

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 12

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

Tenth Session

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 4-8 April 2016

(Comments submitted by Kenya, Sudan and African Union)

## DISCUSSION PAPER ON AN ANNEX FOR ERGOT AND ERGOT ALKALOIDS TO THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF MYCOTOXIN CONTAMINATION IN CEREALS (CAC/RCP 51-2003)

### **KENYA**

#### SPECIFIC COMMENT

Kenya would like to support the discussion paper for ergot and ergot alkaloids to be included in the codex existing code of practice, this will prevent the occurrence of mycotoxin in cereals.

### **SUDAN**

Sudan supports the inclusion of a separate 6<sup>th</sup> annex on ergot and ergot alkaloids to the COP for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination on cereals. The proposed annex draft submitted by Germany is satisfactory, in view of the current information, to warrant a decision by the committee for further action.

The level of cereals contamination with ergot alkaloids is expressed as weight of ergot alkaloids per kg of cereal based product (Background para. 11) and as weight of ergot sclerotia per kg unprocessed cereals (Background para.12). Are the procedures followed in both cases standardized and endorsed?

### **AFRICAN UNION**

**Position:** AU supports the work on a separate Annex on ergot.

**Issue & Rationale:** The revision of the Code of practice submitted to CCCF9 contained an Annex on ergot alkaloids, despite this not having been specifically discussed at CCCF. The ergot Annex was withdrawn and hence this discussion paper has been submitted to clarify the position and establish the need for such a new Annex. Although ergot and the associated alkaloids are more commonly a problem associated with temperate northern climates, a serious outbreak of gangrenous ergotism was reported from Ethiopia in the 1970's resulting in nearly 50 deaths. The producing fungal species 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.