CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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Agenda Item 1 **CAC48/CRD23**

Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-eighth Session

Rome, Italy

10-14 November 2025

PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR CASHEW KERNEL

(submitted by India)

CAC40 (2017) approved the new work proposal on cashew kernels (submitted by India). The Coordinator for Asia at CCEXEC79 (2020) highlighted the interest in commencing work on developing a standard for cashew kernels. All Regional Coordinating Committees including CCASIA21, CCAFRICA23 and CCNE10 supported commencing work on cashew kernels.

However, Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) was adjourned sine die by CAC43 in 2020. Further, the CAC43 (2020), when adjourning CCPFV sine die and requested CCFFV to consider the feasibility of taking up the task related to the development of a standard for cashew kernels.

Considering the fact that work proposal on cashew kernel has already been approved by CAC, globally traded commodity and has received support from various Codex regions, it is proposed that the work on cashew kernel should be taken up by Codex

In CAC47, India submitted CRD to consider the work on development of standards for Cashew kernels. Codex Secretariat proposed to revise the proposal reflecting current trade volumes, and alignment with the objectives of the Codex Strategic Plan. accordingly, project document is revised for consideration CAC48 (see Annex 1 to Appendix I).

There has been precedence in Codex, where a committee remained active for taking up only one or two agenda items and worked through correspondence viz, Committees like CCMMP (Dairy permeate powders), CCCPL (Quinoa), CCS (Dehydrated centrifuged sugarcane juice) and recently CCFFP has been re-activated for inclusion of one species in the standards. Accordingly, and with precedence, India also request the commission to reactivate CCPFV to develop a standard for Cashew kernels, Conversion of the Regional standard for laver products (Asia) (CXS 323R2017) into an international standard and Amendments in the standard for Kimchi (CXS223-2001).

Appendix I

NEW WORK PROPOSAL FROM INDIA ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STANDARDS FOR CASHEW KERNELS

Background

1. CAC40 (2017) approved the new work proposals on cashew kernels (submitted by India) and dried sweet potatoes (submitted by the Republic of Korea). The Coordinator for Asia at CCEXEC79 (2020) highlighted the interest in commencing work on developing a standard for cashew kernels and on dried sweet potato.

2. It may be noted that CCEXEC77 had noted interest in the work on cashew kernels and that Codex members were encouraged to participate in the work of CCPFV and that this could be further discussed in the upcoming Regional Coordinating Committees (RCCs). Accordingly, all RCCs discussed the same. It is important to note that CCASIA21 and CCAFRICA23 supported commencing work on cashew kernels, while support in CCNE10 was also noted with respect to ongoing work by CCPFV. The same was highlighted in CCEXEC79 by Coordinator for Asia.

3. However, CCEXEC79 (2020) recommended that upon completion of its current session, CCPFV be adjourned sine die with the understanding that the Committee may be reactivated in the future based on needs identified by Members and a sufficient workload. The Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) was adjourned sine die by CAC43 in 2020.

4. Further, CAC43 (2020), when adjourning CCPFV sine die, requested CCFFV to consider the feasibility of taking up the task related to the development of a standard for cashew kernels. Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and Uganda stressed the importance of cashew kernels in Africa and supported commencing work on developing a standard for this product.

5. In CAC47, India again submitted CRD to consider the work on development of standards for Cashew kernels. Codex Secretariat proposed to revise the proposal reflecting current trade volumes, food safety concerns, and alignment with the objectives of the Codex Strategic Plan. Accordingly, project document is revised with current volume and submitted as CRD (Annex 1) for consideration of CAC48.

6. Further, we would like to inform the Commission that the Cashew kernel is highly traded commodity internationally (Trade volume doubled in last 10 years). Africa, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines and Brazil are the major producer of the cashew kernels while USA, EU, and China are major importer for the cashew kernels in the world.

7. Considering the fact that work proposal on cashew kernel has already been approved by CAC, it is a globally traded commodity and has received support from three Codex regions, it is proposed that the work on cashew kernel should be taken up by Codex.

Recommendations:

8. CAC48 is requested to consider the revised project document attached in Annexure I. In this regard, the commission is requested to reactivate the CCPFV working by correspondence to take up the work on development of standard for Cashew kernel and other proposals (The conversion of the *Regional standard for laver products* (Asia) (CXS 323R-2017) into an international standard).

