

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 7a, 7b, 7c, 7e

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

49<sup>th</sup> Session  
Beijing, P.R. China, 24 - 29 April 2017

Comments on Agenda Item 7 submitted by Canada, European Union, Ghana, Kenya, Thailand, Uganda and African Union

### **Agenda Item 7a: Draft and proposed revision of the Classification of Food and Feed at Steps 7 and 4: Vegetable commodity groups**

#### Canada

##### Background:

The 48<sup>th</sup> Session of CCPR (April 2016) concluded the discussion on the vegetable commodity groups. In the years 2010-2016 the Committee reached agreement for all ten crop groups of vegetables as indicated below.

- Group 09: Bulb vegetables
- Group 12: Fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits
- Group 18: Edible fungi
- Group 10: Brassica vegetables (except Brassica leafy vegetables)
- Group 13: Leafy vegetables
- Group 17: Stalk and stem vegetables
- Group 16: Roots and Tubers
- Group 15: Pulses
- Group 14: Legume vegetables
- Group 11: Fruiting vegetables, cucurbits **[held at Step 4]**

The process for the revision of the Classification is to retain the revision of the commodity groups (eg vegetable) at Step 7 awaiting final compilation of the related commodity groups and the corresponding tables on examples of representative commodities for inclusion in the Classification of Food and Feed and the Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides to Commodity Groups. Therefore this agenda item should be read in conjunction with Agenda item 7(e) as per the table for representative commodities for vegetable groups.

The EWG on the revision of the Classification was requested to compile all vegetable commodity groups finalized by CCPR to ensure consistency throughout the groups in order to send the entire vegetable commodity group to CAC40 (2017) for final adoption.

##### Current Status:

The EWG has submitted a document (CX/PR 17/49/06) which outlines the current status of the proposed revisions of the Classification of Foods and Feed (Vegetable Commodity Groups). In summary, the EWG:

- Supports that a commodity should only be included in one group or subgroup to avoid any possible confusion of having two different CXLs for the same commodity.
- Supports that the plant part needs to be considered when describing a commodity (examples given included moringa, pods, moringa seeds and moringa leaves and also radish roots and radish leaves) and it is acceptable to include the same commodity with different plant part in different groups (for example radish roots and radish leaves).

- Supports that it is appropriate to include cross-referencing where commodities (without a code number) can be listed in a group, but with reference to its primary classification.
- Agreed that no changes would be made to existing CXLs (as a result of some crops moving to another group during the revisions) until such a time JMPR would revise them following the procedures in place for the establishment of Codex schedules and priority list of pesticides.
  - To achieve this, a specific CXL at the level of the previous group-CXL for the relocated commodity has to be established, to keep its existing CXL; and at the same time the commodity has to be excluded from the new group-CXL. The excluding of the CXL from the new group-CXL can be done in the column “notes”. After evaluation of the CXLs for the individual active substance by the JMPR it may be appropriate to implement the CXL of the revised subgroup; at that moment the specific CXLs at the level of the “previous” group will be withdrawn.

An agreement has not yet been reached on whether the words “subgroup of” should be added to the description of all subgroups. Some EWG members suggested this would prevent misinterpretation between subgroups and individual commodities that share the same name. Other members were of the opinion that the current code numbers and common names are sufficient to avoid misinterpretation. It was noted CCPR did not follow this practice when the revised fruit commodity group was adopted by CAC35.

#### Request to CCPR:

The EWG recommends the Committee:

- Forward the revised vegetable commodity group as presented in Appendix II to CAC40 for final adoption and inclusion in the Classification of Food and Feed, giving careful consideration to the Table on examples for the selection of representative commodities for vegetable commodity groups as proposed in CL 2017/22-PR (Agenda Item 7e).
- Incorporate the amendments to existing CXLs arising from the revision of the vegetable groups in the Codex Database as proposed in Appendix III, Table 2 following adoption of the revised vegetable commodity groups by CAC40.
- Consider whether it is appropriate to add the words “subgroup of” to the description of all subgroups keeping in mind that CCPR did not follow this practice for the revised fruit commodity group.

