

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 13

CF12/CRD13

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

12th Session
Utrecht, The Netherlands, 12 - 16 March 2018

DISCUSSION PAPER ON MAXIMUM LEVEL(S) FOR HYDROCYANIC ACID AND MYCOTOXIN CONTAMINATION IN CASSAVA AND CASSAVA-BASED PRODUCTS

Comment submitted by EU, Uganda and USA

EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work done by the electronic working group chaired by Nigeria to elaborate the discussion paper on maximum level(s) for hydrocyanic acid and mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products.

The EU agrees with the recommendation provided in §4 (f) that the electronic working group should be given an additional year to complete the discussion paper in view of CCCF13 in order to be able to advise on the need and feasibility to establish a maximum level (ML) for hydrocyanic acid (HCN) in all fermented cassava products and to address the issue of harmonizing the expression of HCN levels, i.e. free or total HCN and to allow CCCF to determine if mycotoxin contamination in fermented cassava products would be a health concern (§ 14 and 15 of REP 17/CF).

The EU notes that the reference to "3" in § 4(d) should be "c", to "(1-4)" in § 4(e) should be "(a-d)" and to "5" in §4(f) should be "e".

The EU further notes that the information provided in §15 (a) indicating that "*there are currently no provisions in the GSCTFF for HCN MLs in cassava and its products*", is inaccurate as an ML for total hydrocyanic acid in cassava flour has been established in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (GSCTFF, CXS 193-1995).

UGANDA

Uganda supports the ongoing work on settings MLs for HCN in cassava and cassava-based products and mycotoxin contamination in these products. There have been several food poisoning cases in several parts of the country attributed to eating cassava suspected to have high levels of hydrocyanic acid. Ugandan experts will collect and submit data to support the process and endeavor to have experts join the EWG on the subject.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

The U.S. agrees with the recommendation in paragraph 4(f) for a call for additional data on the occurrence of hydrocyanic acid (HCN) and mycotoxins in globally representative cassava and cassava-based products to further elaborate the discussion paper for consideration at the next session of the Committee.