

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-seventh Session

Geneva, Switzerland, CICG

25-30 November 2024

OTHER BUSINESS (NEW WORK ON A CAMEL MILK)

(Comments from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Mali, Oman, Republic of Iraq, State of Qatar)

Bahrain

The Delegation of Kingdom of Bahrain would like to recall the proposal introduced in CRD03 by the United Arab Emirates in the form of a DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORK ON A CAMEL MILK COMMODITY STANDARD.

We would like to acknowledge the level of engagement deployed by the United Arab Emirates and its partners in the development of this proposal, with several opportunities offered o exchange with representatives of producing countries, as well as key organizations representing the community of Camel milk producers and food scientists specialized in this area.

We would also like to acknowledge the level of informal consultations carried out by the UAE and facilitated by regional coordinators for the Near East, Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean as well Asia.

The discussion paper clearly outlines a problem and an opportunity.

A problem : as Camel Milk products being considered as higher value are being targeted with Fraud activities.

An opportunity: where added guidance to producers based on Codex guidelines would help grow the sector and move it from informal production and trade to a more structured and more income producing environment, with better return on farmers, communities and economies.

The answer may be offered by a Codex standard that addressees both issues.

Kingdom of Bahrain also notes that this new work is listed as part of the contribution to the United Nations Year designation of the 2024 as the International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024) to spotlight the overlooked potential of camelids.

Kingdom of Bahrain supports any effort the Commission would undertake to enable the development of this new work, in line with the current goals of the strategic plan 2020-2025, for Codex to be responsive to its members' needs and to address emerging issues.

The proposal clearly articulates an issue where several Codex members are seeking the intervention of Codex, as the reference food standard setter, to intervene through the elaboration of a standard or update of existing standards that would enable the development of the Camel milk production value chain. This is essential to achieve the goals of the IYC and to ensure that Camelids, through the provision of milk and meat, contribute significantly to the advancement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically those addressing hunger, the elimination of extreme poverty, the empowerment of women, and the sustainable utilization of terrestrial ecosystems.

Kingdom of Bahrain therefore wishes to see the Commission help chart a path forward that enables the progress of this work as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Egypt

Egypt would like to thank the United Arab Emirates to prepare this document, and supports this discussion paper on the development of new work on a camel milk commodity while Developing Codex texts including a possible Codex standard that covers Camel Milk products would align with the increasing interest in Camel

Milk consumption and trade. This is due to the distinct characteristics of Camel Milk products, encompassing interesting and unique compositional attributes when compared to other dairy products, as well as increasingly well documented nutritional benefits, positioning them as one of the most valuable food sources for people residing in arid and semi-arid regions.

In addition of the above, β -lactoglobulin, one of the main milk allergens and a highly prevalent protein found in whey products, is naturally absent from Camel Milk. This feature makes Camel Milk and its products closer to human milk, with a lower allergenic potential, and places such products in high market demand. Such demand for Camel Milk products has been shown to increase outside of the historically known regions that produce and consume these products, i.e., outside of Asia and the Near East, with exports reaching European and North American markets, where it is currently attracting increasing interest.

The unique attributes of Camel Milk products coupled with the increased interest and trade opportunities make these products subject to illicit manufacturing and false representation practices leading to consumer deception and fraud; thus, threatening the integrity of this valuable commodity's supply chain. So, A global standard covering the specificities of Camel Milk products and offering guidance on their conditions of production and characterization that account for the unique attributes of these products while leveraging existing Codex standards on milk and milk products, would contribute to the protection of this important commodity from fraudulent activities when traded internationally.

Egypt also supports the proposal of United Arab Emirates about creating an Electronic Working Group under the auspices of CCMMP with the tasks to:

- Review Current Codex Standards under CCMMP that may be applicable to Camel Milk products and identify areas that should be updated or enhanced.
- Review and make recommendations for updates of other Codex standards developed by horizontal committees with possible implications on Camel Milk Products including:
 - 1- The Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products (CXC 57-2004),
 - 2- Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods (CXG 21-1997),
 - 3- General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods and Feeds (CXS 193- 1995), and
 - 4- General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969)
 - 5- Recommended methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999)
- Develop a new standard for Camel Milk products, where relevant, to account for their specificities with emphasis on the most traded products, such as Camel Milk Powder and other products offering an important development potential, for example: Liquid Pasteurized Camel Milk. The focus should be on developing a standard of authenticity enabling attestation to the legitimacy of products derived from Camel Milk.

