

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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Organization

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Agenda Item 8(f)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

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**COMMENTS at Step 3 on the proposed draft revision of the CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED:
Selected commodity groups, Group 024 – Seeds for beverages and sweets,
submitted by Canada, Kenya, Thailand, United States of America and African Union**

Canada

Background:

Group 024 (Seeds for Beverages and Sweets) is a new commodity group that was identified at the 47th Session of the CCPR for discussion in the electronic working group (EWG) and consideration by CCPR48.

Current Status:

- The EWG has submitted a document (CX/PR 16/48/11), which includes the considerations provided by members of the EWG.
- The addition of basil seeds (*Ocimum basilicum* L.) was proposed by India and supported by the European Union.
- New Zealand proposed including other commodities used for beverages and sweets in this group (including commodities in Oilseeds such as canola seed and sunflower seed), and develop subgroups based on tree nuts, ground nuts, seeds that are protected (pods) and seeds that are exposed.

CCPR48 has been asked to consider the sub-grouping and new commodities for this crop taking into consideration the deliberations in the EWG and the guiding principles and the criteria for crop group of the Classification of Food and Feed.

Canada's Position on the Revised Seeds for Beverages and Sweets Group (Group 024)

As a member of the Electronic Working Group on the Revision of the Classification, Canada provided comments through this working group on the proposed draft revisions to Group 024.

Canada is not in agreement with the proposal to include basil seeds, oilseeds, tree nuts or ground nuts in Group 024. These commodities are already included in other crop groups. To avoid confusion, it is recommended that commodities only be included in one group.

Kenya

Issue: Proposed subgrouping and new commodities for group 024 – seeds for beverages and sweets

Position: We propose the creation of a new subgroup and code for soy beans in this group 024.

Rationale: Soybeans are widely used as a beverage amongst other uses.

Thailand

Considering the commodity "GC 3081: Chia (*Salvia hispanica* L.)" is usually consumed with the beverage and consumption patterns of Chia and basil seeds are similar. In addition, Chia is not grass. Thailand is of the view that this commodity should be classified as seeds for beverage. Then, we would like to propose moving Chia from "subgroup 020A: Wheat" to "**Group 024 Seed for beverage and sweets**".

United States of America

The United States does not agree with the proposals to add Oilseeds such as canola seed and sunflower seed and to develop subgroups based on tree nuts, ground nuts, seeds that are protected (pods) and seeds that are exposed. These commodities are already included in other crop groups and these proposals to include them in this group do not appear to be based on the principles of crop grouping and expected pesticide residues but rather because the commodity might be used in beverages.

African Union**Background:**

It is recalled that the revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds (CAC/MISC) had been approved by the 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and the CCPR at its 39th Session agreed to establish an electronic working group to further advance the revision.

It was further agreed that it should keep in mind that the revision should be fit for the purpose of the classification which was to facilitate the establishment and interpretation of MRLs.

The proposed Group 024 is a new group for consideration.

Position: AU welcomes the work of the EWG. The proposed group seeds for beverage is acceptable.

Issue & Rationale: Cocoa and coffee are both perennial crops and are used as beverages and sweets. They are grown in most tropical and subtropical region of Africa. Pesticide use by farmers to control pest is useful for meaningful production. It will therefore be useful to have the crop group so as to facilitate the elaboration of MRLs for these commodities.