

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
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PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A GROUP STANDARD FOR FLOURS FROM ROOTS AND TUBERS

Submitted by

Algeria, Cabo Verde, Egypt, European Union, Iraq, Japan, Republic of Korea, Sudan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, the United States of America (USA), Uruguay, and Zambia

BACKGROUND

1. This document compiles the comments on the new work proposal to develop a group standard for flours from roots and tubers, as indicated in the relevant circular letter (CL 2026/26-CAC). The comments include those received through the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS)¹, or via email by the time this document was issued.
2. The comments in response to CL 2026/26-CAC is shown in Appendix I.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON APPENDIX I

3. The comments received are presented in a table format, with two columns as follows:
 - **First column** – Presents the comments with the rationale.
 - **Second column** – Presents the provider of the comments (name of Member or Observer).

¹ OCS is an online tool that enables Codex Contact Points to submit comments on draft texts in a standardised way, thus providing more transparency and better management of comments on different Codex texts as requested through Circular Letters. Since its launching at CAC39 (2016), the OCS has been used for different Codex Committees.

APPENDIX I

COMMENTS IN REPLY TO CL 2026/26-CAC

GENERAL COMMENTS

COMMENT	MEMBER / OBSERVER
It is desirable to add the following paragraph the packaging must be such as to protect the qualitative characteristics and organoleptic proposed to ensure suitable protection of the product	Algeria
Cabo Verde supports, in principle, the proposed new work, considering its relevance for consumer protection, fair practices in food trade, and the harmonization of minimum safety and quality requirements for flours derived from roots and tubers. Although Cabo Verde is not currently a major producer or exporter of yam or sweet potato flour, the proposed work is considered relevant from the perspective of official food control, import control, consumer protection, and possible future development of local value chains associated with roots and tubers.	Cabo Verde
Agree	Iraq
<p>Japan appreciates the initiative led by Nigeria on the new work proposal for the development of a group standard for flours from roots and tubers and the opportunity to comment on this proposal.</p> <p>Japan has some general observations on the justification for developing a new Codex group standard for the products described in the discussion paper and project document, particularly with regard to the actual volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries for the specific flours proposed to be covered by the possible group standard, as well as whether there are existing trade impediments or quality and safety issues that cannot be addressed through existing Codex standards and related texts. In addition, we note that the scope of products covered by terms such as “tubers” and “yam” appears to be very broad. While the products covered by the possible group standard are described only as flours from “sweet potato” and “yam” at this stage, Japan is of the view that the relevant scientific names should be specified to clearly define the scope of the possible group standard before the approval of the new work.</p> <p>Japan would also like to provide additional specific comments.</p>	Japan
<p>The Sudanese Standard and metrology Organization (SSMO) endorses the proposal, put forward by Nigeria, to develop Codex standard for Yam flour, high quality Cassava flour and sweet potato flour and ready to partake in this effort .</p> <p>Sweet potato is of special interest to Sudanese consumers and traders. Recently Orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) varieties were introduced to Sudan to combat vitamin A deficiency and enhance food security. The effort was spearheaded by organization like the International Potato Center (CIP). These biofortified crops serve as a vital, drought-tolerant lifeline in regions facing supply chain disruptions.</p> <p>Unlike traditional wheat and cereals sweet potato requires less water and is early-maturing. This allows farmers to achieve multiple harvests in a single year. Due to severe disruptions in importing wheat, production is shifting towards root and tuber crops. These crops like sweet potato is being processed into nutritious local baked goods including bread and pancakes. These products are of importance to those who suffer from celiac disease and consume only gluten-free bread.</p> <p>The crop is subject to high losses due to physiological, biochemical and pathological factors. Processing results in loss reduction hence the importance of formulating science-based standards for flour to protect health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade</p>	Sudan