#### **Canada’s Position on the Draft and Proposed of the Classification of Food and Feeds: Vegetable Commodity Groups**

- As a member of the Electronic Working Group on the Revision of the Classification, Canada provided comments through this working group on the revisions to the vegetable commodity groups.
- Canada is in agreement to forward the revised vegetable commodity group as presented in Appendix II of CX/PR 17/49/06 to CAC40 for final adoption and inclusion in the Classification of Food and Feed and has no further comments.
  - Please refer to Canada’s response to CL 2017/22-PR (Agenda Item 7e) for Canada’s comments on the Table of examples for the selection of representative commodities for vegetable commodity groups.
- Canada supports the incorporation of the amendments to existing CXLs arising from the revision of the vegetable groups in the Codex Database as proposed in Appendix III, Table 2 of CX/PR 17/49/06.
- While Canada is not opposed to the addition of “subgroup of” to the description of all subgroups, Canada does not feel that this addition is necessary and would prefer to maintain the same practice that was followed by CCPR during previous revisions of the commodity groups.

## European Union

### European Union Competence

#### European Union Vote

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification of food and feed chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands for the preparation of the draft and proposed revision of the Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds.

The EU acknowledges the accurate work done by the eWG to harmonize and to check the internal coherence of various decisions taken by the CCPR in the period 2010-2016 on the classification of food and feed.

The European Union (EU) agrees with the reviewed classification proposed in the document CX/PR 17/49/6.

The EU supports the proposal of paragraph 9 to add to the description of all subgroups the words “*subgroup of*”. This editorial improvement will prevent any misinterpretation in the several cases in which the description of the subgroup is identical to the description of one commodity within the subgroup.

In reply to the comment on inconsistency to the already adopted crop groups presented in paragraph 17, the EU proposes to amend in a future step the groups already approved by CAC (Fruits and Tree nuts) and to align also them to this useful editorial improvement.

In addition, the EU would like to suggest to verify the correctness of the following lines:

In Table 1 of Appendix III (overview of the commodities moved from one group to another group):

- **Chinese cabbage (type Pe-tsai):** the information given in the column 6 of the last line of the extract below should read “VB 2036 Head Brassicas” instead of “VB 0042 Flowerhead brassicas”.

Existing classification			Revised classification		
Commodity	Group CXL	Subgroup CXL	Commodity	Group CXL	Subgroup CXL
VA 0380 Fennel, bulb	VA 0035 Bulb vegetables	-	VS 0380 Fennel, bulb	VS 0078 Stalk and stem vegetables	VS 2080 Stems and petioles*
VB 0401 Broccoli, Chinese	VB 0040 Brassica (cole or cabbage) vegetables, Head cabbages, Flowerhead brassicas	VB 0042 Flowerhead brassicas (includes Broccoli: Broccoli, Chinese and Cauliflower)	VL 0401 Broccoli, Chinese	VL 0053 Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables)	VL 0054 Leaves of Brassicaceae
VL 0467 Chinese cabbage (type Pe-tsai)	VL 0053 Leafy vegetables	VL 0054 Brassica leafy vegetables	VB 0467 Chinese cabbage (type Pe-tsai)	VB 0040 Brassica vegetables (except Brassica leafy vegetables)	VB 0042 Flowerhead brassicas

- **Witloofs chicory (sprouts):** it has been agreed to attribute a new code (VL 0469) to the commodity VS 0469 and to move it from the group of stalk and stem vegetables to the group of Leafy vegetables (Group 013). As a result, at the moment there are now two entries in Group 013 with the same code VL 0469:

- on page 19 in group 013A (Leafy greens), code VL 0469 refers to 'Chicory leaves (green and red cultivars)'.  
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On page 27, code VL 0469 refers to 'Witloof chicory (sprouts)'. To avoid confusion, both commodities should get different codes.