Note: There has been precedence in Codex, where a committee remained active for taking up only one or two agenda items and worked through correspondence viz, Committees like CCMMP (Dairy permeate powders), CCCPL (Quinoa, Group Standards for Whole Millet Grains), CCS (Dehydrated centrifuged sugarcane juice) and recently CCFFP has been re-activated for inclusion of one species in the standards.

Annex 1

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Proposal for New Work on Standard for Cashew Kernels (Prepared by India)

1. Purpose and scope of the Standard

The purpose of the new work is to establish a worldwide quality standard for cashew kernels prepared from sound matured fruits of suitable varieties of *Anacardium occidentale* L. The proposed scope is that cashew kernels may be presented in whole, split or broken style offered to the consumer for direct consumption, including for repacking or for catering purposes.

2. Relevance and timeliness

There are national standards for cashew kernels in different countries and some variance has been noted in the national legislations both in terms of quality and safety. Due to the growing trend of worldwide cashew production and trade as well as consumption in different forms, it is necessary to establish a globally harmonized standard covering quality and safety aspects as well as labelling provisions in order to have a standard that has been internationally agreed to by consensus between the producing, consuming and trading countries. Development of a Codex standard for cashew kernels will, therefore, help to protect consumer health and to promote fair practices in food trade.

3. Main aspects to be covered

It is proposed to cover the essential quality and safety in the standard. The relevant factors which may be considered are:

(a) Minimum requirements of cashew kernels.

(b) Classification of cashew kernels in accordance with its characteristics.

(c) Provisions concerning quality, defects, sizes and their tolerance levels as well as weight, shape and presence of broken kernels.

(d) Provisions concerning uniformity of the packaged product and the package used.

(e) Provisions concerning additives, contaminants and pesticide residue limits as well as for hygiene.

(f) Provisions concerning labelling and marking.

4. Assessment against the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities

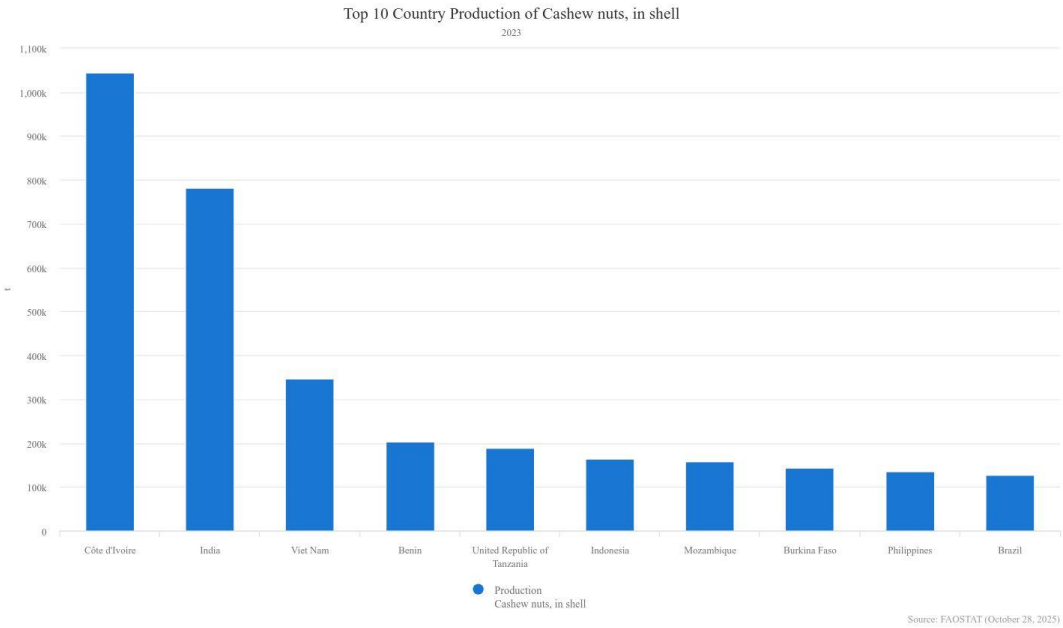
a) Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries

