



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEx COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Thirty-fifth Session

Virtual

20 September – 25 October 2021

Proposed amendment of the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981)*

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

Background

1. A project document for a proposed amendment of the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981)* to include the fish species *Sardinella lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) under Section 2.1 was submitted by the Philippines to the Codex Secretariat in accordance with the Procedural Manual, *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and the Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts*.

2. A Circular Letter ([CL 2020/28/OCS-CAC Rev.1](#)) was submitted in March 2020 together with the project document to request comments on whether Codex should pursue this new work on amending the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981)* with a view to include *S. lemuru*; and whether the new work, if approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), could be undertaken by correspondence. The responses received indicated support for new work by correspondence and a need for further discussion on technical issues and further sensory evaluation in accordance with the Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products (IP).

3. As this work falls under the mandate of CCFFP, which was adjourned *sine die* at the time the proposal was received, CAC43 approved the proposal that CCFFP be reactivated to work by correspondence in accordance with the IP, to evaluate if the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981)* could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of *Sardinella* species under Section 2.1.

4. In December 2020, a Circular Letter ([CL 2020/61/OCS REV-FFP](#)) was issued requesting comments on the establishment of an Electronic Working Group (EWG) to evaluate the proposed amendment of the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981)*. Seventeen (17) Member countries and the European Union provided comments in response to this Circular Letter. While the comments were generally supportive to the establishment of the EWG, some requested further considerations regarding the chairing of the EWG, the Terms of Reference for the EWG, and selection of sardine species for sensory evaluation.

Convening the 35th Session of CCFFP

5. Since the comments received in response to the Circular letters showed that there is a need for a sensory evaluation, it was decided to convene CCFFP35. CCFFP35 will working by correspondence, during the period 20 September-25 October 2021, to start the work, as agreed by CAC43, of evaluating if the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981)* could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of *Sardinella* species under Section 2.1.

6. CCFFP35 will address the following:

Sensory evaluation of the candidate species

7. According to the IP, the Committee should decide:

- which are the three laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation and designate the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the assessment and preparing the report of the sensory evaluation.
- which are the three species to be compared with the candidate species, i.e. *S. lemuru*.

8. A proposal for the laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation and the three species to be compared with the candidate species, i.e. *S. lemurus*, is contained in CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.1.

Establishment of an EWG

9. According to the IP, the Committee may decide to establish an EWG to oversee sensory evaluation of the product(s) of the candidate species, including reviewing the documentation provided by the proposing member, examining the laboratory report on the sensory evaluation, and informing the Committee if the candidate species satisfy the requirements for inclusion in the standard.

10. The Philippines has expressed their willingness to chair the proposed EWG.

11. A draft Terms of Reference for the EWG is contained in Annex I to this document.

Recommendations

12. The Committee is invited to:

- a. Decide which are the laboratories selected to perform the sensory evaluation and designates the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the assessment and preparing the final report. (IP Sections 2.2 and 3.3).
- b. Decide which are the species selected to be compared with the candidate species. (IP Section 2.2).
- c. Agree on the Terms of Reference for the EWG, including the chair(s) and the language(s).

Annex I**Draft Terms of Reference for the Electronic Working Group (EWG) on the “Sardines standard”**

The objective of the EWG established by CCFFP35 is to support the evaluation if the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products* (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of *Sardinella* species under Section 2.1, by

- a. overseeing the sensory evaluation of the candidate species, i.e. *S. lemuru* in accordance with the Inclusion Procedure of the Procedural Manual, in particular paragraphs 2.3, 3.3 and 4.
- b. preparing a report to the CCFFP36 on its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

The EWG will be chaired by the Philippines.

The working languages of the EWG will be English and Spanish.

The EWG will start working immediately following the end of CCFFP35 and will finish its work by October 1, 2022.