

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organization

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WORK OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS (CCFO)

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(Comments of Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Sudan, Yemen)

Bahrain

Support the Position of the Syrian Arab Republic related to the Standard on Olive Oil (Revised standard on Olive Oil (CXS33-1981))

The Delegation of Kingdom of Bahrain would like to recall the comments introduced by the Syrian Arab Republic documented under Conference Room Document 10 (CRD10), related to the consideration of adoption of the revised Standard of Olive Oil (CXS33-1981).

Kingdom of Bahrain would like to support the position of Syria where Codex texts ought to duly consider the possible negative impacts on countries' exports. Syria indicates that the current proposal of revision of the standard has the potential to impact close to 40% of the country's exports of Virgin Olive oil, which would be threatened to be falsely considered as non-authentic, because of one parameter set in a manner that does not consider the required regional variability.

The provisions described by Section 3.2.3, which are the focus of the comments by Syria, are important considerations of authenticity criteria. As such, they need to be **evidence based** and supported by **the most up-to-date body of data**.

That is why, Kingdom of Bahrain supports the request made by Syria under CRD10 and recommends that immediate action be taken by CCFO to collect data related to geographic variability of parameters of authenticity of Olive oil, with particular emphasis **on Sterol levels** and the applicability **of the conditions of the decision tree proposed under footnote c**.

Kingdom of Bahrain recommends such action starts immediately with the inclusion of this task as part of the scope of the Electronic Working Group which was recommended to be set by CCFO28. It will be important that CCFO29 reviews the data collected, with the opportunity to update any relevant provision of footnote c of section 3.2.3 of the Olive Oil Standard.

Egypt

Standard of Olive Oil (CXS33-1981)

Egypt would like to support the position of Syria that introduced under (CRD10) and suggests either delaying the adoption of the provisions specific to sterol levels and the amendments associated with the decision-tree on authenticity (Section 3.2.3) – and maintaining this portion of the standard at Step 5, while adopting the rest of the provisions in the revised standard at Step 5/8 or consider immediate action on the part of CCFO that should be directed to collecting data related to geographic variability of parameters of authenticity of Olive oil, with particular emphasis on Sterol levels and the applicability of the conditions of the decision tree proposed under footnote c. Such data collection should be tasked as part of the extended scope of the Electronic Working Group which was recommended to be set by CCFO28 and whose scope was currently limited to the levels of PPP and 1,2-DAG. Data collected should be reviewed by CCFO29, with the opportunity to update any relevant provision of footnote c of section 3.2.3 of the standard. And Egypt would like to inform you that it is fully prepared to participate in any study that collects and analyzes data, as Egypt is one of the olive oil producing countries that may be commercially affected in the future.

Rationale:

Syria indicates that the current proposal of revision of the standard has the potential to impact close to 40% of the country's exports of Virgin Olive oil, which would be threatened to be falsely considered as non-authentic, because of one parameter set in a manner that does not consider the required regional variability. So the current Codex texts ought to duly consider the possible negative impacts on countries' exports.

Iraq

The Delegation of Republic of IRAQ would like to recall the comments introduced by the Syrian Arab Republic documented under Conference Room Document 10 (CRD10), related to the consideration of adoption of the revised Standard of Olive Oil (CXS33-1981).

Republic of IRAQ would like to support the position of Syria where Codex texts ought to duly consider the possible negative impacts on countries' exports. Syria indicates that the current proposal of revision of the standard has the potential to impact close to 40% of the country's exports of Virgin Olive oil, which would be threatened to be falsely considered as non-authentic, because of one parameter set in a manner that does not consider the required regional variability.

The situation described by Syria in CRD10 warrants action on the part of the Codex community.

Republic of IRAQ supports the position expressed by Syria and recommends either delaying the adoption of the provisions specific to sterol levels and the amendments associated with the decision-tree on authenticity (Section 3.2.3) – and maintaining this portion of the standard at Step 5, while adopting the rest of the provisions in the revised standard at Step 5/8 ; or consider immediate action on the part of CCFO that should be directed to collecting data related to geographic variability of parameters of authenticity of Olive oil, with particular emphasis on Sterol levels and the applicability of the conditions of the decision tree proposed under footnote c. Such data collection should be tasked as part of the extended scope of the Electronic Working Group which was recommended to be set by CCFO28 and whose scope was currently limited to the levels of PPP and 1,2-DAG. Data collected should be reviewed by CCFO29, with the opportunity to update any relevant provision of footnote c of section 3.2.3 of the standard.

