

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 10a, 10b

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS

3rd Session

Chennai, India, 6 - 10 February 2017

DISCUSSION PAPER ON GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS

(Comments of the European Union, Ghana, India Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria and Thailand)

EUROPEAN UNION

10 (a) - Glossary of terms

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank the United States of America for proposing a glossary of terms to be used within the CCSC.

The EUMS would like to submit the following comments:

1. Food additives

The proposed definition of food additives does not correspond to the definition of food additive as laid down in the Codex Procedural Manual and in the preamble to the GSFA.

The EUMS believe that the Committee should not deviate from existing definitions already agreed by the relevant General Subject Committee.

It is therefore proposed to delete the definition or to make reference to the existing GSFA definition.

2. Contaminant / Contamination

In the glossary "contamination" is described as: "Intentional or unintentional addition of extraneous material, foreign material (e.g. dirt, hair, excreta, moulds etc.) to a product rendering it unfit for the original intended purpose".

The Codex Procedural Manual currently defines contaminants as: "Any substance not intentionally added to food or feed for food producing animals, which is present in such food or feed as a result of the production (including operations carried out in crop husbandry, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine), manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food or feed, or as a result of environmental contamination". The definition does not include insect fragments, rodent hairs and other extraneous matter.

The EUMS considers that the addition of a definition of contamination different than the one provided for by the Codex Procedural Manual could engender unnecessary confusion.

It is therefore proposed to delete the new proposed definition and to make reference to the existing definition of contaminant.

10 (b) - Further processing

Section 3 "Way forward/Recommendations"

Paragraph 3.3.a:

- The EUMS understand that packaging into consumer ready packaging does not modify the characteristics of the commodity itself. Hence, it should not be considered as "further processing". Therefore, the wording of the last sentence in paragraph 3.3.a should be amended as follows:

- *"a. Further Processing: Activities necessary to transform spices and herbs from raw agricultural commodities into finished, ready-to-eat product for direct consumption by individuals or use by commercial enterprises including catering purposes or in formulated food products. These steps may*

include: cleaning, sorting, sifting, grinding, grading, ~~packaging into consumer ready packaging and/or, bulk containers which are intended for repacking into consumer size containers.~~ "

- The EUMS would like a clarification of what is intended by "formulated food products" and we would suggest to include a definition of "formulated food products" in the "Glossary of terms".

GHANA

Ghana supports the first definition of Extraneous Matter.

Rationale: This definition is clearer and encompasses all the salient point necessary to make it complete.

Ghana also supports the introduction of "Vegetable" in the definition of Extraneous matter

Rationale: Because it explains the definition better and draws a distinction to separate it from the definition of foreign matter.

Insect Infestation: Ghana supports Option 2

Rationale:

This definition is more elaborate and clear.

Editorial comment: ...as a result of it's **its** used...

INDIA

10 (a) - Glossary of terms

From the experience from the past two sessions, it is seen that considerable time can be saved during discussions if agreed definitions are available for various technical terms used in the standards. Hence a glossary of terms would be a practical approach.

Nevertheless, it should also be ensured that the definitions included under the Glossary of terms are not a repetition of already existing terms in various Codex texts, and the already existing definitions if included are not modified, except to suit the purpose of commodities covered by CCSCCH. For instance, a few definitions are in variance with the existing definitions in Codex. The definition of "contamination" covers both intentional and unintentional addition of substances, whereas the definition of 'contaminant' in the GSCTFF and Procedural Manual refers only to the unintentionally added substance ("contamination" as such not being defined in any of the Codex Texts).

It is also observed that a few definitions included in the discussion paper do not add any value or may not be of any use to be included in the Glossary of terms.

10 (b) "Further Processing" within the Scope of in CCSCCH standards

We agree with the proposed definition of "industrial processing". The given definition is acceptable in the context of CCSCCH Standards. We also propose that the term "industrial processing" be referenced in the scope of all proposed draft standards within CCSCCH in place of "further processing". E.g., "*The standard does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for industrial processing ~~further processing.~~*"

Also, as per the definition proposed in the document the term further processing is defined to be a part of post-harvest operations, hence these can be included as a part of the proposed draft standards.

Rationale: In the context of exclusion from the scope of the draft standards, industrial processing would be more applicable within CCSCCH since the commodities covered in CCSCCH when offered for sale do not differ considerably from their original nature/raw form and require minimal further processing (further processing as defined in this discussion paper). This is the case with fresh fruits and vegetables too and the Codex Standards of these commodities also refer to 'industrial processing' in respect of exclusion provision.

KENYA

10 (a) - Glossary of terms

We appreciate the work done by USA and support the work to continues to the next stage. It will have standard terms common to all traders, consumers and suppliers to facilitate trade.

10 (b) - Further processing

We appreciate the work done by USA and support the work to continues to the next stage. This is an important work that will differentiate the meaning of 'industrial processing, catering purposes and further processing" to consumers.

MALAYSIA

10 (a) - Glossary of terms

Malaysia notes that several terms proposed in CX/SCH 17/3/10 were already established and clearly defined in the Codex Procedural Manual (e.g. Food additive). Malaysia is of the opinion that CCSCCH should adopt any related term/definition which is already defined in Codex Procedural Manual.

NIGERIA

Discussion Paper on Further Processing (in the context of Spices and Culinary Herbs)

Nigeria commends the United States for preparing this Discussion Paper on Further Processing (in the context of Spices and Culinary Herbs).

THAILAND

10 (a) - Glossary of terms

Comments on Agenda Item 10a: Discussion paper on glossary of terms for spices and culinary herbs

Thailand would like to provide suggestions on this document as follows:

1We would like to propose to define only important terms. Some terms that are not used in the standard or that are widely known may not be necessary to be included in the glossary of terms such as harvest, industrial processing, post-harvest, minor ingredient, whole or equivalent insect, etc.

2The definition of the term "Defects" should be added.

3We would like to propose to amend the following definitions:

3.1 "Contamination" should be separately defined as physical, biological and chemical contamination. Afterwards the term "physical contamination" should be described as extraneous matter from plants, animals or others origin.

3.2 Definition of "food additive" has already been included in the procedural manual. Its definition may be unnecessary.

3.3 In the definition of "foreign smell and/or taste", the word "odour" should be replaced with "aroma".

3.4 In the definition of "insect damage", the word "insect fragments" should be deleted.

3.5 In the definition of "insect infestation", only live insects should be specified in accordance with ISPM5.

3.6 In the definition of "non-retail container", the word "an agriculture" should be deleted.

10 (b) - Further processing

Thailand would like to provide suggestions on this document as follows:

11 We disagree on providing the definition of the term "further processing" and "industrial processing" as they are unnecessary. The term "further processing" has been commonly used and widely known in the adopted Codex

standard. If the term “further processing” is required to be defined by CCSCCH, the description should be correlated with other Committee’s understanding.

22 The definition of the term “further processing” proposed is not correlated as in other adopted Codex standard and may cause confusion against “post-harvesting” activities, while the definition of “industrial processing” is ambiguous because it is usually applied in a very large scale production. In fact, small scale production is also applied for the processing of dried spices and herbs such as homemade essential oils or incense. The definition of “industrial processing” proposed is more related to the meaning of “further processing” and may be use to replace.