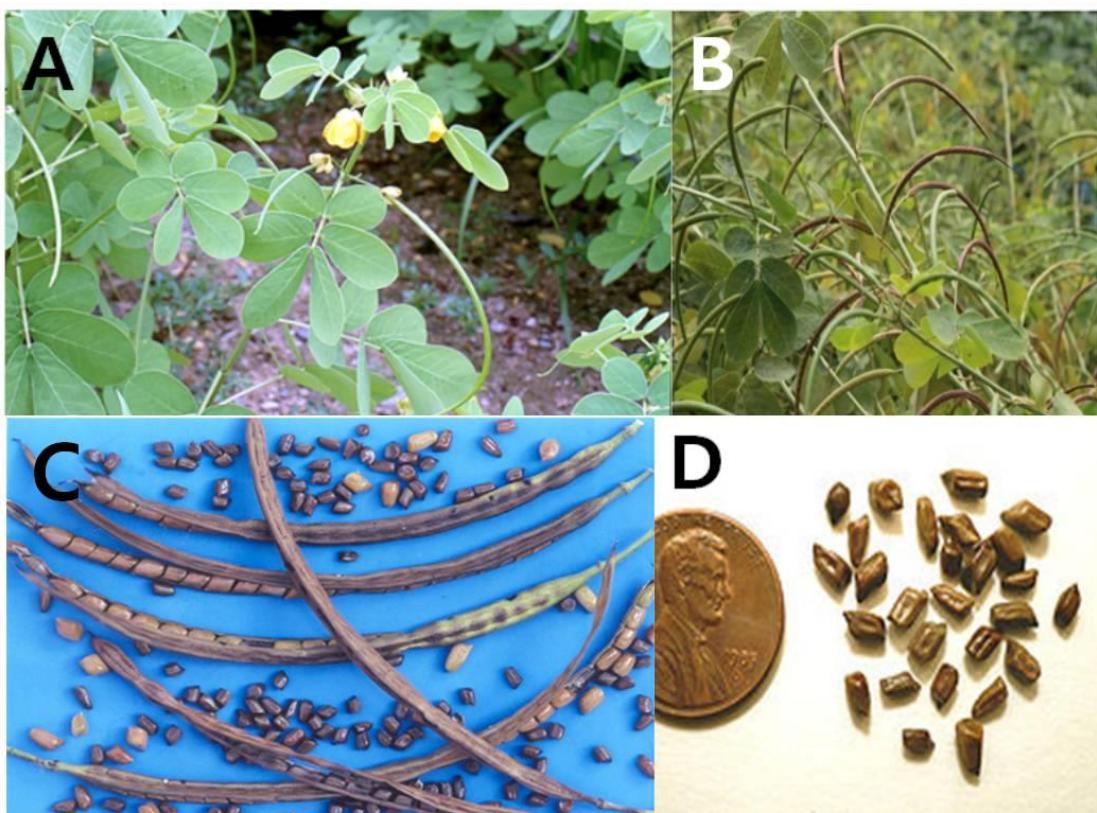
■ Outline of Senna seed

- Scientific name: *Senna obtusifolia* (Linnaeus) H. S. Irwin & Barneby
Synonyms [*Cassia obtusifolia* Linnaeus; *Senna tora* var. *obtusifolia* (Linnaeus) X. Y. Zhu]
- Common name: Senna seed, Sicklepod seed
- Local names: Gyeolmyeongja (결명자) [Korean]; Jué míng zi (決明子) [Chinese]; Ebisu-gusa (エビスグサ) [Japanese]; Fedegoso [Portuguese], Chirauta choked [Hindi]; Quyết minh tử [Vietnamese]
- Plant description: Herbs, suffrutescent, annual, erect, 1–2 m tall. Leaves 4–8 cm; stipules caducous, linear, 10–15 mm; petiole without glands; rachis with a club-shaped gland between leaflets; petiolules 1.5–2 mm; leaflets 3 pairs, obovate or obovate-oblong, 2–6 × 1.5–2.5 cm, membranous, abaxially pubescent, adaxially sparsely pubescent, base cuneate to rounded and oblique, apex rounded, cuspidate. Racemes axillary, short, 1- or 2(or 3)-flowered; peduncles 6–10 mm; bracts linear, acute. Pedicels 1–1.5cm. Sepals ovate or ovate-oblong, 5–8 mm, membranous, outside pubescent. Petals yellow, unequal, obovate, lower 2 slightly longer, 12–15 × 5–7 mm, shortly clawed. Fertile stamens 7, nearly equal, filaments 1.5–2 mm, anthers opening by apical pores, ca. 4 mm, 3 larger, 4 smaller, staminodes absent. Ovary sessile, densely white pubescent; style glabrous. Legume terete, subtetragonous, slender, 10–15 × 0.3–0.5 cm, both ends acuminate, valves membranous. Seeds 20–30, glossy, rhomboid, ca. 5 × 3 mm, with an areole.
- Traits: The green leaves of the plant are fermented to produce a high-protein food product called “kawal” which is eaten by many people in Sudan as a meat substitute. Its leaves, seeds, and root are also used in folk medicine, primarily in Asia. It is believed to possess a laxative effect, as well as to be beneficial for the eyes. As a folk remedy, the seeds are often roasted, then boiled in water to produce a tea.