<p>The Sudan endorses the proposal, put forward by Nigeria, to develop Codex standard for Yam flour, high quality Cassava flour and sweet potato flour and ready to partake in this effort .</p> <p>Sweet potato is of special interest to Sudanese consumers and traders. Recently Orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) varieties were introduced to Sudan to combat vitamin A deficiency and enhance food security. The effort was spearheaded by organization like the International Potato Center (CIP). These biofortified crops serve as a vital, drought-tolerant lifeline in regions facing supply chain disruptions.</p> <p>Unlike traditional wheat and cereals sweet potato requires less water and is early-maturing. This allows farmers to achieve multiple harvests in a single year. Due to severe disruptions in importing wheat, production is shifting towards root and tuber crops. These crops like sweet potato is being processed into nutritious local baked goods including bread and pancakes. These products are of importance to those who suffer from celiac disease and consume only gluten-free bread.</p> <p>The crop is subject to high losses due to physiological, biochemical and pathological factors. Processing results in loss reduction hence the importance of formulating science-based standards for flour to protect health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade</p>	
<p>In principle, Thailand supports the development of a Group Standard for Flours from Roots and Tubers, as the proposed project document is consistent with the format prescribed in the Codex Procedural Manual. The establishment of international standard would enable Codex to further its work in protecting consumers and ensuring fair practices in international food trade. In addition, this initiative is aligned with the objectives of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031.</p> <p>Thailand therefore considers that, as a matter of principle, Codex should first assign the work to the subsidiary body whose mandate, as defined in the Codex Procedural Manual, is directly relevant to the subject matter, in accordance with the established procedures and normal working mechanisms of Codex. Nevertheless, should the responsible committee encounter limitations in undertaking the work, Thailand would have no objection to assigning the task to another relevant committee that is willing and adequately prepared to carry out the work.</p> <p>Furthermore, if the standard-setting process is considered to involve complex issues and may require extensive deliberation, Thailand is of the view that the work should preferably be conducted in a physical meeting format, while virtual meetings may be utilized, as appropriate, to facilitate the progress of the work.</p>	Thailand
<p>UAE encourages the proponent of the proposal to better Clarify the scope of the group standard for flours from roots and tubers but also relationship with existing Codex standards for cassava-based products.</p>	United Arab Emirates
<p>The United States would like to provide the following comments on the new work proposal to develop a group standard for flours from roots and tubers (CL 2026/26-CAC). We have provided specific comments on the numbered sections as laid out in the CL.</p>	USA
<p>Uruguay agradece la oportunidad de brindar comentarios sobre la presente Carta Circular. Sin perjuicio de responder en el marco de los campos habilitados, Uruguay desea hacer llegar comentarios sobre algunos puntos específicos del documento.</p> <p>En relación con los productos que abarcará la norma de grupo propuesta, señalados en el ítem 12 del Apéndice I, Uruguay desea destacar que el boniato es un producto de interés para Uruguay, con desarrollo en mejora y obtención de variedades, ampliamente utilizado en usos culinarios y demandado por la industria de dulces. Por lo tanto, resulta de interés el desarrollo de un estándar para la harina de boniato, considerando su potencial para el desarrollo de esta industria.</p> <p>Asimismo, respecto del punto 5 del Apéndice II, Uruguay expresa su acuerdo con los</p>	Uruguay