Cashew kernel is an important export product that plays a significant role as a source of income and employment for its producing countries. As per data reported by the Global Cashew Council, world production of cashew ranges between 720,000 and 790,000 metric tons (kernel basis) per year. India annually produces 170,000-195,000 metric tons ranks first followed by Côte d'Ivoire, Vietnam and Tanzania averaging 149,000; 82,000 and 53,000 MT, respectively. The world production of cashew nuts as per FAO is as follows:

Table 1: World-wide Production Data

Year	Production Quantity	Area Harvested (ha)
2013	2944186	5668302
2014	2932157	5657660
2015	3335039	6123954
2016	3069921	5631506
2017	3388501	5826998
2018	3705182	6636738
2019	3483974	5467094
2020	3651540	5897837
2021	3884523	5940582
2022	3922280	6243871
2023	3934839	6163897

(Source: FAOSTAT)



b) Diversification of national legislation and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade:

Cashew kernels are traded commodity across the globe with differences in the quality of the product such as moisture, total ash etc. The size and colour of cashews varies largely depending on cultivar and variety. Trade in cashew depends on the mutual agreement between producing and importing countries in terms of grades and specifications. There are national standards of different countries and some variance has been noted in the national legislations both in terms of quality and safety. Absence of harmonised global standards potentially results in unnecessary questions about non-compliances at the import end. To overcome the resultant or potential impediments to international trade, it is appropriate to develop a single comprehensive standard acceptable internationally. Harmonized Codex standards for cashew kernels will help to protect the health of consumers and promote fair practices in the food trade. Development of the standard is expected to benefit consumers and major producing / exporting countries, most of whom are developing countries.

c) International or regional market potential

The import of cashew by most countries is increasing. The trade can be further streamlined and enhanced by developing quality and grading standards for cashew kernels.

Table 2: Worldwide Export data of Cashew Nut Shelled

Year	Quantity in Tonnes	Value in '1000 US$
2013	429119	2647667
2014	533794	3534377
2015	555210	3951321
2016	561825	4489290
2017	584320	5606890
2018	497397	5041508
2019	688700	4712491
2020	682873	4355866
2021	757084	4745222
2022	664358	3976584
2023	781503	4004322

Table 3: Worldwide Import data of Cashew nut Shelled

Year	Quantity in Tonnes	Value in '1000 US$
2013	408534	2753268
2014	457106	3018184
2015	500652	3590727
2016	485471	3819391
2017	503090	4872313
2018	500968	4780619
2019	585397	4431955
2020	624386	4173290
2021	698827	4546341
2022	631470	4085363
2023	710144	4118918

(Source: FAOSTAT)

In terms of global representation of trade, it is seen that cashew kernels are traded across the world as may be seen from the following data:

Table 4: Import Data of various Continents

Year	Continents	Asia	Africa	Americas	Europe	Australia & New Zealand
2013	Quantity (tonnes)	98283	7490	146908	137491	18332
	Value (1000 US$)	581129	35204	1029592	984246	122966
2014	Quantity (tonnes)	100404	9889	153442	173069	20287
	Value (1000 US$)	566724	55720	1044321	1219346	131935
2015	Quantity (tonnes)	120078	9630	169330	180677	20904
	Value (1000 US$)	736718	59179	1293502	1351306	149766
2016	Quantity (tonnes)	106903	7088	163373	188443	19490
	Value (1000 US$)	712585	43136	1368244	1540683	153220
2017	Quantity (tonnes)	109280	5117	169639	200067	18252
	Value (1000 US$)	890905	42302	1741551	2011018	178934
2018	Quantity (tonnes)	116783	3695	170804	193215	16434
	Value (1000 US$)	1007178	30856	1636307	1956642	149362
2019	Quantity (tonnes)	157407	6486	174747	227211	19515
	Value (1000 US$)	1109364	44211	1346200	1791749	140145
2020	Quantity (tonnes)	159471	9475	184723	249428	21257
	Value (1000 US$)	979586	60325	1224830	1779079	129249
2021	Quantity (tonnes)	193007	13120	204745	268840	19079
	Value (1000 US$)	1162933	81795	1363238	1817798	120309
2022	Quantity (tonnes)	193946	13110	169026	236300	19047
	Value (1000 US$)	1139088	82080	1108453	1638079	117397
2023	Quantity (tonnes)	244554	13289	165909	266292	20040
	Value (1000 US$)	1317812	70471	965816	1653179	111059

(Source: FAOSTAT)

