

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4a

FA56/CRD21
Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-sixth Session

ENDORSEMENT AND/OR REVISION OF MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR FOOD ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS IN CODEX STANDARDS

(Comments of Cabo Verde, India, Kenya and Nigeria)

Cabo Verde

POSITION OR COMMENT

Cabo Verde supports the endorsement and/or revision of the maximum levels (MLs) for food additives and processing aids as proposed in document CX/FA 26/56/5. We agree with the recommendations of the Physical Working Group (PWG) regarding the alignment of these provisions within the respective commodity standards.

RATIONALE

Our support is based on the necessity of maintaining consistency between specific commodity standards and the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA). As a country that relies heavily on the importation of processed goods, Cabo Verde considers that the formal endorsement of these levels, backed by JECFA safety assessments, is vital for ensuring a high level of consumer protection. Furthermore, this harmonization provides a clear legal framework for our national regulatory authorities to conduct effective market surveillance and border inspection, ensuring that imported products meet international safety benchmarks.

India

CX/FA 26/56/5

AGENDA ITEM 4(a) : ENDORSEMENT AND/OR REVISION OF MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR FOOD ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS IN CODEX STANDARDS

The 8th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8) (REP26/SCH)

India supports the endorsement of the food additive provisions for the standards forwarded by CCSCH8 as under

- Standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries - Requirements for vanilla (for adoption by CAC at Step 8)
- Standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries - Requirements for large cardamom (for adoption by CAC at Step 5/8)
- Standard for spices in the form of dried seeds - Requirements for coriander (for adoption by CAC at Step 5/8)
- Standard for herbs - Requirements for sweet marjoram (for adoption by CAC at Step 5)

CX/FA 26/56/5 Add.2

AGENDA ITEM 4(a) : ENDORSEMENT AND/OR REVISION OF MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR FOOD ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS IN CODEX STANDARDS

Issues Related to the Standards for Culinary Herbs and Spices

India supports endorsement of food additive provisions (specifically anticaking agents listed in Table 3 of the GSFA): for the following draft standards forwarded by CCSCH8

- Standard for Spices Derived from Dried Dehydrated Fruits and Berries – Vanilla
- Standard for Spices in the Form of Dried Fruits and Berries – Large Cardamom
- Standard for Spices in the Form of Dried Seeds – Coriander
- Standard for Herbs – Sweet Marjoram

Similar food additive provisions have already been endorsed and adopted in the past by the CCFA. The provisions currently under consideration are consistent with these earlier endorsements.

These draft standards elaborated at CCSCH8 could not be adopted at CAC48 (November 2025) and are now scheduled for consideration at CAC49 (July 2026). Any further delay in the endorsement of food additive provisions would lead to additional postponement.

Hence, the endorsement of the above standards should not be delayed for want of replies from CCSCH to the questions on Table 3 additives from CCFA55. Endorsement by CCFA56 supports international harmonization and promote global trade in spices and culinary herbs.

This is in line with the Codex Procedural Manual Section 2.1: Procedures for the elaboration of the Codex standards and related texts and Section 2.5: Relationship between commodity committees and general subject committees (Para 55 and 60).

Kenya

Agenda 4.1: Endorsement and/or revision of maximum levels for food additives and processing aids in Codex standards (CX/FA 26/56/5)

Comment: Kenya supports the endorsement of the proposed food additive provisions forwarded by CCASIA23, CCNE12, and CCSCH, noting that they are consistent with the GSFA and the Codex Procedural Manual. For quick-frozen dumplings, maamoul, and doogh, Kenya endorses the structured provisions as technologically justified, while emphasizing the need for careful monitoring of sweeteners and preservatives in dairy-based drinks. Regarding spices and herbs (vanilla, cardamom, coriander, sweet marjoram), Kenya supports limiting the use of anticaking agents to powdered forms only, ensuring consumer safety and preventing unnecessary additive use.

Agenda 4.11: Endorsement and/or revision of maximum levels for food additives and processing aids in Codex standards (CCFO)- CX/FA 26/56/5 Add.1

Comment: Kenya supports the endorsement and revision of maximum levels for food additives and processing aids in Codex standards. However, Kenya seeks clarification on the deviations noted in CX/FA 26/56/5 Add.1, Annex regarding INS 304, 305 (ascorbyl esters) and INS 307(a, b, c) (tocopherols). Kenya observes that the use levels presented in the Annex differ from those contained in CRD 09 Rev.2 of CCFO29, as highlighted in paragraph 70 of the CCFO29 Report. Kenya requests CCFA to clarify these discrepancies to ensure consistency, accuracy, and alignment of endorsed provisions with the agreed Codex texts.

Nigeria

Nigeria supports the categorization of microbial omega-3 oil as a new sub-category of oils of microbial origin and for a new FC to be established under FC 02.1 and agrees with the description:

02.1.4 Microbial oils and fats: Edible fats and oils obtained from oleaginous microorganisms, including but not limited to microalgae, protists, fungi, or yeast, and not derived from plants or animals. These oils and fats are intended for use as edible fats and oils or as ingredients in foods. This category also encompasses concentrated forms of specific fatty acids.

Nigeria supports the endorsement of the food additive provisions in the proposed draft standard for microbial omega-3 oils and the annex of CX/FA 26/56/5 Add.1 on food additives provisions for the antioxidants, sequestrants, and emulsifiers used in accordance with Tables 1 and 2 of the *General standard for food additives*

(CXS 192-1995), in food category [(to be determined)] acceptable for use in foods conforming to this Standard.