VS 0469 Witloof chicory (sprouts)	VS 0078 Stalk and stem vegetables	-	VL 0469 Witloof chicory (sprouts)	VL 0053 Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables)	-
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- **Fennel:** at page 20 of the document CX/PR 17/49/6, a reference is given to the group 027 Herbs. It might be useful to include the specification 'leaves' to the commodity, as follow:

“Fennel leaves, see Group 027 Herbs”

## Ghana

Ghana supports the advancements made on this class and requests the addition of *Hibiscus cannabinus* L, a cultivated plant species commonly called **Kenaf** in Ghana.

## Kenya

### Issue:

Adoption of the classification as presented in Appendix II to CAC40 for final adoption and inclusion in the Codex Classification of Food and Feed and incorporate to existing CXLs arising from the revision of the vegetable groups in the Codex Database as proposed in Appendix III, Table 2 following adoption of the revised vegetable commodity groups by CAC40.

### Position:

We support to the advancement of ten crop groups of vegetables for final adoption at the Commission. These groups are:

- i. Group 09 Bulb vegetables,
- ii. Group 012 Fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits
- iii. Group 18: Edible fungi
- iv. Group 10: Brassica vegetables (except Brassica leafy vegetables)
- v. Group 13: Leafy vegetables
- vi. Group 17: Stalk and stem vegetables
- vii. Group 16: Roots and Tubers
- viii. Group 15: Pulses
- ix. Group 11: Fruiting vegetables, cucurbits
- x. Group 14: Legume vegetables

## Thailand

First of all, Thailand appreciates the effort of the electronic working group for preparing the draft revision of Codex Classification of foods and feeds. We would like to share some comments as follows;

### 1. The finalization of the vegetable commodity groups

Thailand agrees with the overall of the Draft revision of the classification of foods and animal feeds: Vegetables commodity groups. We would like to support the revision of Vegetable commodity groups for adoption at step 8.

### 2. The description of subgroup

As it was seen in the draft revision, the description of the subgroup in several cases is comparable to one of the individual commodities in such subgroup. In order to avoid misunderstanding, we support the inclusion of term "subgroup of ..." in the description of each subgroup. For example: "VO 2045 Subgroup of Tomatoes".

### 3. The amendment to existing CXLs arising from the revision of the vegetable commodity groups in Codex database

Regarding the Table 2 of Appendix III of document number CX/PR 17/49/06, we agree with the "notes" which will be added in the database to the existing subgroup or group CXLs when a new vegetable crop is relocated to such subgroup or group.

## Uganda

**Position:** Uganda commends the amount of work undertaken over the year to reach agreement on all the 10 crops groups of vegetable. We agree with the proposal to advance the proposed draft crop groups for final adoption at CAC.

**Rationale:** The proposed crop groups will facilitate the establishments of CXLs for most of the minor crops grown in Uganda have been included

**African Union****Issue:**

Discussion on the revision of the Codex Classification of Food and Feed took place in the years 2010-2016 the Committee reached agreement for all ten crop groups of vegetables:

- i. Group 09 Bulb vegetables,
- ii. Group 012 Fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits
- iii. Group 18: Edible fungi
- iv. Group 10: Brassica vegetables (except Brassica leafy vegetables)
- v. Group 13: Leafy vegetables
- vi. Group 17: Stalk and stem vegetables
- vii. Group 16: Roots and Tubers
- viii. Group 15: Pulses
- ix. Group 11: Fruiting vegetables, cucurbits
- x. Group 14: Legume vegetables

For most groups it was decided to divide them into subgroups. The 48<sup>th</sup> Session of CCPR (CCPR48) concluded the discussion on the vegetable commodity groups and requested the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands to compile all vegetable commodity groups finalized by CCPR to ensure consistency throughout the groups in order to send the entire vegetable commodity group to CAC40 (2017) for final adoption.

**Position:**

**AU** supports the advancement of the proposed crop groups for final adoption by the commission; it now has inclusion of minor crops from African countries.

**Rationale:**

The vegetable crop grouping will support the establishment of Maximum Residue Limits for minor crop uses and will facilitate trade in these commodities from the African Region.