enfoques señalados en los puntos II y III, relativos a mejorar los sistemas y prácticas de gestión de los trabajos del Codex, fortalecer las relaciones con las organizaciones internacionales pertinentes y maximizar la repercusión del Codex mediante el aumento de la visibilidad y el uso de sus normas.	
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Whether the new work proposal satisfies the criteria for the establishment of work priorities specified in Section 2.3 of the <u>Codex Procedural Manual</u>. Due consideration should be given to whether the need for such a standard is clearly described and justified, including possible food safety concern(s) and/or commercial quality aspect(s) requiring attention as well as trade aspects.	
Cabo Verde considers that the proposal is technically relevant and generally satisfies the criteria for the establishment of work priorities, provided that the future standard clearly addresses both food safety and quality aspects. The increasing production, trade, and consumption of alternative flours, including gluten-free products, justifies the development of harmonized international provisions covering product identity, essential composition and quality factors, hygiene, contaminants, pesticide residues, labelling, and methods of analysis and sampling.	Cabo Verde
<p>Egypt supports the proposed new work as it addresses an important and growing category of products with increasing relevance in international trade and food security. The proposal clearly identifies the need for harmonized international requirements for flours from roots and tubers, particularly regarding quality, safety, labelling, and fair trade practices. The absence of internationally harmonized standards may create technical barriers to trade and inconsistent product quality requirements among countries.</p> <p>In addition, Egypt notes that work is already underway nationally for the preparation of a draft Egyptian standard related to these products, reflecting the growing importance of this sector and the need for harmonized international guidance.</p>	Egypt
<p>The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) are of the view that the proposal generally satisfies the criteria in Section 2.3 of the Codex Procedural Manual. The need for harmonized international provisions for yam and sweet potato flours is justified by increasing international trade, growing demand for gluten-free products, and the absence of Codex standards for these commodities. Relevant food safety and trade aspects are identified, including contaminants, hygiene, adulteration risks, and quality inconsistencies.</p> <p>However, the proposal would benefit from clearer evidence on the extent of current trade barriers and food safety incidents. Some market data and projections cited in Appendix II are derived from commercial market reports and should be supported, where possible, by official international trade statistics and publicly verifiable sources.</p>	European Union
<p>Regarding the need for the proposed group standard from the food safety perspective, ML and CoP for hydrocyanic acid (HCN) in cassava flour, which is considered one of the main food safety issues relating to root and tuber vegetables, have already been developed by CCCF. In addition, the CoP for Mycotoxins in cassava flour has also been developed. Furthermore, MLs for lead and cadmium in root and tuber vegetables (as flesh product) have already been established. Given these existing Codex standards and related texts, Japan is of the view that food safety issues with high priority on flours from roots and tubers have not been clearly identified. Therefore, this work does not seem to be urgent from food safety perspective.</p> <p>Regarding the criteria applicable to commodities, Japan has some observations, particularly with respect to criteria (a) and (b).</p> <p>Japan notes that detailed production, consumption and trade volume of edible sweet potato flour and yam flour are unclear in the discussion paper and project document. In Japan's view, specific information on the actual volume of production and consumption in individual</p>	Japan

<p>countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries for the specific flours proposed to be covered by the possible group standard would be helpful in considering the justification for the proposed new work.</p> <p>Japan also notes that it is unclear in the discussion paper and project document whether there are existing trade impediments or quality and safety issues that cannot be addressed through existing Codex standards and related texts. Concrete examples of trade disruptions or inconsistencies arising from the absence of an international standard would be helpful in further considering the justification for the proposed new work.</p>	
<p>There is a clear and well defined need for a Codex standard for yam and sweet potato flours. As noted in the discussion paper, “there is currently no harmonized international standard for other major root and tuber flours such as from yam and sweet potato”. These products are increasingly used as staple foods and gluten free alternatives, yet the absence of Codex guidance has resulted in inconsistent quality, variable safety parameters, and regulatory divergence among countries.</p>	United Arab Emirates
<p>In Appendix I (paragraph 14) of CL 2018/80-CS, it indicated that “the lack of a harmonized and internationally accepted standard covering flours from yam and sweet potato is detrimental to the trade, and it leads to fraudulent practices and rejection of exports.” Can specific trade data be provided to underline this (e.g., evidence of impediments as quantitative information on volume and/or frequency of rejection of consignments of yam and sweet potato flours, as expressed, for example, as absolute numbers or as rates of rejection)? (See paragraph 46 of the English version of the Codex Procedural Manual).</p> <p>In addition, “differing moisture content limits and particle size requirements across borders” was listed as a Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) in Appendix II. However, the United States does not believe this different particle size would be considered a TBT, it simply reflects market /cultural preferences and the utility requirement per product (e.g., corn wheat flour have different particle sizes - small granules to a fine powder - each tailored to a use/product). Can the specifics be provided for additional clarity? Despite pointing to technical barriers in the discussion paper, the annual growth (CAGR) appears to be 6.8% and 5.1% for processed yam powder/flour (through 2033) and sweet potato flours (by 2032). Further evidence submitted regarding TBTs would be beneficial to justify the need of the group standard, as trade appears to be increasing without a standard for yam flour and sweet potato flour.</p>	USA
<p>Zambia supports the proposed new work and considers that it generally satisfies the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities outlined in Section 2.3 of the Codex Procedural Manual. The proposal clearly demonstrates increasing international trade, growing consumer demand for gluten-free and climate-resilient products, and the need for harmonized quality and safety requirements for flours derived from roots and tubers. Zambia recognizes that the absence of harmonized standards for yam and sweet potato flours may contribute to inconsistent quality specifications, technical barriers to trade, and possible food safety concerns, including contamination and adulteration risks. Zambia further notes that roots and tubers are important for food security, climate resilience, industrial processing, and regional trade within Africa.</p>	Zambia

