



**Food and Agriculture
Organization
of the United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

Arsenic in food commodities Request for data on Arsenic in Rice

(Issued 29 July, 2014)

Background

At its 8th session, the CCCF agreed to return the proposed draft ML for inorganic arsenic in husked rice to Step 2/3 and to establish an EWG, led by China and co-chaired by Japan, working in English, to prepare a proposed draft ML for husked rice for circulation and comments at Step 3 and further consideration by the 9th CCCF (REP14/CF, paras 45 and 47).

The Committee encouraged countries, especially rice-producing countries to submit relevant data to GEMS/Food, which could be considered in the EWG in order to facilitate the discussion of this matter at the 9th CCCF before taking a final decision on the feasibility to establish an ML for husked rice (REP14/CF, para. 42). Since the mentioned information is a key to the work of the EWG, China and Japan strongly encourage Members and observers to submit:

1. data on arsenic concentration in husked rice.

Codex countries and observers are invited to submit data filled in the GEMS/Food template on to GEMS/Food website. WHO will be compiling these data for the EWG.

To access the GEMS database, go to <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/gems/en/index.html>.

A quick guidance on how to submit occurrence data of inorganic arsenic to GEMS/Food is annexed to this call for data.

We kindly request that the templates should also be sent to wuyongning@cfsa.net.cn and JPPSDCCCF@nm.maff.go.jp as attached excel sheets by 30 September 2014 as well.

For technical questions about submitting data to GEMS, please contact Philippe Verger at WHO (vergerp@who.int) and cc Yongning WU (wuyongning@cfsa.net.cn).

Date for submission

The submission of data is requested before

30 September 2014.

This deadline applies to all data to be submitted.

When submitting data to the GEMS/Food database for this work, please:

- Provide complete information on the LOQ and LOD of analytical methods.
- Provide information in the "Local Food Identifier" or "Notes" fields of the database to allow more specific identification of samples.
- Provide information on "State of Food Analyzed," e.g., cooked or raw.

Annex: Quick Guidance on How to Submit the Occurrence Data of Inorganic Arsenic in Husked Rice to GEMS/Food

Important Notice: Please read Section 2 “Enter local food identifier to WHO food identifier mappings” of this Guidance even if you are familiar with submitting data to GEMS/Food.

Should you have some questions, you can contact JPPSDCCCF@nm.maff.go.jp for further information.

Create your account (you can skip this if you have already had your account)

Please complete the following online registration form:

<https://extranet.who.int/ads/adswebinterface/create.aspx>

Once you have successfully registered and activated your account please send your username by e-mail to <mailto:vergerp@who.int> in order to complete the creation of your new GEMS/Food database account.

Download the template

Access to <https://extranet.who.int/gemsfood/> and log in the system using your ID and password. You can download the template from *Quick Link -> Download the latest templates -> GEMS Food Contamination - Individual Template v2.0 [Last updated: 17 Apr 2014]**. The template can be opened with MS-Excel®.

* This is the latest version when I am writing this guidance. It is recommended to use the newest version.

Fill in the Excel Template (Individual Template)

Open “1. Start” sheet of the template you have downloaded.

1. Specify an analysis contaminant

Select “Arsenic (inorganic)”.

2. Enter local food identifier to WHO food identifier mappings

As it is in husked rice that the ML for inorganic arsenic is under discussion and the concentration of inorganic arsenic in husked rice is significantly different from that in polished rice, it is essential that type of rice (husked or polished) should be clearly identified for each data. Since WHO Food Identifier system cannot be used for the purpose, the type has to be stated in Local Food Identifier record.

- i. Click “2. Enter local food identifier to WHO food identifier mappings”
- ii. Type “husked rice” in the first line for local food identifier
- iii. Select “Cereals and cereal-based products” in WHO Food Group
- iv. Select “rice” in WHO Food Identifier
- v. If you have some occurrence data in polished rice, “polished rice” can be added in the sheet accordingly (see the picture below).
- vi. Save the file
- vii. Return to “1. Start” sheet.

Field R: Result

Report the analytical value in mg/kg.

If the analytical value is less than LOD, report "0" (zero).

If the analytical value is between LOD and LOQ, report the value given by the lab or report as ND.

You can fill in optional fields if data/information is available, such as:

Field S: Is confidential?

Select "Yes" if the data are confidential, which means the data will be available only for Codex and JECFA. If they are not confidential, keep it blank. Then the data will be available in the database (on the web) but without the mention of the country: only the region.

Field T: Remarks/references

If the sample is obtained from the area where soil is known to be artificially polluted with arsenic, please fill in "polluted" in this field.

4. Ensure all data is valid

The template automatically tests the data you input and shows "X" in front of Section 4 in "1. Start" sheet if there are some error(s). You will see smiley if no error is detected.

5. Upload to GEMS/Food website and Send it to EWG

Save your file first to avoid losing your work.

Click "5. Upload to GEMS/Food website" and follow the instruction and send the file to China and Japan (wuyongning@cfsa.net.cn, JPPSDCCCF@nm.maff.go.jp).