Egypt would like to inform you that it is fully prepared to participate in this EWG.

Jordan

The Delegation of Jordan would like to reiterate the proposal introduced in CRD03 by the United Arab Emirates, in the form of a Discussion Paper on the Development of New Work on a Camel Milk Commodity Standard. Jordan was honored to co-author this document and wishes to acknowledge the significant efforts made by the United Arab Emirates and its partners in developing this proposal. These efforts included numerous opportunities for dialogue with representatives from camel milk-producing countries, as well as key organizations representing camel milk producers and food scientists in this field.

We also appreciate the informal consultations conducted by the UAE and facilitated by regional coordinators across the Near East, Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia.

The discussion paper effectively identifies both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is that camel milk products, which are considered high-value, are increasingly targeted by fraudulent activities. The opportunity lies in the potential to provide additional guidance to producers, based on Codex guidelines, which would help transition the sector from informal production and trade to a more structured and profitable industry, yielding greater benefits for farmers, communities, and economies.

A Codex standard could address both of these issues. Furthermore, Jordan recognizes that this new work aligns with the United Nations designation of 2024 as the International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024), which aims to highlight the untapped potential of camelids.

Jordan supports any initiative that the Commission undertakes to facilitate the development of this new work, in line with the goals outlined in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, which emphasizes the need for Codex to remain responsive to the needs of its members and to address emerging issues.

The proposal clearly highlights an issue where several Codex members are seeking Codex's intervention, as the international food standard-setting body, to help develop a standard or update existing standards that will foster the growth of the camel milk production value chain. This is essential for achieving the objectives of IYC 2024 and ensuring that camelids, through their milk and meat, make a significant contribution to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those focused on hunger, the eradication of extreme poverty, the empowerment of women, and the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

Jordan, therefore, encourages the Commission to chart a clear path forward for the efficient and effective advancement of this important work.

Kazakhstan

The Delegation of Kazakhstan would like to recall the proposal introduced in CRD03 by the United Arab Emirates in the form of a DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORK ON A CAMEL MILK COMMODITY STANDARD.

Kazakhstan had to be privilege to be a co-author of this document.

We would like to acknowledge the level of engagement deployed by the United Arab Emirates and its partners in the development of this proposal, with several opportunities offered to exchange with representatives of producing countries, as well as key organizations representing the community of Camel milk producers and food scientists specialized in this area.

We would also like to acknowledge the level of informal consultations carried out by the UAE and facilitated by regional coordinators for the Near East, Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean as well Asia.

The discussion paper clearly outlines a problem and an opportunity.

A problem: as Camel Milk products being considered as higher value are being targeted with Fraud activities.

An opportunity: where added guidance to producers based on Codex guidelines would help grow the sector and move it from informal production and trade to a more structured and more income producing environment, with better return on farmers, communities and economies.

The answer may be offered by a Codex standard that addressees both issues.

Kazakhstan also notes that this new work is listed as part of the contribution to the United Nations Year designation of the 2024 as the International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024) to spotlight the overlooked potential of camelids.

Kazakhstan supports any effort the Commission would undertake to enable the development of this new work, in line with the current goals of the strategic plan 2020-2025, for Codex to be responsive to its members' needs and to address emerging issues.

The proposal clearly articulates an issue where several Codex members are seeking the intervention of Codex, as the reference food standard setter, to intervene through the elaboration of a standard or update of existing standards that would enable the development of the Camel milk production value chain. This is essential to achieve the goals of the IYC and to ensure that Camelids, through the provision of milk and meat, contribute significantly to the advancement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically those addressing hunger, the elimination of extreme poverty, the empowerment of women, and the sustainable utilization of terrestrial ecosystems.