**Agenda Item 7b: Draft revision of the Classification of Food and Feed at Step 7: Selected commodity groups****Thailand**

- The code of sweet corn and baby corn

Thailand has no objection with the code separation of sweet corn (kernels), sweet corn (corn-on-the cob) and baby corn.

- The location of maize

Thailand is of the view that it is not suitable for classifying maize into subgroup 20E sweet corns. This is because of the differences of production practices, residue behaviors and eating pattern. In order to compromise, we support the second option of Japan's proposal which proposes to add grain sorghum as an example of a representative commodity of the subgroup 20D Maize, Grain sorghum and millet.

**Agenda Item 7c: Proposed draft revision of the Classification of Food and Feed at Step 4: Selected commodity groups****Thailand**

Thailand agrees with the eWG proposal to maintain Group 21 as currently established and to create a new group of "Tree Sap producers". The description of Type 4 Nuts and seeds is "Nuts and seeds are derived from a large variety of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, mostly cultivated." Most of tree saps used for sugar and syrup productions are from large variety of trees or shrubs as well. Consequently, we are of the view that this group can be classified in this type. Thus, we support the EU proposal to create a new group of "Tree Sap producers" and be included in Type 4.

### **Agenda Item 7e: Proposed draft Tables - Examples of selection of representative commodities at Step 4**

#### **Thailand**

Thailand has no objection on this proposed draft table 2 and table 3. However, we would like to propose an addition of “sorghum” to be the representative commodities of subgroup 20D and group 20. This will be in line with the Agenda 7b. Then, the representative commodities of subgroup 20D would be as shown in following table;

**Table 3. Examples of the Selection of Representative Commodities – Grasses Codex Group / Subgroup**

	<b>Examples of Representative Commodities</b>	<b>Extrapolation to the following commodities</b>
<b>Group 020 Cereal Grains</b>	Wheat and Barley and Rice and <b>Maize <u>or Sorghum,</u></b> <b><u>grain</u></b> and Sweet corn	Cereal grains (GC 0080): Amaranth, grain; Baby corn (immature corn); Barley; Buckwheat; Buckwheat, tartary; Canarygrass, annual; Cañihua; Chia; Corn-on-the-cob (kernels plus cob with husk removed); Cram-cam; Hungry rice; Huauzontle; Job’s tears; Maize; Millet; Oats; Popcorn; Psyllium sp., Quinoa; Rice; Rice, African; Rye; Sorghum; Sweet corn (whole kernel without cob or husk); Teff or Tef; Teosinte; Triticale; Wheat; Wild rice
Subgroup 020A, Wheat, similar grains and pseudocereals without husks	Wheat	Wheat, similar grains, and pseudocereals without husks (GC 2086): Amaranth, grain; Cañihua; Chia; Cram-cam; Huauzontle; Psyllium sp., Quinoa; Rye; Triticale; Wheat
Subgroup 020B, Barley, similar grains, and pseudocereals with husks	Barley	Barley, similar grains, and pseudocereals with husks (GC 2087): Barley; Buckwheat; Buckwheat, tartary; Oats
Subgroup 020C Rice cereals	Rice	Rice Cereals (GC 2088): Rice; Rice, African; Wild rice
Subgroup 020D Maize, Grain Sorghum and Millet	Maize or Sorghum, grain	Maize, Grain Sorghum and Millet (GC 2089): Canarygrass, annual; Hungry rice; Job’s tears; Maize; Millet; Popcorn; Sorghum, grain; Teff or Tef; Teosinte
Subgroup 020E Sweet corn cereals	Sweet corn (Corn-on-the-cob) (kernels plus cob with husk removed)	Sweet corn cereals (GC 2090): Baby corn; Sweet corn (Corn-on-the-cob) (kernels plus cob with husk removed); Sweet corn (whole kernel without cob or husk)
<b>Group 021 Grasses for sugar production and grasses and other plants for syrup production</b>	Sugar cane or Sweet Sorghum	Sorgo or Sorghum, Sweet; Sugar cane