<p>Whether Codex is the appropriate forum to address the proposed new work in line with its purpose to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in international food trade. This includes whether there is a clear link between the proposed new work and the goals of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031, particularly “Goal 1: Respond to Members’ needs for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade in an evolving global landscape by developing science-based standards and related texts” and its “Objective 1.1: Foresight and horizon-scanning activities are used to support the identification of issues likely to impact food safety, quality and trade” and “Objective 1.4”: Codex standards and related texts are developed, reviewed and adopted in a timely, transparent and inclusive manner”.</p>	
Cabo Verde also considers Codex to be the appropriate forum to undertake this work, given its mandate to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in international food trade.	Cabo Verde
Egypt considers Codex Alimentarius to be the appropriate forum for this work, as the proposal directly supports the Codex mandate to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in food trade. The proposal is also aligned with the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031, particularly Goal 1 and Objectives 1.1 and 1.4, through the development of science-based standards responding to emerging market trends, including gluten-free products, climate-resilient crops, and evolving international trade needs.	Egypt
The EUMS consider Codex the appropriate forum as the work addresses emerging trade and food safety issues linked to climate-resilient crops and evolving consumer demand while promoting harmonized international standards.	European Union
UAE considers that Codex to be the appropriate forum to address the development of a group standard for flours from roots and tubers. The proposed work directly supports Codex’s mandate to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in the food trade, and it aligns clearly with the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031. The proposal is strongly aligned with Strategic Plan Goal 1, which calls for Codex to respond to Members’ needs by developing standards that address emerging food safety and trade issues in an evolving global landscape	United Arab Emirates
Zambia considers Codex to be the appropriate forum to undertake this work because the proposal directly relates to Codex’s mandate of protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in food trade. Zambia notes that the proposal aligns with the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031, particularly Strategic Goal 1 and Objective 1.1 on foresight and identification of emerging issues affecting food safety and trade. The proposal also aligns with Objective 1.4 as it seeks to develop science-based standards in a transparent and inclusive manner. Zambia further notes that increasing international trade in root and tuber flours requires internationally harmonized standards to facilitate fair trade and consumer protection.	Zambia
<p>Whether the information provided in the project document (Appendix II), in particular in Section 4, satisfies the guideline on the application of the criteria for the establishment of work priorities (criteria applicable to commodities), Section 2.4 of the <u>Codex Procedural Manual</u>.</p>	
Egypt considers that the information provided in the project document sufficiently addresses the criteria outlined in the Codex Procedural Manual, particularly regarding trade relevance, increasing international demand, consumer protection considerations, and the potential benefits of harmonization.	Egypt
Many of the criteria are addressed at a general level. However, further clarification and substantiation would be beneficial regarding: the proposed grouping approach, product scope, concrete trade barriers, and product-specific food safety considerations.	European Union
Please refer to our comments under question (i).	Japan
Based on the information provided, the UAE considers that the project document meets the Codex criteria for establishing work priorities for commodities. The evidence presented is	United Arab Emirates

