

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

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PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK ON CODEX STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

PROJECT DOCUMENT

PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON A CODEX STANDARD FOR KIWIFRUIT (Submitted by Iran)

The National Codex Alimentarius Commission of Iran appreciates the work of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in the development of worldwide quality standards for fresh fruits and vegetables and is pleased to submit the following project document for a Codex standard for kiwifruit for the protection of the consumer's health and fair practices in food trade for consideration as a new work for the Committee.

1. Purpose and the scope of the standard

The scope of the work is to establish a worldwide quality standard for kiwifruit obtained from varieties of *Actinidia deliciosa*, which must be supplied fresh to the consumer after proper preparation and packaging. The objective of the standard is to consider the essential quality characteristics of kiwifruit for fresh consumption to aid international trade in this product.

2. Relevance and timeliness

Due to the growing trend of worldwide kiwifruit production and trade, it is necessary to establish a commodity standard covering the safety, quality and labelling in order to have a reference that has been internationally agreed by consensus between the main producing and trading countries across the world. More significantly, the present status of kiwifruit is not limited to any particular region and hence justifies the elaboration of an international standard commensurate with the kiwifruit's true standing as an increasingly valuable worldwide commodity. In addition, the drafting of a Codex standard for kiwifruit will help to protect consumers' health and to promote fair trade in accordance with the international agreements in particular the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements.

It is of particular importance to point out that to date, the Codex Alimentarius does not include a Codex standard for kiwifruit. It is also noted that kiwifruit had been identified in the priority list for standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables before maintenance of such list was taken over by regular requests for new work by means of circular letters attached to the report of the sessions of the CCFFV.

3. Main aspects to be covered

The standard entails main aspects related to the definition of the product, essential quality factors e.g. size and labelling requirements in order to provide certainty to the consumer on the nature and characteristics of the product. The standard will supply high quality and safe products to protect consumers' health and against misleading practices by including all the necessary parameters such as weight, size, proper labelling, etc.

The most relevant items which may be considered are related to:

- Establish the minimum requirements of kiwifruit which shall be complied with, independently from the quality class.
- Define the categories to classify kiwifruit in accordance with its characteristics.
- Consider the sizing classes to commercialize kiwifruit.
- Establish the tolerance as regards quality and size that may be permitted of kiwifruit contained in a package.
- Include the provisions to be considered relating to the uniformity of the packaged product and the packaging used.
- Include provisions for the labelling and marking of the product in accordance with the *General Standard for the labelling of Prepackaged Foods*.
- Include provisions for pesticides and contaminants with the reference to the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed*.
- Include provisions for hygiene with the reference to the general principles of food hygiene and other relevant codes of hygiene practices.

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

General criterion

The elaboration of a Codex standard for kiwifruit would be beneficial for developing countries in particular, because they are the major producers, exporters and consumers of kiwifruit. It is necessary that the quality of the product meet consumer needs and minimum requirements for food quality and safety.

Criteria applicable to commodities

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

According to FAO data, the production and trade at a world-wide level has been variable.

The first commercial kiwifruit vineyard was planted in New Zealand. Now kiwifruit are grown in many districts on the north island of New Zealand and in the Nelson area on the south island. As of 2009, the leading producers of kiwifruit are: Italy, New Zealand, Chile, France, Greece, Japan Iran and the USA. Main importing countries were Iraq, Russia, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

Worldwide kiwifruit production and trade has displayed a significant upward trend during the past decade; in the case of Iran in particular, having experienced a significant boost from 2003 onwards.