Jordan

Conference Room Documents to Support the Position of the Syrian Arab Republic related to the Standard on Olive Oil (Revised standard on Olive Oil (CXS33-1981)).

The Delegation of Jordan would like to draw attention to the comments submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic, as outlined in Conference Room Document 10 (CRD10), concerning the consideration of adopting the revised Standard for Olive Oil (CXS33-1981).

Jordan fully supports Syria's position, which emphasizes that Codex texts should take into account the potential negative effects on the exports of countries. Syria has highlighted that the current proposal to revise the standard could adversely affect nearly 40% of the country's Virgin Olive Oil exports. This is due to a parameter in the revision that fails to account for necessary regional variations, which could lead to the wrongful classification of Syrian olive oil as non-authentic.

The concerns raised by Syria in CRD10 merit serious consideration and action by the Codex community.

Jordan aligns with Syria's stance and recommends either deferring the adoption of provisions related to sterol levels and the amendments associated with the decision tree on authenticity (Section 3.2.3), thereby keeping this section of the standard at Step 5, while allowing the rest of the revised standard to be adopted at Step 5/8; or alternatively, taking immediate action by directing the CCFO to collect data on the geographic variability of parameters related to the authenticity of olive oil, particularly focusing on sterol levels and the applicability of the decision tree conditions as outlined in footnote c. This data collection should be integrated into the expanded scope of the Electronic Working Group recommended at CCFO28, whose scope is currently limited to PPP and 1,2-DAG levels. The data gathered should be reviewed at CCFO29, with the opportunity to revise any relevant provisions of footnote c in Section 3.2.3 of the standard.

Lebanon

The Delegation of Lebanon wishes to echo the comments submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic in CRD10 concerning the proposed adoption of the revised Standard for Olive Oil (CXS33-1981).

Lebanon supports Syria's position that Codex standards must carefully assess and mitigate any potential adverse impacts on member countries' exports. Syria has highlighted that approximately 40% of its Virgin Olive Oil exports are at risk of being inaccurately classified as non-authentic due to one parameter in the proposed standard. This parameter appears to inadequately reflect the regional variability essential to olive oil authenticity.

In particular, the provisions outlined in **Section 3.2.3**, which underpin the criteria for authenticity, must be grounded in robust, evidence-based data that accounts for geographic variability and be supported by the most

up-to-date body of data. The current data informing these provisions require a more comprehensive and regionally representative analysis.

Therefore, Lebanon strongly supports Syria's request in CRD10 for immediate action by CCFO to gather comprehensive data on geographic variability related to olive oil authenticity parameters, particularly Sterol levels and the applicability of the conditions of the decision tree proposed under footnote c

Lebanon further recommends that this initiative be incorporated into the mandate of the **Electronic Working Group (EWG)** proposed at CCFO28.

It is essential that the EWG prioritizes this task so that CCFO29 can review the collected data and consider updates to footnote (c) of Section 3.2.3, ensuring the standard accurately reflects the diversity and authenticity of olive oils from all regions.

Lebanon remains committed to supporting Codex's work in developing standards that are equitable and inclusive, safeguarding the interests of all member countries while promoting fair trade practices.

Oman

The Delegation of Sultanate of Oman would like to recall the comments introduced by the Syrian Arab Republic documented under Conference Room Document 10 (CRD10), related to the consideration of adoption of the revised Standard of Olive Oil (CXS33-1981).

Sultanate of Oman would like to support the position of Syria where Codex texts ought to duly consider the possible negative impacts on countries' exports. Syria indicates that the current proposal of revision of the standard has the potential to impact close to 40% of the country's exports of Virgin Olive oil, which would be threatened to be falsely considered as non-authentic, because of one parameter set in a manner that does not consider the required regional variability.

The provisions described by Section 3.2.3, which are the focus of the comments by Syria, are important considerations of authenticity criteria. As such, they need to be **evidence based** and supported by **the most up-to-date body of data**.

That is why, Sultanate of Oman supports the request made by Syria under CRD10 and recommends that immediate action be taken by CCFO to collect data related to geographic variability of parameters of authenticity of Olive oil, with particular emphasis **on Sterol levels** and the applicability **of the conditions of the decision tree proposed under footnote c**.