adequate, relevant, and clearly demonstrates the need, the global significance, and the feasibility of developing a group standard for flours from roots and tubers.	
Zambia considers that the project document substantially satisfies the Guidelines on the Application of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities (Criteria Applicable to Commodities) under Section 2.4 of the Codex Procedural Manual. The document provides information on production, consumption, trade flows, market potential, existing regulatory gaps, amenability to standardization, and relevance to consumer protection and trade. However, Zambia encourages the Nigeria to strengthen the evidence base by including more comprehensive and balanced global trade data, particularly from Africa and developing countries beyond the principal exporting nations. Zambia also encourages inclusion of additional scientific and safety data related to contaminants, microbiological hazards, and processing practices associated with root and tuber flours.	Zambia
Whether the proposed grouping framework is appropriate, and, if not, how the grouping of the relevant commodities could be improved.	
Nature of the proposed new work it is proposed to add the following sentence the filling must not be less than 30% of the finished product	Algeria
The proposed grouping framework is generally considered appropriate, as the products share comparable nutritional and technological characteristics. All are starchy tubers or roots whose processed flours possess comparable physicochemical parameters (e.g. particle size, moisture content) as well as functional properties such as swelling capacity in food technology. At the same time, product-specific, toxicological and processing-related differences should be taken into account. In the case of cassava, the detoxification of cyanogenic glycosides and the distinction between fermented and non-fermented forms of processing (e.g. gari vs. edible cassava flour) are significant from a food safety perspective. For sweet potato and yam flours, these parameters are not relevant; here, the focus may be on other aspects such as pesticide residues, grain particle size or variety-specific nutrient profiles (e.g. vitamin A-rich sweet potato varieties). Should CAC approve the proposal, the EUMS support the approach of initially developing a group standard for flours from sweet potato, yam, and other tubers and roots (e.g. taro), while maintaining existing cassava standards separately for the time being. The distinction between flours, starches, and other processed products should be defined more clearly.	European Union
Japan understands the recommendation by CCEXEC to take a horizontal approach to commodity standards. In this regard, it is important to clearly define the products intended to be covered by the proposed group standard. The discussion paper and project document refer only to "flours derived from edible roots and tubers, initially sweet potato and yam." Japan is of the view that the relevant scientific names should also be specified to clearly define the scope of the proposed standard. We also understand that other edible root and tuber flours may be added to the proposed group standard in the future. In such cases, Japan believes that a separate project document should be submitted as a new work proposal for the inclusion of additional products in the standard.	Japan
UAE considers the proposed grouping framework appropriate and consistent with Codex's horizontal approach to commodity standards. UAE expects that the product identity, composition, quality factors, labelling, and other relevant provisions will be best addressed through a commodity standard.	United Arab Emirates
The United States generally prefers using a grouping framework for standard development work when appropriate as it is a more efficient way to standardize commodities.	USA
Zambia supports the proposed grouping framework as a practical and efficient horizontal approach consistent with current Codex recommendations to avoid unnecessary	Zambia

proliferation of individual commodity standards. Zambia agrees that grouping flours derived from roots and tubers based on common composition and quality characteristics is appropriate. However, Zambia recommends that the grouping criteria should be clearly defined to distinguish products based on processing methods, intended use, and compositional differences. Zambia further suggests that the framework should remain flexible enough to accommodate regionally important root and tuber flours in future.	
Should the establishment of a group standard be the recommended and viable option, how the existing Codex <u>Standards for edible cassava flour (CXS 176-1989)</u> and <u>gari (CXS 151-1985)</u> could be integrated into this group standard to ensure consistency and to address the common provisions shared between these standards and other tuber and root flours in a horizontal manner.	
Cabo Verde supports the proposed group standard approach, with general provisions in the main body of the standard and product-specific provisions in annexes. This structure is considered appropriate, as it allows common requirements for flours from roots and tubers to be addressed horizontally, while maintaining the necessary flexibility to include specific provisions for yam, sweet potato, and other edible roots and tubers in the future. Regarding existing Codex standards for edible cassava flour, gari and fermented cooked cassava-based products, Cabo Verde considers that consistency with those texts should be ensured. Existing cassava-related standards should, at this stage, be maintained and cross-referenced, while any future integration into the group standard should be considered only after careful technical review, in order to avoid duplication or inconsistencies.	Cabo Verde
Any future integration of the existing Codex standards for edible cassava flour (CXS 176-1989) and gari (CXS 151-1985) should only be considered if the specific safety and processing requirements for cassava, particularly regarding cyanogenic glycosides and fermented versus non-fermented products, can be fully addressed. Common horizontal provisions, for example on contaminants, hygiene, labelling, and general quality parameters, could be incorporated into the main body of the group standard. However, before any integration is considered, it should be assessed whether the existing standards are sufficiently compatible.	European Union
<p>Japan is of the view that the Standard for gari (CXS 151-1985) should not be integrated into the proposed group standard, as gari is a fermented food product and its production processes are different from flours from roots and tubers.</p> <p>If a group standard is to be developed, it may be efficient to integrate the Standard for edible cassava flour (CXS 176-1989) into the proposed group standard during its development. This approach could help avoid the need to revise the common provisions of the group standard at a later stage.</p> <p>However, such an approach could also make the work considerably broader and more resource intensive. Therefore, Japan is of the view that careful consideration should be given to the prioritization and management of the work before the approval of the new work.</p>	Japan
UAE supports the development of a group standard with common provisions and product-specific provisions to be annexed to the general provisions.	United Arab Emirates
Since cassava is also a root vegetable, the United States believes it is appropriate to integrate the Codex Standard for edible cassava flour (CXS 176-1989) and the Standard for gari (CXS 151-1985) into the group standard for other tuber and root flours in a horizontal manner in the future. Note that any deviation from the physical and chemical characteristics described in the current Codex Standards needs to be justified based on scientific rationale.	USA
Zambia considers that, should a group standard be established, the existing Codex Standards for edible cassava flour (CXS 176-1989) and gari (CXS 151-1985) could eventually be integrated through annexes or referenced horizontal provisions to ensure consistency across related products. However, Zambia recommends that the existing standards should initially remain separate until sufficient technical analysis is undertaken to avoid inconsistencies or unintended duplication. Zambia further notes that gari is a distinct	Zambia

