

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

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

16th Session

18-21 April 2023 (physical plenary meeting)

26 April 2023 (virtual report adoption)

*Comments submitted by Ghana*

### Agenda Item 5: Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories

**Position:** Ghana supports the setting of maximum levels for soft brown sugar, raw and non-centrifuged sugar at Step 5 as well as ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children at step 3.

**Rationale:** Even though data from Ghana was not included in the establishment of the proposed MLs, the values are achievable and would ensure the protection of human health and promote trade.

In addition, the implementation of the revised code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead in food will certainly make our commodities compliant to the proposed limits.

### Agenda Item 6: Code of Practice for prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products

**Position:** Ghana supports the adoption of the Code of Practice (CoP) for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products and its advancement for final adoption by CAC46 (2023)

**Rationale:** Cassava and cassava-based products are widely consumed and traded in Ghana. Mycotoxins, (aflatoxin and ochratoxin A -in particular) are of public health concern in both fermented and unfermented cassava products. Fungal contamination of cassava products occur along the food chain due to poor agricultural, manufacturing and handling practices. The Code of Practice would therefore provide current information on the required practices to control contamination of cassava and cassava fermented products with mycotoxins.

### Agenda Item 7: Sampling plans for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children

**Position:** Ghana supports the recommendations of the EWG.

**Rationale:** The proposed sampling plans are implementable and a balance between low variance to reduce sampling error and practical considerations in the size and cost of samples to be handled

### Agenda Item 8: Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan

**Position:** Ghana supports the EWG's recommendation that a paper on a proposed ML for total aflatoxins in RTE peanuts and associated sampling plan be presented at CCCF17 (2024) taking into consideration data from geographically diverse regions

**Rationale:** Adoption of the EWG's recommendation is an opportunity for Ghana to contribute to the GEMS/Food data on aflatoxins in RTE peanuts. Inclusion of these data in the GEMS/Food database will support the CCCF intention of establishing MLs based on data that is more geographically diverse.

Adhering to the recommendation of the EWG would give more time for countries to submit data to GEMS/Food after implementation of the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts (CXC 55-2004).

This will enable the establishment of MLs that are more country/geographically diverse.

**Agenda Item 9: Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans**

**Position:** Ghana proposes that this document/work be held at Step 4 for one year to enable data currently being generated to be incorporated to present a more global picture of the problem and to help set more realistic MLs for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in spices.

**Rationale:** Ghana is currently involved in the data generation of some spices and hopes to submit this data to the GEMS/Food database to be incorporated and used in the revision of the proposed MLs by the Electronic Working Group (EWG).

**Agenda Item 10: Discussion paper on the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning**

**Position:** Ghana supports the proposal of the EWG to revise the discussion paper for consideration by CCCF17.

**Rationale:** Ciguatera poisoning is an illness resulting from human consumption of marine organisms containing ciguatoxins. Ciguatera poisoning has become a global health issue and is increasing in prevalence due to factors that include climate change. Coastal communities that rely on fishing as source of food supply and income are mostly at risk from increasing occurrences of ciguatera poisoning.

Hence developing a CoP on the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning will protect human health and promote trade.