

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8(e)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

48th Session

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

PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED: SELECTED COMMODITY GROUPS GROUP 021 - GRASSES FOR SUGAR OR SYRUP PRODUCTION

(AT STEP 4)

(Prepared by the Electronic Working Group chaired by the United States of America
co-chaired by the Netherlands)

Codex Members and Observers wishing to submit comments at **Step 3** on this document (see **Appendix I**), including possible implications for their economic interests, should do so in conformity with the *Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts* (Codex Alimentarius Commission Procedural Manual) before **11 April 2016**. Comments should be directed:

to:

CCPR Secretariat
Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals
Ministry of Agriculture
Room 906, No. 18 building
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with a copy to:

Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme,
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BACKGROUND

1. Background on the discussion of the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CAC/MISC 4-1993) can be found in the reports of the 36th – 47th sessions of the Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) including relevant sessions of the Codex Alimentarius (CAC) held from 2004 to 2015. Reports of Codex committee meetings are available at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/en/>.

2. The 47th Session of CCPR (May 2015) agreed to re-establish¹ the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (EWG) led by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands to continue with the revision of the Classification. In this framework, two new commodity groups were identified for discussion in the EWG and consideration by CCPR48:

- Group 021 – Grasses for sugar or syrup production and
- Group 024 – Seeds for beverages and sweets.

The list of participants is presented in Appendix II.

¹ REP15/PR, para 138

3. The EWG identified the commodity group 021 Grasses for sugars or syrup production for consideration by CCPR48. The following comments were provided by the EWG. Ecuador proposed the inclusion of corn (*Zea mays*) because corn residues are fed to livestock for sugar and fiber content [maize is already included in 020 Cereal Grains].

The European Union proposed expanding the group from only Grasses to Plants to include a larger number of species. Proposed subgroups would include:

- (1) Sugar beet roots [note that sugar beets are already included in 016 Root and tuber vegetables],
- (2) Leaves and canes [agave leaves, sweet sorghum],
- (3) Roots [common polypody roots, yacon roots] and
- (4) Others [syrup from trunk sap including birches, manna ashes, maples and palms].

This proposal needs to be considered in regards to the diversity of exposure to pesticides and if the renamed group (Plants, for sugar or syrup production) would remain in Type 03 Grasses?

CONCLUSIONS

4. The EWG submits for comments by Codex members and observer international organization the proposal based on the considerations given by members of the EWG. The proposal will be further considered by CCPR48.

5. When submitting comments, Codex Members and observers are kindly invited to take into consideration the deliberations in the EWG as summarized in paragraph 3 and the guiding principles and the criteria for crop group of the Classification of Food and Feed (Appendix III).

RECOMMENDATION

6. The Committee is invited to consider the sub-grouping and new commodities for Group 021 – Grasses for sugar or syrup production with a view to their adoption at Step 5 by the 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

APPENDIX I**Grasses for sugar or syrup production**Class A**Type 3 Grasses Group 021 Group Letter Code GS**

Group 021, Grasses for sugar or syrup production, includes species of grasses with a high sugar content especially in the stem. The stems are mainly used for sugar or syrup production, and to a small extent as vegetables or sweets. The leaves, ears and several wastes of the sugar or syrup manufacturing process are used, among others, as animal feed (see Group 052: Miscellaneous fodder and forage crops).

Group 021 Grasses for sugar or syrup production**Code No.****Commodity**

GS 0658

Sorgo or Sorghum, Sweet

varieties and cultivars of Sorghum of which the stems contain considerable amounts of sweet juice. Among others cultivars of

Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench.

S. dochna (Forsk.) Snowden

GS 0659

Sugar cane

Saccharum officinarum L.

APPENDIX II**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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APPENDIX III

The Classification of Food and Feed includes food commodities and animal feedstuffs for which Codex maximum residue limits will not necessarily be established.

The Classification is intended:

- to be a listing of food commodities in trade as complete as possible, classified into groups on the basis of the commodity's similar potential for pesticide residues;
- primarily to ensure the use of uniform nomenclature and secondarily to classify foods into groups and/or sub-groups for the purpose of establishing group maximum residue limits for commodities with similar characteristics and residue potential; and
- to promote harmonization of the terms used to describe commodities which are subject to maximum residue limits and of the approach to grouping commodities with similar potential for residue for which a common group maximum residue limit can be set.

The criteria for crop grouping in the Classification of Food and Feed:

1. Commodity's similar potential for pesticide residues.
2. Similar morphology.
3. Similar production practices, growth habits, etc.
4. Edible portion.
5. Similar GAP for pesticide uses.
6. Similar residue behavior.
7. To provide flexibility for setting (sub) group tolerances.