fermented product with unique characteristics that may require separate treatment within any future group standard framework.	
Whether the proposed format (i.e. to develop general provisions in the main body of the standard with specific provisions included in annexes to facilitate future updates of the group standard by including other roots or tubers flours) is appropriate, to ensure consistency with the format in which group standards are presented.	
The proposed format, consisting of general horizontal provisions in the main body and product-specific annexes, is generally considered appropriate. However, care should be taken to ensure that product-specific safety and quality requirements are not weakened by overly general horizontal provisions.	European Union
If a group standard for flours from roots and tubers to be established, the UAE supports a phased and coherent integration of the existing Codex standards for edible cassava flour (CXS 176 1989) and gari (CXS 151 1985) within the group standard. These standards contain specific provisions that remain relevant and should be preserved as annexed to the general provisions of the group standard.	United Arab Emirates
The United States believes the proposed format of developing general provisions in the main body of the standard with specific provisions included in annexes is not appropriate as annexes should only be used only when each product has unique characteristics that require specific attention, such as the format found in the Standard for quick-frozen vegetables (CXS 320-2015). Since this approach may not be appropriate for a general group standard, it may be better to refer to the Standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries (CXS 358-2024) and the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2025). The United States suggests that the authors should identify the specific roots and tubers that the standard should include, evaluate the quality and safety requirements to provide greater guidance/detail to members, thereby enabling an informed decision.	USA
Zambia supports the proposed format comprising general provisions in the main body of the standard and commodity-specific annexes. Zambia considers that this approach is consistent with the format used in other Codex group standards and provides flexibility for future inclusion of additional root and tuber flours. The format may also facilitate timely updating of product-specific provisions without reopening the entire standard.	Zambia
Noting that several standards for flours, including <u>CXS 176-1989</u> and <u>CXS 151-1985</u>, were developed by the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL), and also noting the proposal in the discussion paper for the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) to undertake this work, would CCCPL, CCPFV, or another Codex subsidiary body be the most appropriate committee to undertake this work should it be approved by CAC.	
Cabo Verde supports the establishment of an electronic working group, should the proposed new work be approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Considering that existing Codex standards for flours were developed under the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes, Cabo Verde considers that this Committee could be an appropriate body to lead the work. Nevertheless, technical consultation with other relevant Codex subsidiary bodies may be useful, particularly on issues related to processing, hygiene, contaminants, labelling, and methods of analysis. For Cabo Verde, the main expected benefits include supporting official control of imported and locally produced flours from roots and tubers; providing a harmonized international reference for food safety and quality requirements; protecting consumers from unsafe, adulterated or misleadingly labelled products; supporting possible future development of local value chains and product diversification; and facilitating alignment of national requirements with Codex standards.	Cabo Verde
Egypt supports the proposed grouping approach for flours from roots and tubers, as it represents a practical and efficient horizontal framework. The proposed structure would	Egypt

