

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Items 5, 13

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

17th Session  
15-19 April 2024

*Comments submitted by Bangladesh*

Bangladesh is pleased to offer comments on specific agenda items of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF17).

## **Agenda Item 5: Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (at Step 4)**

Bangladesh thanks the Electronic Working Group (EWG) chaired by Brazil for preparing the document and offers the following comments:

- Bangladesh supports the establishment of MLs for lead in Spices and Culinary Herbs in consideration of the frequent consumption of these commodities in several diets, and the potential detrimental health impact of lead.
- Bangladesh agrees with the method applied to reach the proposed MLs, noting that the EWG followed the CCCF agreed-upon approach aiming to achieve ALARA : “as low as reasonably achievable” levels of lead and accepting rejection rates of samples with a maximum cut-off at 5%. This approach is in line with JECFA’s determination that there is no a safe level associated with exposure to lead.
- Bangladesh supports efforts aiming to reach consensus at CCCF17, enabling the adoption of the MLs for lead in the food categories under discussion. Such consensus would prevent the discontinuation of work.

## **Agenda Item 13: Request for comments on the recommendation for the establishment of maximum levels for cadmium and lead in quinoa**

Bangladesh acknowledges the effort deployed by JECFA in preparing this discussion paper.

Bangladesh considers that the discussion paper presents enough evidence to support the decision to establish MLs for both cadmium and lead in quinoa, although further efforts might be deployed for the collection of additional consumption data specific to this commodity.

Even if the analysis carried out showcased a limited gain in exposure reduction to cadmium and lead, as a result of imposing the MLs in Quinoa, however, Bangladesh considers that adopting the proposed MLs of 0.1 mg/kg for lead and cadmium in quinoa (grain, seed and flour), does present important advantages in term of helping manage the risk related to these heavy metals in quinoa, consistently.