Production of kiwifruit

Qty. (in MTs)

Country	2009	2010	2011
Chile	227,000	229,000	237,104
France	76,171	70,719	73,395
Greece	104,000	116,310	140,400
Iran	30,396	31,778	31,576
Italy	447,608	415,877	431,558
Japan	35,000	26,500	27,185
New Zealand	390,000	378,508	364,958
Portugal	26,927	23,903	23,473
Republic of Korea	11,802	10,410	10,062
Spain	18,800	25,676	23,327
Turkey	23,689	26,554	29,231
United States of America	23,224	29,665	38,102

Source: As provided by national governments and FAOSTAT

Pattern of International Trade in kiwifruit

Qty. (in MTs)

Exporting country	2008	2009	2010
Chile	157,060	182,717	183,420
Greece	37,712	55,751	72,814
Iran	10,421	16,909	48,850
Italy	307,272	379,425	369,736
New Zealand	376,598	361,066	406,380

Source: As provided by national governments and FAOSTAT

Status of kiwifruit in Iran and the world- 2008

Country	Area Harvested		Production		Yield	
	Hectare	Rank	Tons	Rank	Kilogram/Hectare	Rank
Chile	9,455	4	170,000	3	17,980	4
France	4,163	6	65,670	5	15,775	8
Greece	4,800	5	84,300	4	17,563	5
Iran	2,300	8	30,000	7	13,043	11
Italy	22,417	1	473,955	1	21,143	3
Japan	2,420	7	32,800	6	13,554	10
New Zealand	13,250	3	365,000	2	27,547	1
Portugal	1,300	9	13,000	10	-	-
Spain	861	10	12,300	9	15,099	9
Turkey	18,000	2	19,530	8	-	-
World		82,258		1,308,424		15,906

Source: As provided by FAOSTAT-2008

Status of kiwifruit in Iran and the world-2009

Country	Area under cultivation (Hectare)	Area Harvest (Hectare)	Production (Tons)	Yield (kilogram/Hectare)
Chile	10,800	10,800	2,270,000	21,019
France	4,035	4,035	75,907	18,812
Greece	5,086	5,086	84,000	16,516
Iran	2,863	2,863	30,396	10,617
Italy	23,800	23,800	4,363,000	18,332
New Zealand	13,287	13,287	390,000	29,352
Turkey	20,000	20,000	23,689	1,184

Source: As provided by FAOSTAT-2009

Exports of kiwifruit from Iran during 2009-2010

Year	USD Value
2009	36,658,534
2010	66,882,504

Source: As provided by national governments

Position of kiwifruit in Iran and the world-2009

Topic	Quantity	Iran	World	Rank in World
Area under harvest	Hectare	2,863	88,012	7
Total production	Tons	30,396	1,277,232	7
Yield	Tons/Hectare	10	16	15
Export quantity	1000 tons	42/3	-	1
USD value	Dollars	36,658,524	-	1
Per capita production	Kilogram	2/57	-	1
Per capita consumption	Kilogram	1/04	-	-

Source: As provided by national governments

Exports of kiwifruit by destination country from Iran-2011

Import Country	USD Value	Net Weight(kg)	Trade Quantity(kg)
Iraq	49,282,234	47,429,173	47,429,173
Russia	6,549,751	8,186,975	8,186,975
Turkey	5,120,331	6,408,194	6,408,194
United Arab Emirates	3,717,846	4,065,578	4,065,578
Afghanistan	2,767,377	2,332,529	2,332,529
Syria	2,097,719	2,622,123	2,622,123
Turkmenistan	1,775,868	2,202,208	2,202,208
Armenia	853,289	1,070,164	1,070,164
Azerbaijan	831,914	1,034,399	1,034,399
Uzbekistan	727,454	909,581	909,581
Ukraine	677,784	847,230	847,230
Kuwait	287,794	274,369	274,369
Georgia	249,680	312,101	312,101
Kazakhstan	210,040	255,119	255,119
Tajikistan	185,364	231,705	231,705
Saudi Arabia	152,736	127,280	127,280
Bahrain	132,945	117,553	117,553
Malaysia	39,599	45,740	45,740
Oman	4,814	4,012	4,012
Pakistan	2,398	2,998	2,998
World	75,666,938	78,479,030	78,479,030

Source: As provided by UN comtrade database

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

Due to lack of a worldwide standard for kiwifruit, international trade has been widely affected. Importers prefer to import fruits and vegetables based on a Codex standard. Therefore, the new work would provide internationally recognized specific standards in order to enhance international trade and to accommodate the exporter requirements.