facilitate future inclusion of additional products while maintaining consistency among related commodities.	
CCCPL appears to be the most appropriate Codex committee to undertake this work, as it previously developed standards for comparable root- and tuber-based flour products and therefore has relevant technical expertise in this area.	European Union
<p>Considering the terms of reference of the relevant committees, CCPFV would appear to be the most appropriate committee to undertake this work. On the other hand, if the Standard for edible cassava flour (CXS 176-1989) is to be integrated into the proposed group standard, careful consideration should also be given to the fact that the Standard was originally developed by CCCPL.</p> <p>Regardless of which committees undertake the work, Japan is of the view that conducting the work through working by correspondence, while making use of EWG and VWG as appropriate, would help ensure efficient use of limited resources.</p>	Japan
<p>Codex standards for fresh roots and tubers, such as yam (CXS 340-2020), cassava (CXS 300-2010, CXS 238-2003), and ware potatoes (CXS 339-2020), were developed by the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV). Therefore, it is appropriate that standards for flours, which are processed products derived from these fresh commodities, be managed by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV).</p> <p>According to the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds (CXA 4-1989), yam, cassava, and sweet potatoes are classified as "Root and Tuber Vegetables." Treating their derived processed products as processed vegetable products, in accordance with the classification of the primary commodity, ensures consistency across Codex texts.</p> <p>Therefore, the Republic of Korea proposes the CCPFV as the most appropriate committee to undertake this future work, should it be approved by the Commission.</p>	Republic of Korea
<p>UAE considers the development of a Codex group standard beneficial as UAE is a major importer and re-export hub for food commodities and would benefit from harmonized standards. Harmonized specifications would also support the UAE's growing market for gluten free and alternative flours responding to increased consumers demand for these types of foods.</p> <p>UAE considers CCCPL to be the most appropriate committee to undertake this work. CCCPL has prior experience in developing flour type commodities, including cassava flour and gari, and is therefore well positioned to lead the development of a group standard for root and tuber flours in a timely and efficient manner approach would enhance efficiency and inclusiveness.</p>	United Arab Emirates
<p>The United States believes that if the proposed work is approved by the Commission, the most appropriate subsidiary body would likely be the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) as its terms of reference (TOR) are to "elaborate worldwide standards and related texts for all types of processed fruits and vegetables, including but not limited to canned, dried and frozen products as well as fruit and vegetable juices and nectars." The source commodities (yam, cassava, sweet potato, etc.) are classified as "Root and Tuber Vegetables" under the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds (CXA 4-1989). Since the proposed products are flours derived from these vegetables, it seems logical that the work be handled by CCPFV as processed vegetable products, ensuring consistency across Codex texts.</p> <p>While the Codex Committee for Cereals, Pulses, and Legumes (CCCPL) drafted several flour standards made from cereals (approximately 40 years ago) and converted Codex regional standards into worldwide Codex standards (Standard for gari (CXS 151-1985) and Standard for edible cassava flour (CXS 176-1989)), it is not clear to the United States why the work for flours made from a root vegetable was assigned to CCCPL in the first place. The TOR for CCCPL are to "elaborate worldwide standards and/or codes of practice as may</p>	USA