Sultanate of Oman recommends such action starts immediately with the inclusion of this task as part of the scope of the Electronic Working Group which was recommended to be set by CCFO28. It will be important that CCFO29 reviews the data collected, with the opportunity to update any relevant provision of footnote c of section 3.2.3 of the Olive Oil Standard.

Libya

The Delegation of State of Libya would like to recall the comments introduced by the Syrian Arab Republic documented under Conference Room Document 10 (CRD10), related to the consideration of adoption of the revised Standard of Olive Oil (CXS33-1981).

State of Libya would like to support the position of Syria where Codex texts ought to duly consider the possible negative impacts on countries' exports. Syria indicates that the current proposal of revision of the standard has the potential to impact close to 40% of the country's exports of Virgin Olive oil, which would be threatened to be falsely considered as non-authentic, because of one parameter set in a manner that does not consider the required regional variability.

The provisions described by Section 3.2.3, which are the focus of the comments by Syria, are important considerations of authenticity criteria. As such, they need to be **evidence based** and supported by **the most up-to-date body of data**.

That is why, State of Libya supports the request made by Syria under CRD10 and recommends that immediate action be taken by CCFO to collect data related to geographic variability of parameters of authenticity of Olive oil, with particular emphasis **on Sterol levels** and the applicability **of the conditions of the decision tree proposed under footnote c**.

State of Libya recommends such action starts immediately with the inclusion of this task as part of the scope of the Electronic Working Group which was recommended to be set by CCFO28. It will be important that CCFO29 reviews the data collected, with the opportunity to update any relevant provision of footnote c of section 3.2.3 of the Olive Oil Standard.

Sudan

The Delegation of Sudan would like to recall the comments introduced by the Syrian Arab Republic documented under Conference Room Document 10 (CRD10), related to the consideration of adoption of the revised Standard of Olive Oil (CXS33-1981).

Sudan would like to support the position of Syria where Codex texts ought to duly consider the possible negative impacts on countries' exports. Syria indicates that the current proposal of revision of the standard has the potential to impact close to 40% of the country's exports of Virgin Olive oil, which would be threatened to be falsely considered as non-authentic, because of one parameter set in a manner that does not consider the required regional variability.

The provisions described by Section 3.2.3, which are the focus of the comments by Syria, are important considerations of authenticity criteria. As such, they need to be **evidence based** and supported by **the most up-to-date body of data**.

Sudan wishes to support the request made by Syria under CRD10 and recommends that immediate action be taken by CCFO to collect data related to geographic variability of parameters of authenticity of Olive oil, with particular emphasis **on Sterol levels** and the applicability **of the conditions of the decision tree proposed under footnote c**.

Yemen

We support the proposal of the Republic Arab Syrian regarding olive oil.

The Delegation of Yemen would like to recall the comments introduced by the Syrian Arab Republic documented under Conference Room Document 10 (CRD10), related to the consideration of adoption of the revised Standard of Olive Oil (CXS33-1981).

Yemen would like to support the position of Syria where Codex texts ought to duly consider the possible negative impacts on countries' exports. Syria indicates that the current proposal of revision of the standard has the potential to impact close to 40% of the country's exports of Virgin Olive oil, which would be threatened to be falsely considered as non-authentic, because of one parameter set in a manner that does not consider the required regional variability.

The situation described by Syria in CRD10 warrants action on the part of the Codex community. Yemen supports the position expressed by Syria and recommends either delaying the adoption of the provisions specific to sterol levels and the amendments associated with the decision-tree on authenticity (Section 3.2.3) – and maintaining this portion of the standard at Step 5, while adopting the rest of the provisions in the revised standard at Step 5/8 ; or consider immediate action on the part of CCFO that should be directed to collecting data related to geographic variability of parameters of authenticity of Olive oil, with particular emphasis on Sterol levels and the applicability of the conditions of the decision tree proposed under footnote c. Such data collection should be tasked as part of the extended scope of the Electronic Working Group which was recommended to be set by CCFO28 and whose scope was currently limited to the levels of PPP and 1,2-DAG. Data collected should be reviewed by CCFO29, with the opportunity to update any relevant provision of footnote c of section 3.2.3 of the standard.