UNECE standard (FFV-46: kiwifruit-2010) has developed a basic quality characteristic for kiwifruit. The OECD has also produced a standard and an interpretative brochure for quality inspection / certification of kiwifruit. A Codex standard for kiwifruit can provide a comprehensive international standard covering quality and safety aspects of kiwifruit that will ensure the overall quality of the product. The UNECE and OECD standards can be taken as a starting point to develop into a more inclusive standard by including agreed provisions from all countries / regions in the world interested in this product.

(c) International or regional market potential

The import of kiwifruit by most countries is increasing. Kiwifruit comes in different varieties and sizes. Generally, size is the only criteria taken into consideration. Therefore development of a quality standard that includes sizing requirements will help to enhance trade. See also point (a).

(d) Amenability of commodity to standardization

The characteristics of kiwifruit from its cultivation to retail sale e.g. cultivar varieties, composition, quality characteristics, packaging, etc. all lead to adequate parameters for the standardization of the product. These parameters have been harmonized to certain extent at regional e.g. UNECE and group of countries e.g. OECD levels. Using UNECE and OECD standards as the basis to develop a global harmonized standard by considering other countries / regions needs should therefore be amenable to / facilitate worldwide harmonization.

(e) Coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards

There is no a commodity standard covering kiwifruit. The proposed standard will address those requirements described in point 3 e.g. minimum requirements, classes, size, colour, uniformity, packaging, etc.

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

A single standard for kiwifruit will cover all varieties of kiwifruit traded worldwide.

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

The standards, which may be considered while developing a Codex Standard for Kiwifruit are:

- UNECE Standard concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of kiwifruit, (FFV-46: kiwifruit-2010).
- OECD Standard for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: kiwifruit, 2008.

5. Relevance to the Codex strategic objectives

The elaboration of a Codex standard for kiwifruit will promote the maximum application of Codex standards by countries in their national legislation and will consequently facilitate international trade. Likewise, the elaboration of this standard will help to protect consumer health against risks associated with this product. The new work contributes to state the essential quality requirements for kiwifruit for human consumption with the purpose of protecting the consumer's health and achieving fair practices in the food trade. This proposal is relevant to Strategic Goal 1 – Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues and its corresponding Objectives of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

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

The proposal for the elaboration of a commodity standard for kiwifruit is part of the Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. See also points (e) and (f).

7. Identification of any need for any requirements for and availability of expert scientific advice

For the elaboration of this project document, the information generated by the research working group at national level for the characterization of kiwifruit has been taken as reference. Therefore, in case of requiring further information in the course of elaboration of the standard, this group of experts may be consulted including the expertise available in other importing / exporting countries participating in the standardization of this product in the CCFV.

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

None.

9. Proposed timeline for completion of the new work

PROCEDURE	DATE
Iran- Submit the proposal for kiwifruit. CCFFV – Agreement to start new work on a Codex Standard for Kiwifruit.	February, 2014 CCFFV
CCEXEC – Critical Review Process: Recommendation to start new work on a proposed draft Codex Standard for Kiwifruit. CAC – Approval of new work. Circulation of the proposed draft Standard for comments at Step 3.	June/July 2014 CCEXEC/CAC
CCFFV – Consideration of the proposed draft Standard at Step 4.	May, 2015 CCFFV
CCEXEC – Critical Review Process: Recommendation for adoption at Step 5. CAC – Adoption at Step 5. Circulation for comments at Step 6. <u>Effort will be made for adoption of the proposed draft Standard at Step 5/8 in June/July 2015 depending upon relevant inputs and agreement from members.</u>	June/July, 2015 CCEXEC/CAC
CCFFV- Consideration of the draft Standard At Step 7.	September, 2016 CCFFV
CCEXEC – Critical Review Process: Recommendation for adoption at Step 8. CAC – Adoption at Step 8 (Codex Standard for Kiwifruit).	June/July, 2016 CAC