Table 5: Export Data of various Continents

Year	Continents	Asia	Africa	Americas	Europe	Australia & New Zealand
2013	Quantity (tonnes)	322167	41767	23727	41190	266
	Value (1000 US$)	2054016	115913	152339	324128	1266
2014	Quantity (tonnes)	443553	17838	20625	51616	166
	Value (1000 US$)	2946664	75282	131745	379543	1137
2015	Quantity (tonnes)	463542	16088	16783	58661	136
	Value (1000 US$)	3303710	72768	129206	444717	919
2016	Quantity (tonnes)	449298	29255	21009	62112	151
	Value (1000 US$)	3669711	119706	165805	533165	896
2017	Quantity (tonnes)	458398	42582	17274	65797	268
	Value (1000 US$)	4566163	204898	157287	676886	1656
2018	Quantity (tonnes)	387157	31288	16343	62558	50
	Value (1000 US$)	4003696	208002	152649	676818	338
2019	Quantity (tonnes)	507988	84852	21083	74701	76
	Value (1000 US$)	3715121	212617	154020	630103	629
2020	Quantity (tonnes)	542789	39482	20065	80475	48
	Value (1000 US$)	3426265	171911	122673	634574	435
2021	Quantity (tonnes)	597933	52857	20083	86175	41
	Value (1000 US$)	3743724	246552	130079	624456	409
2022	Quantity (tonnes)	511964	58990	15415	77901	70
	Value (1000 US$)	3025020	276005	100006	574783	666
2023	Quantity (tonnes)	563153	117975	15674	84669	31
	Value (1000 US$)	2954254	351415	90481	608009	156

(Source: FAOSTAT)

d) Amenability of the commodity to standardization:

The characteristics of cashew kernels from its cultivation to retail sale such as cultivar varieties, composition, quality and packaging all lead to adequate parameters for the standardization of the product. There already exists a UNECE standard for cashew kernels. Taking into account that technical information is available and certain degree of work at regional / international level has already been achieved on certain aspects as mentioned in point (g). This product is amenable to standardization.

e) Coverage of main consumer protection and trade issues:

The standard needs elaboration of product coverage to match the provisions concerning quality, defects, sizes and their tolerance levels as well as weight, shape and presence of broken kernels. Classification of cashew kernels in accordance with its characteristics needs to be covered in the standard. Alignment of food safety parameters in respect of additives, contaminants, pesticides, hygiene as well as labelling requirements is also required to be carried out.

f) Number of commodities, which would need separate standards including whether raw, semi-processed or processed

A single standard for cashew kernel will cover all forms of cashew traded worldwide. The different forms of cashew kernel such as whole and broken are proposed to be covered in this standard.

g) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field and/or suggested by the relevant international intergovernmental body (ies)

The existing standards developed by other international organisations are given below:

- ISO 6477:1988, Cashew Kernels- Specifications
- UNECE standard DDP-17 for Cashew Kernel
- ASEAN Standard For Cashew Kernels (ASEAN Stan 20:2011)
- Global Cashew Council, Standard for Cashew Kernels
- Indian Standard, IS 7750:1975, Specifications for Cashew Kernels
- Philippine National Standard PNS/BAFPS No. 59: 2007- Specifications for Cashew Kernels
- Tanzania Regulations (G.N. No. 369 of 1996): Cashew nut (Marketing)
- Vietnam National Technical Regulation on Food Safety and Hygiene for Cashew Kernel (QCVN 01-27: 2010/BNNPTNT).
- Association of Food Industries (AFI) Cashew kernel specifications. 2023

5. Relevance to Codex strategic objectives

The development of standard for Cashew kernel is in line with the strategic objective to promote the maximum application of codex standard by countries in their national legislation and to facilitate international trade by protecting health of the consumers. This proposal is in line with the following objectives of Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025:

- Goal 1: Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner; Objective 1.2: Prioritize needs and emerging issues.

6. Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents

The work has relation with GSFA and GSCTFF and relevant endorsements might be required from CCFA and CCCF, respectively. For specific hygiene/microbiological provisions, if any, endorsement from CCFH might be required.

7. Identification of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice

None foreseen at this stage.

8. Identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies

None foreseen at this stage.

9. Proposed timeline for completion of the new work

It is expected that the relevant subsidiary body will require two sessions to complete this work subject