Further information

Further information is available in the *Instructions for Electronic Submission of Data on Chemical Contaminants in Food and the Diet*, which are available from

http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/instructions_GEMSFood_january_2012.pdf

APPENDIX

ISO 2-letter Code (ISO 3166)Country/Organisation	Code
Afghanistan	AF
Albania	AL
Algeria	DZ
Angola	AO
Antigua and Barbuda	AG
Argentina	AR
Armenia	AM
Australia	AU
Austria	AT
Azerbaijan	AZ
Bahamas	BS
Bahrain	BH
Bangladesh	BD
Barbados	BB
Belarus	BY
Belgium	BE
Belize	BZ
Benin	BJ
Bhutan	BT
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	BO
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA
Botswana	BW
Brazil	BR
Brunei Darussalam	BN
Bulgaria	BG
Burkina Faso	BF
Burundi	BI
Cambodia	KH
Cameroon	CM
Canada	CA
Cape Verde	CV
Central African Republic	CF
Chad	TD
Chile	CL
China	CN
Colombia	CO
Comoros	KM
Congo, Republic of	CG
Congo, Dem Republic of	CD
Cook Islands	CK
Costa Rica	CR
Côte d'Ivoire	CI
Croatia	HR
Cuba	CU

ISO 2-letter Code (ISO 3166) Country/Organisation	Code
Cyprus	CY
Czech Republic	CZ
Denmark	DK
Djibouti	DJ
Dominica	DM
Dominican Republic	DO
Ecuador	EC
Egypt	EG
El Salvador	SV
Equatorial Guinea	GQ
Eritrea	ER
Estonia	EE
Ethiopia	ET
European Union	EU
Fiji Islands	FJ
Finland	FI
France	FR
Gabon	GA
Gambia	GM
Georgia	GE
Germany	DE
Ghana	GH
Greece	GR
Grenada	GD
Guatemala	GT
Guinea	GN
Guinea-Bissau	GW
Guyana	GY
Haiti	HT
Honduras	HN
Hungary	HU
Iceland	IS
India	IN
Indonesia	ID
Iran, Islamic Rep of	IR
Iraq	IQ
Ireland	IE
Israel	IL
Italy	IT
Jamaica	JM
Japan	JP
Jordan	JO
Kazakhstan	KZ
Kenya	KE
Kiribati	KI

ISO 2-letter Code (ISO 3166)Country/Organisation	Code
Korea, Dem People's Rep	KP
Korea, Republic of	KR
Kuwait	KW
Kyrgyz Republic	KG
Lao People's Democratic Republic	LA
Latvia	LV
Lebanon	LB
Lesotho	LS
Liberia	LR
Libya	LY
Lithuania	LT
Luxembourg	LU
Macedonia, The Fmr Yug Rp	MK
Madagascar	MG
Malawi	MW
Malaysia	MY
Maldives	MV
Mali	ML
Malta	MT
Mauritania	MR
Mauritius	MU
Mexico	MX
Micronesia, Fed States of	FM
Republic of Moldova	MD
Mongolia	MN
Montenegro	ME
Morocco	MA
Mozambique	MZ
Myanmar	MM
Namibia	NA
Nauru, Republic of	NR
Nepal	NP
Netherlands	NL
New Zealand	NZ
Nicaragua	NI
Niger	NE
Nigeria	NG
Norway	NO
Oman	OM
Pakistan	PK
Panama	PA
Papua New Guinea	PG
Paraguay	PY
Peru	PE
Philippines	PH

ISO 2-letter Code (ISO 3166)Country/Organisation	Code
Poland	PL
Portugal	PT
Qatar	QA
Romania	RO
Russian Federation	RU
Rwanda	RW
Saint Kitts and Nevis	KN
Saint Lucia	LC
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VC
Samoa	WS
Sao Tome and Principe	ST
Saudi Arabia	SA
Senegal	SN
Serbia	RS
Seychelles	SC
Sierra Leone	SL
Singapore	SG
Slovak Republic	SK
Slovenia	SI
Solomon Islands	SB
Somalia	SO
South Africa	ZA
Spain	ES
Sri Lanka	LK
Sudan	SD
Suriname	SR
Swaziland	SZ
Sweden	SE
Switzerland	CH
Syrian Arab Republic	SY
Tajikistan	TJ
Tanzania, United Rep of	TZ
Thailand	TH
Togo	TG
Tonga	TO
Trinidad and Tobago	TT
Tunisia	TN
Turkey	TR
Turkmenistan	TM
Uganda	UG
Ukraine	UA
United Arab Emirates	AE
United Kingdom	GB
United States of America	US
Uruguay	UY

ISO 2-letter Code (ISO 3166) Country/Organisation	Code
Uzbekistan	UZ
Vanuatu	VU
Venezuela	VE
Viet Nam	VN
Yemen	YE
Zambia	ZM
Zimbabwe	ZW