be appropriate for cereals, pulses, legumes and their products." The United States seeks clarification on how the determination was made to assign that work to CCCPL.	
El comité más adecuado para llevar adelante la propuesta y su posterior discusión debería ser el CCPFV. Tanto la yuca como para el ñame en fresco han sido trabajados en el CCFFV.	Uruguay
Zambia is of the view that the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) may be an appropriate committee to undertake this work. Zambia nevertheless requests further clarification regarding the most suitable committee mandate and encourages Codex to ensure institutional consistency and technical expertise in undertaking the work. Zambia would also support the establishment of an Electronic Working Group (EWG) to facilitate efficient technical discussions.	Zambia
Based on the replies to the above points, whether the development of a worldwide Codex group standard for flours from roots and tubers is beneficial for your country or organization.	
Egypt considers the development of a worldwide Codex group standard for flours from roots and tubers to be beneficial, particularly in supporting fair trade practices, facilitating market access, and promoting harmonized quality and safety requirements.	Egypt
Many parts of the United States (Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) produce tropical roots and tubers included in the CL. There is also growing demand for flour made from the tropical roots and tubers we produce. However, the short turnaround time for comments to CL 2026/26-CAC did not give the United States the chance for in-depth consultations with domestic stakeholders on the development of a worldwide Codex standard for flours from roots and tubers.	USA
El desarrollo de un estándar mundial de grupo Codex para harinas a partir de raíces y tubérculos puede ser de interés para Uruguay, aunque actualmente el consumo estos productos es insipiente en nuestro país.	Uruguay
Zambia considers the proposed work to be relevant and timely. Root and tuber crops play an important role in food security, climate resilience, rural livelihoods, and agro-processing in Zambia and the wider African region. Harmonized Codex standards could support industrial development, facilitate regional and international trade, improve consumer confidence, and enhance opportunities for value addition and export diversification. Zambia also recognizes the increasing importance of gluten-free and functional food markets globally.	Zambia
If so, whether your country or organization would be willing to actively participate in and contribute to the proposed new work should CAC approve it.	
Cabo Verde would be willing to follow and contribute to the development of this work and, subject to available technical capacity, contribute to the process through comments and participation in the electronic working group.	Cabo Verde
Egypt would be willing to actively participate and contribute to the proposed new work should it be approved by CAC.	Egypt
The EUMS see the growing importance and market relevance of gluten-free and climate-resilient flours and support the idea of grouping. Given the expected increase in the market relevance of flours made from yams, sweet potatoes and other tuberous plants, the EUMS are generally willing to participate constructively should CAC approve the proposal for new work subject to availability of resources.	European Union
If so, whether your country or organization would be willing to actively participate in and contribute to the proposed new work should CAC approve it.	United Arab Emirates

While the United States believes that there has been insufficient time to consider this new work proposal, it will participate in the discussions on this matter and contribute to the proposed new work should CAC approve it.	USA
Zambia would be willing to actively participate and contribute to the proposed new work, subject to availability of resources and technical capacity. Zambia is particularly interested in contributing to discussions relating to quality requirements, food safety considerations, contaminants, labelling, and alignment with existing Codex texts.	Zambia
Any other issues that Members or Observers wish to bring to the attention of CCEXEC90 or CAC49	
<p>Cabo Verde recommends that the future standard should be practical, science-based and applicable to the realities of developing countries, small island developing states and food import-dependent countries. The standard should include clear and enforceable provisions on product identity, essential composition and quality factors, moisture content, hygiene, contaminants, pesticide residues, labelling, and methods of analysis and sampling.</p> <p>In conclusion, Cabo Verde supports the development of the proposed Codex group standard for flours from roots and tubers, provided that the work remains science-based, practical, inclusive, and consistent with existing Codex standards and related texts.</p>	Cabo Verde
Egypt encourages continued collaboration among Members to ensure that the proposed standard remains practical, science-based, and flexible enough to accommodate future developments and innovations in the sector.	Egypt
The proposal identifies gaps such fraud prevention, labelling distinctions, hygiene concerns and trade issues linked to maximum limits for contaminants. It may be worthwhile exploring whether these issues could be addressed through existing Codex committees – such as CCFICS, CCFL, CCFH and CCCF – before initiating a new group standard. Clarifying why these avenues may not be sufficient would strengthen the rationale for the proposed work.	European Union
The United States recommends that the authors conduct an evaluation of all the existing Codex flour standards for common requirements that can be applied to roots and tubers (beyond the Standard for edible cassava flour (CXS 176-1989) and the Standard for gari (CXS 151-1985)). Looking at the content from those two existing standards, the table name could be titled: Common Parameters in existing Codex Flour Standards; the column headings would include: Moisture content (max); Ash range on dry basis; Fat, Fatty Acidity, Crude Fat; Protein (min on dry basis); Nutrients, Crude fibre (Max), Particle size (min), Food Additives, Color, Classes. The column headings are common named requirements which may help determine the type of group standard to be developed and should be addressed in the revised proposal.	USA
Zambia encourages that the proposed work should ensure consistency with existing Codex horizontal texts, including the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969), General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995), and relevant labelling and methods of analysis standards. Zambia further recommends that adequate consideration be given to small-scale producers and developing countries to ensure that the requirements remain practical, science-based, and not unnecessarily trade restrictive. Zambia	Zambia