

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS

Second Session

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REPORT OF THE 2ND CCSCH IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP PROJECT DOCUMENTS FOR NEW ONWORK PRIORITIES

BACKGROUND: The 2nd CCSCH Session established a “Priorities physical Working Group” led by the United States to evaluate the project documents for the development of standards. The working group was afforded the identical interpretation services afforded to the meeting’s plenary session to facilitate effective participation by all delegations present.

Project documents were submitted as follows.

Country	Commodity
Egypt	Dried Basil
	Dried Coriander
India	Dried or Dehydrated Chilli
	Dried and Dehydrated Garlic
	Dried and Dehydrated Ginger
Indonesia	Nutmeg
Islamic Republic of Iran	Dried Saffron
Nigeria	Dried Cloves,
	Dried Ginger Whole and Ground
Argentina	Paprika

MANDATE & TERMS OF REFERENCE: The Working group mandate was to evaluate the project documents using (i) the Guideline on the Application of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities (Criteria Applicable to Commodities)- found in Section II: Elaboration of Codex Texts of the Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual, 23rd Edition, and (ii) based on the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) Process For Prioritizing New Work Project documents- a ranking method that assigns weighted value (scores) to each evaluation criteria. The criteria scores are then summed and measured against other project documents. Project documents are then ranked based on the summed score in descending order.

The aforementioned CCFH method was tried and proved to be inefficient. Due to the project documents similarity, the working group expressed concern that this ranking process was unsuitable in this instance. Hence the working group reverted to the method indicated in the Codex Procedural Manual.

OUTCOME: The working group reviewed the Project documents for new work in the order of the annex. The project documents for Dried and Dehydrated Ginger from India was withdrawn and requested to be used in support of a similar project document from Nigeria. A project document for Paprika was merged with that for Dried or Dehydrated Chilli- since both were for Capsicum and could be differentiated in a standard by chemical and physical characteristics.

Taking into consideration the CCSCH workload – development of a maximum of four standards at a time, project documents for new work were placed in a priority list divided between fully approved and conditionally approved sections. However, the working group noted that project documents may be afforded higher or immediate priority if emergency trade or consumer safety issues arise in global trade.

The working group decision on project documents for new work as follows:

Basil: The project document was discussed by the working group and returned to the delegation of Egypt for redrafting with specific guidelines on the sections that needed improvement.

Dried or Dehydrated Chilli and Paprika: The working group considered both project documents agreed they jointly fulfilled the requirements for the elaboration of a standard. The delegations of India and Argentina agreed to merge both project documents into a CRD for presentation to the plenary session for consideration. To address the concerns that separate standards should be developed due to different chemical and physical characteristics, the working group agreed to indicate to the CCSCCH that if a joint standard was not feasible or too difficult to develop separate standards will be elaborated.

Dried and Dehydrated Garlic: The project document was discussed by the working group and returned to the Delegation of India for redrafting with specific guidelines on the sections that needed improvement—namely volumes and patterns of trade between countries. The project document was provisionally placed third on the priority list pending its revision.

Dried and Dehydrated Ginger: India's delegation withdrew its project document for standardization and requested that it be considered as a document in support of Nigeria's project document for dried ginger. Hence the working group discussion of the project document was undertaken with that understanding. The working group agreed that the ensuing project document met the requirements for the elaboration of a standard for dried and dehydrated ginger and requested that delegations resubmit a revised project document arising from both documents and for presentation to the plenary session for consideration as a CRD.

Coriander: The project document was discussed by the working group and returned to the delegation of Egypt for redrafting with specific guidelines on the relevant sections that needed further improvement.

Nutmeg: The working group noted that a project document for the development of a standard for nutmeg was circulated as a CRD at the first CCSCCH Session, and was returned to Indonesia for redrafting because member countries did not have time to study the project document in advance of the session.

The working group decision on this project document was also guided by CRD submitted by Grenada (the second largest producer of nutmeg) that is opposed to the elaboration of the said standard, It was agreed that the project document could be approved for development if the following conditions were met:

- (i) Sections 4 a; the supporting data is presented in a table format that facilitates evaluation.
- (ii) An accommodation between Grenada and Indonesia (the two largest producers of nutmeg) on the status of the standard so that consensus can be achieved within the CCSCCH on undertaking the elaboration and subsequent

decision making at the CAC.

- (iii) Revise the project document excluding mace, though from the same plant and a co-produced by the plant, they are traded as two separate products having different characteristics and trade requirements. Therefore two separate project documents would be required.

Saffron: The working group discussed this project document submitted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and agreed to its conditional approval (placing it on the priority list pending the revision of sections 4 a and c and the submission of a discussion paper explaining the lack of trade data, and the low volume high value trade and any other pertinent information that would validate this project document when submitted to the CAC for final approval.

Cloves: The project document was discussed and returned to Nigeria for redrafting particularly Section 4.

Priority List and Summary of decision taken

Ranking	Project Document Recommended For Approval	Submitted by
1	Dried or Dehydrated Ginger	Nigeria
2	Dried Chili Peppers and Paprika	India and Argentina
3	Dried Garlic	India
Conditional Approval		
1	Basil	Egypt
2	Saffron	Islamic Republic of Iran
3	Nutmeg	Indonesia
Returned for Redevelopment		
	Coriander	Egypt
	Cloves	Nigeria

Other Key Issues Raised:

1. **Consistency between data presented in the project documents and the scope of the ensuing standard:** Concern was expressed that the data presented in the project documents to justify the elaboration of the standard is not differentiated between those for direct sales to consumers, and those for or further processing; whereas the Scope of the standards excludes product when indicated as being intended **for further processing**.
2. **Priorities working group method and time of meeting:** The CCSCCH should consider whether to move the priorities working group to an electronic format thereby evaluating project documents for elaborating of standard prior to the meeting; or holding its meeting immediately preceding the Committee meeting thereby allowing the committee to maximize the allotted plenary sessions.