

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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WORK OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (CCFFV)

(CX/CAC 25/48/3 and CX/CAC 25/48/3 Add.1)

(Comments of Benin, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Zambia)

Benin

Norme pour les dattes fraîches à l'étape 8

Contexte : Lors de la CCFFV23, l'Inde, en tant que présidente du groupe de travail électronique (EWG) et du groupe de travail en séance (IWG), s'exprimant au nom de la coprésidente, l'Arabie saoudite, a résumé les principales délibérations et conclusions. Le principal point de désaccord lors de la séance plénière de la CCFFV concernait la disposition relative à la tolérance de 1 % pour la détérioration dans la catégorie « Extra », certains membres insistant sur le fait qu'elle devrait être fixée à 0 % conformément aux exigences de cette catégorie. La session a convenu de maintenir la tolérance de 1 % pour la détérioration dans la catégorie « Extra », en prenant note de la réserve des États membres de l'UE. La CCFFV23 a convenu de transmettre le projet de norme pour les dattes fraîches au CAC48 pour adoption à l'étape 8, en précisant que les dispositions relatives à l'étiquetage et aux additifs alimentaires avaient déjà été approuvées respectivement par le CCFL et le CCFA.

Position :

La République du Bénin soutient l'adoption finale du projet de norme pour les dattes fraîches à l'étape 8.

Justification :

Les questions en suspens relatives aux dispositions concernant l'étiquetage des aliments et les additifs alimentaires ont déjà été approuvées respectivement par le CCFL et le CCFA.

India

Standard for Fresh Dates:

India supports adoption of the draft standard at step 8

Rationale: As this standard has seen over ten years of discussion, and is a significant and satisfying achievement in the codex. The new standard for fresh dates will allow the flourishing of fresh date palm cultivation and enable the producing country to enhance its investments by increasing quantities and improving the quality of the product.

Standard for Fresh Curry Leaves:

India supports the adoption of the draft standard at step 5/8.

Rationale: Due to non-availability of standard for fresh curry leaves and impediments in international trade including incidents of rejections, India proposed new work proposal to establish a standard covering the safety, quality and labelling requirements in order to have a reference that has been internationally agreed by consensus between the main producing and trading countries.

Mexico

- **Parte1. Normas para aprobación definitiva:**

Norma para los dátiles frescos

- **México está a favor de la aprobación definitiva de la Norma para los dátiles frescos en el trámite 8/8.**

Durante la 23ª reunión del CCFFV, México apoyó mantener la tolerancia del 1% de podredumbre en la Categoría Extra, destacando que se trata de un margen técnicamente justificado por la naturaleza perecedera del producto y que no representa un riesgo para la salud del consumidor.

Esta disposición **favorece la equidad comercial**, evitando que la presencia aislada de una fruta dañada degrade el lote completo y afecte injustificadamente el comercio.

La aprobación de esta norma implica la coexistencia de dos normas del Codex, por ello es recomendable **dar seguimiento a la aplicación** de ambas normas para asegurar **coherencia regulatoria** y evitar duplicidades entre comités:

1. **Dátiles frescos**, elaborada por el **Comité del Codex sobre Frutas y Hortalizas Frescas**.
2. **Dátiles desecados**, elaborada por el **Comité del Codex sobre Frutas y Hortalizas Elaboradas** (CXS 360-2020).

Norma para las hojas de curry frescas

- **México está a favor de la aprobación definitiva de la Norma para las hojas de curry frescas en Trámite 5/8**, reconociendo el trabajo técnico desarrollado por India y Arabia Saudita.

Se coincide con las modificaciones realizadas al texto, particularmente el traslado de las tolerancias de la Categoría Extra a la Categoría I, al considerarse más apropiado para las condiciones de mercado.

Asimismo, se **respalda la remisión de las disposiciones sobre aditivos y etiquetado** a los comités competentes, a fin de asegurar la consistencia entre Comités y la aplicación coherente de los textos del Codex:

- Comité del Codex sobre Aditivos Alimentarios, para la validación de aditivos alimentarios.
- Comité del Codex sobre Etiquetado de los Alimentos, para la revisión de los requisitos de etiquetado.

Nigeria

Standard for fresh dates

Nigeria supports the final adoption of Standard for fresh dates at step 8

Rationale

Outstanding issues relating to the provisions on food labelling and food additives have already been endorsed by CCFL and CCFA, respectively.

