

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

Agenda Item 8(e)

CX/PR 16/48/10- Add.1  
April 2016

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

48<sup>th</sup> Session

Chongqing, P.R. China, 25 - 30 April 2016

**COMMENTS at Step 3 on the proposed draft revision of the CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED:  
Selected commodity groups: Group 021 – Grasses for sugar or syrup production  
submitted by Canada, Kenya, United States of America and African Union**

### Canada

#### Background:

Group 021 (Grasses for sugar or syrup production) is a new commodity group that was identified at the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCPR for discussion in the electronic working group (EWG) and consideration by CCPR48.

#### Current Status:

The EWG has submitted a document (CX/PR 16/48/10), which incorporates the comments provided by members of the EWG. The current Crop Group 021 lists two commodities **Sorgo or Sorghum, Sweet** and **Sugar cane**, with no subgroups.

Proposed revisions to Crop Group 021 as a result of comments provided by EWG participants include:

- Proposal by Ecuador to include corn (*Zea mays*) because corn residues are fed to livestock for sugar and fiber content.
- Proposal by the European Union to expand the group from “Grasses, for sugar or syrup production” to “Plants, for sugar or syrup production” in order to include a larger number of species. Proposed subgroups would include:

SUBGROUPS
Sugar beet roots
Leaves and canes [agave leaves, sweet sorghum]
Roots [common polypody roots, yacon roots]
Others [syrup from trunk sap including birches, manna ashes, maples and palms]

CCPR48 has been asked to provide comments on the proposed revisions to this crop group taking into consideration the guiding principles and the criteria for crop group of the Classification of Food and Feed.

### Canada’s Position on the Revised Grasses for Sugars or Syrup Production Group (Group 021)

As a member of the Electronic Working Group on the Revision of the Classification, Canada provided comments through this working group on the proposed draft revisions to Group 021.

Canada supports the addition of the “Others” subgroup under the EU proposal only if the Group is expanded from Grasses to Plants (also part of the EU proposal). However, should the group be renamed /expanded to become “Plants for sugar or syrup production”, Canada feels that it is not appropriate for this group to remain in Type 03 Grasses, given the inclusion of non-grass commodities.

Canada has some reservations regarding the addition of some of the other proposed subgroups given that commodities that may be included in these subgroups may already be included in other crop groups (e.g. sugar beet roots are already in the Root and Tuber Vegetables Group 016). To avoid confusion, it is recommended that commodities only be included in one group.

**Kenya**

**Issue:** Subgrouping and new commodities for group 021 – grasses for sugar or syrup production.

**Position:** We support the proposal by European Union in expanding the group from only grasses to plants and propose the replacement of “**grasses**” with “**plants**” and therefore the change of title of the group 021 to “**plants for sugar or syrup production**”. In the [leaves and canes] category, we propose addition of “sugarcane”.

**Rationale:** Grasses are not the only plants cultivated for sugar or syrup production as per the proposal presented in renaming the group and subgroups.

**United States of America**

The United States does not agree with the proposed additions to this group for corn (*Zea mays*) since it is already a member of the 020 Cereal Grains; Sugar beet roots which is already a member of 016 Root and tuber vegetables since it not appropriate to have the same commodity in more than one group. Additionally, the United States does not agree this group should include Leaves and canes [agave leaves, sweet sorghum], Roots [common polypody roots, yacon roots] and Others [syrup from trunk sap including birches, manna ashes, maples and palms] since these diverse group of crops are not appropriate for inclusion in a group since exposure to pesticides will not be the same.

**African Union****Background:**

It is recalled that the revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds (CAC/MISC) had been approved by the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and the CCPR at its 39<sup>th</sup> Session agreed to establish an electronic working group to further advance the revision.

It was further agreed that it should keep in mind that the revision should be fit for the purpose of the classification which was to facilitate the establishment and interpretation of MRLs.

The proposed Group 021 is a new group for consideration.

**Position:** AU welcomes the work of the EWG on the proposed classification of grasses for sugar and syrup production under sorgho or sorghum and sugar cane. AU also welcomes the EU proposal and we are open to discussing it.

**Issue & Rationale:** Sugar cane is a perennial grass and a source of sugar and sugar syrup. It is grown in most tropical and subtropical region of Africa. Pesticide use by farmers to control pest is a common practice.