

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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AGENDA ITEM NO. 4B

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
OTTAWA, CANADA, MAY 1 – 5, 2006**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, LABELLING AND
MARKETING OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED FOODS:
PROPOSED DRAFT REVISED ANNEX2: TABLE I (NATURAL SODIUM NITRATE)
(ALIMORM 05/28/22 – APPENDIX IV)**

GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

COMMENTS FROM:

INDONESIA

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GOVERNMENT COMMENTS AT STEP 3

INDONESIA:

The government of Indonesia would like to provide the following comments concerning the inclusion of Natural Sodium Nitrate (NSN) in Table 1 of the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labeling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods.

As our statement before in the last year we repeat our justification that :

1. After studying the use of NSN, we have to consider the Section 5: Requirements for inclusion of substances in annex 2 and criteria for the development of the list of substance by countries under the Guidelines for the production, processing, labeling and marketing of organically produce foods, especially the section 5.1 point a), c) and d).
2. According to point a) and c), Indonesia is of the opinion that the NSN has not taken into account the regional condition requirement and locally adapted system yet. As an example, Indonesia is one of tropical country where the rainfall is high. Therefore the leaching of nutrients out of the land will be most become effective and the using of this natural fertilizer will be fruitless.
3. Plants only need sodium in a small amount. A too high sodium-supply compared to the needs of the plants can cause asynchronous in the physiologic process of the plants. Moreover, the bound of sodium and nitrate is not as strong as potassium or cadmium. The impact of this situation, sodium will be absorbed by the soil and its land will become harder then the nitrate will make water pollutions every where.
4. Furthermore, if we look at section 5.1 number c), the characteristic of NSN is easily to be absorbed by plant through its roots and accumulated in the leaves especially vegetables in the large amount. If it is consumed, in the long term the accumulation of nitrate and nitrous gas in the body can cause cancer.

Finally, by considering all these above, the government of Indonesia is opposed to the inclusion of natural sodium nitrate into Table 1 of the Proposed Draft Guidelines and Indonesia proposes to close the discussion about NSN since it is not accordance with *Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Marketing and Labelling of Organically Produced Foods*