The plant's seeds are a commercial source of cassia gum, a food additive usually used as a thickener and named for the Chinese Senna's former placement in the genus *Cassia*. Roasted and ground, the seeds have also been used as a substitute for coffee. In traditional Korean medicine, they are called gyeolmyeongja (결명자) and usually prepared as tea. They are also used in Kampō (traditional Chinese medicine in Japan), where they are called ketsumei-shi (ケツメイシ, 決明子) or by their Chinese name jué míng zǐ (traditional: 決明子, simplified: 决明子).

Apart from “sicklepod” and “Chinese senna”, *S. obtusifolia* has a wide range of common names. It is also known in English as Foetid Sassa (or “cassia”), Sickle Senna, Coffeeweed or Arsenic Weed, and somewhat ambiguously as “blunt-leaved senna”, “coffee pod” or “java bean”. The scientific name means “blunt-leaved senna”, with *obtusifolia* coming from Latin *obtusus* (“dull”, “blunt”) + *folium* (“leaf”).

- Use: tea
- Origin: America
- Distribution: It grows wild in North, Central, and South America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania, and is considered a particularly serious weed in many places.
- Memo: In East Asia including Korea, *Senna obtusifolia* has long been cultivated for Senna seed production. In addition, Korea imported the seeds of *S. obtusifolia* mainly from India, Vietnam, China, and Nigeria for Roasted Senna seed tea. In Korea, *Senna obtusifolia* is one of crops in NAGP, The National Agricultural Genome Project, and Korea government is planning to register fludioxonil, hexaconazole, prochloraz, tebuconazole, thiophanate-methyl and triflumizole to control the leaf spot of *Senna obtusifolia* and to establish MRL of *Senna obtusifolia* seeds for six pesticides.



- Supporting information I: *Senna obtusifolia*. A: Plant of *Senna obtusifolia*. B: Plant with pods. C: Harvested seeds and pods of *Senna obtusifolia*. D: Seeds of *Senna obtusifolia*

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

PLANTS Database

You are here: Home / Plant Profile

GENERAL **IMAGES** **SYNOMYMS** **CLASSIFICATION** **LEGAL STATUS** **WETLAND** **RELATED LINKS**

Senna obtusifolia (L.) Irwin & Barneby
Java-bean Show All

General Information

Symbol:	SEOB4
Group:	Dicot
Family:	Fabaceae
Duration:	Annual Perennial
Growth Habit:	Forb/herb Subshrub
Native Status:	HI I L4B N PB I PR N VI N

Data Source and Documentation

About our new maps

NRCS PLANTS Database

A map of North America showing county-level distribution data for *Senna obtusifolia*. States are colored according to their native status: green for Native, blue for Introduced, yellow for Both, and white for Absent/Unreported.

Legend:

- Native
- Introduced
- Both
- Absent/Unreported
- Native, No County Data
- Introduced, No County Data
- Both, No County Data

USDA-NRCS-NGCE **POWERED BY esri**

■ Supporting information II: Distribution of *Senna obtusifolia* in United States



■ Supporting information III: Roasted Senna seeds and beverage for sale in various forms of Senna seed tea (gyeolmyeongja-tea) in Korea

United States of America

The United States agrees with the outcome of the EWG that Group 024- Seeds for Beverages and Sweets should not be expanded to include other plants. In regards to water chestnut, foxnut and lotus seed (paragraph 5), the United States is of the opinion that some commodities do not adequately meet the characteristics for crop grouping and it is therefore not appropriate to include these commodities in either Group 024 or Group 025. The United States agrees with the proposal to develop a system within the Classification to provide codes for such commodities (paragraph 6, item (3) of the CL). This will create a system to provide codes for commodities that do not meet the characteristics for crop grouping and are not included in a group within the Classification.

African Union

Issue:

The 48th Session of CCPR agreed that the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands would continue to work on Group 024 Seeds for Beverages and Sweets to look into the possible expansion and grouping of this Group including the possibility for multiple entries of commodities in different groups of the Classification and report back at the next session with a proposal for consideration.

Position:

AU proposes to amend the name of the Group 024 to be “**Plants for beverages and sweets**”.

AU support the proposed division into three (3) subgroups:

- a. **024A Seeds for beverages and sweets;**
- b. **024B leaves for beverages and sweets;**
- c. **024C flowers for beverages and sweets.**

Although the EWG has proposed that no commodity that has been included in other groups, such as Basil in Group 028A Herbs and Species, should be proposed in this group, AU proposes the inclusion of herbs or spices that are specifically traded with intention of being consumed as beverages. The following are AU's proposals

- In our proposed **Subgroup 024B, leaves for beverages and sweets** include: peppermint, jasmine, rooibos and hibiscus.
- In our proposed **Subgroup 024C, flowers for beverages and sweets** include chamomile.

If the proposal to include these commodities is not appropriate, then a specific reference with an asterix (*) on the specific commodity in the Group 028 (Herbs and Spices) to indicate that the commodity could be traded as a beverage should be introduced.

Rationale:

The change of the name will allow inclusion of other commodities that are used for beverages and sweets (not only seeds for beverages and sweets), which includes commodities that are traded internationally and may require maximum residue limits. These commodities are also crops of minor use. There are commodities that are proposed for inclusion in this Group that are not seeds but are traded for beverages and sweets e.g. licorice, liquorice (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*).