Standard for fresh curry leaves

Nigeria supports the adoption of Standard for fresh curry leaves at step 5/8

Rationale

All proposed editorial amendments and alignment by the In-session working group (IWG) have been incorporated.

Panama

English

Panama recognizes the importance of strengthening international standards that regulate the quality and safety of fresh fruits and vegetables, thereby contributing to the protection of consumer health and the facilitation of international trade. In this regard, we support the final approval of the standards presented by the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) at its 23rd session, specifically the standard for fresh dates and the standard for fresh curry leaves, considering that they meet the criteria of clarity, applicability, and consistency with existing Codex provisions.

We support the adoption of these standards as a harmonized framework that facilitates trust between countries and contributes to the development of international trade in fresh fruits and vegetables.

Spanish

Panamá reconoce la importancia de fortalecer las normas internacionales que regulan la calidad y seguridad de frutas y hortalizas frescas, contribuyendo así a la protección de la salud del consumidor y a la facilitación

del comercio internacional. En este sentido, apoyamos la aprobación definitiva de las normas presentadas por el Comité del Codex sobre Frutas y Hortalizas Frescas (CCFFV) en su 23.^a reunión, específicamente la norma para dátiles frescos y la norma para hojas de curry frescas, considerando que cumplen con los criterios de claridad, aplicabilidad y coherencia con las disposiciones existentes del Codex.

Apoyamos la adopción de estas normas como un marco armonizado que facilite la confianza entre países y contribuye al desarrollo del comercio internacional de frutas y hortalizas frescas.

Zambia

Standard for Fresh Dates at Step 8

Background:

At the CCFFV23, India as Chair of the electronic working group (EWG) as well as the In-session Working Group (IWG), speaking on behalf of the Co-Chair Saudi Arabia, summarized the key deliberations and conclusions. The main issues of contention at the CCFFV plenary was on the provision for: 1% tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class, with some members stressing that it should be set at 0% in line with “Extra” Class requirements. The session agreed to retain the 1% tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class, noting the reservation of EU Member States. CCFFV23 agreed to forward the draft standard for fresh dates to CAC48 for adoption at Step 8, noting that the provisions on food labelling and food additives have already been endorsed by CCFL and CCFA respectively.

Position

Zambia supports the adoption of the draft Standard for Fresh Dates at Step 8 by CAC48. This position is based on the understanding that the text has undergone thorough review through both the Electronic Working Group (EWG) and the In-Session Working Group (IWG) processes, and that all substantive and editorial issues have been adequately addressed.

Accordingly, Zambia considers that the draft standard is now technically and procedurally ready for adoption at Step 8. Its adoption will promote harmonization of quality requirements for fresh dates, facilitate fair trade, and enhance consumer confidence in the safety and quality of this commodity.

Standard for Fresh Curry Leaves at Step 5/8

Background:

At the CCFFV23, India Chair of the EWG and IWG, speaking on behalf of the IWG Co-Chair Saudi Arabia introduced this item. The main issue on this project was the request for clarification on whether provisions regarding food additives needed to be submitted to CCFA for endorsement as it was indicated (on the standard) that no food additives were permitted in a product. Codex Secretariat at the session clarified that, in accordance with the Codex Procedural Manual, all food additive provisions in commodity standards must be referred to CCFA for endorsement. The Secretariat further clarified that if the use of food additives was not permitted in a product, CCFA would consider the food additive provisions as being for information only. It was in view of the above development that CCFFV23 agreed to forward the standard for fresh curry leaves to CAC for adoption at Step 5/8, noting that the provisions on food additives and food labelling would need to be endorsed by CCFA and CCFL, respectively before CAC adoption.

Position

Zambia supports the advancement of the draft Standard for Fresh Curry Leaves to Step 5/8 for adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. This support is based on the understanding that the text has undergone a comprehensive review and that all editorial amendments and alignments proposed by the In-Session Working Group (IWG) have been duly incorporated.

Zambia notes that the draft standard now meets the necessary procedural and technical requirements in accordance with Codex procedures. Zambia considers that adoption of this standard will enhance harmonization of international requirements for fresh curry leaves, facilitate fair trade practices, and contribute to the protection of consumer health and assurance of product quality.