Kazakhstan therefore wishes to see the Commission help chart a path forward that enables the progress of this work as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Mali

La délégation du Mali souhaite rappeler la proposition présentée dans le CRD03 par les Émirats arabes unis sous la forme d'un document de travail sur l'élaboration d'une nouvelle norme relative aux produits à la base de lait de chamelle.

Le Mali était privilégié de corédiger ce document.

Nous tenons à saluer le niveau d'engagement déployé par les Émirats arabes unis et ses partenaires dans l'élaboration de cette proposition, avec plusieurs occasions offertes pour échanger avec des représentants des pays producteurs, ainsi que des organisations clés représentant la communauté des producteurs de lait de chamelle et des scientifiques spécialisés dans ce domaine.

Nous tenons également à souligner le niveau des consultations informelles menées par les Émirats arabes unis et facilitées par les coordonnateurs régionaux pour le Proche-Orient, l'Europe, l'Afrique, l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes ainsi que l'Asie.

Le document de travail présente clairement **un problème et une occasion**.

Un problème : les activités de fraude ciblent les produits du lait de chamelle considérés comme ayant une valeur plus élevée.

Une occasion : où la mise en place d'orientations aux producteurs, fondées sur les lignes directrices du Codex, aiderait à faire croître le secteur et à le faire passer de la production et du commerce informels à un environnement plus structuré et plus productif, avec un meilleur rendement pour les agriculteurs, les collectivités et les économies.

La réponse peut être apportée par une norme du Codex qui s'adresse aux deux questions.

Le Mali note également que ce nouveau travail est inscrit dans la contribution à l'Année des Nations Unies de 2024, désignée comme l'Année internationale des camélidés (AIC 2024), pour mettre en lumière le potentiel négligé des camélidés.

Le Mali appuie tout effort que la Commission entreprendra pour permettre l'élaboration de ce nouveau travail, conformément aux objectifs actuels du plan stratégique 2020-2025, afin que le Codex réponde aux besoins de ses membres et aborde les questions émergentes.

La proposition aborde clairement un problème où plusieurs membres du Codex demandent l'intervention du Codex, en tant que référent pour les normes alimentaires, et cela par l'élaboration d'une norme ou mise à jour des normes existantes qui permettraient le développement de la chaîne de valeur de production du lait de chamelle. Ceci est essentiel pour atteindre les objectifs de l'AIC et pour faire en sorte que les camélidés, en tant que source de lait et de viande, contribuent de manière significative à la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable (ODD), notamment ceux qui concernent la faim, l'élimination de la pauvreté extrême, l'autonomisation des femmes et l'utilisation durable des écosystèmes terrestres.

Le Mali souhaite donc que la Commission aide à tracer une voie qui permette de faire progresser ce travail aussi efficacement que possible.

Libya

The Delegation of State of Libya would like to recall the proposal introduced in CRD03 by the United Arab Emirates in the form of a DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORK ON A CAMEL MILK COMMODITY STANDARD.

We would like to acknowledge the level of engagement deployed by the United Arab Emirates and its partners in the development of this proposal, with several opportunities offered to exchange with representatives of producing countries, as well as key organizations representing the community of Camel milk producers and food scientists specialized in this area.

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The answer may be offered by a Codex standard that addresses both issues.

Libya also notes that this new work is listed as part of the contribution to the United Nations Year designation of the 2024 as the International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024) to spotlight the overlooked potential of camelids.

Libya supports any effort the Commission would undertake to enable the development of this new work, in line with the current goals of the strategic plan 2020-2025, for Codex to be responsive to its members' needs and to address emerging issues.

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hunger, the elimination of extreme poverty, the empowerment of women, and the sustainable utilization of terrestrial ecosystems.

Libya therefore wishes to see the Commission help chart a path forward that enables the progress of this work as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Oman

The Delegation of Sultanate of Oman would like to recall the proposal introduced in CRD03 by the United Arab Emirates in the form of a DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORK ON A CAMEL MILK COMMODITY STANDARD.

Sultanate of Oman had to be privilege to be a co-author of this document.

We would like to acknowledge the level of engagement deployed by the United Arab Emirates and its partners in the development of this proposal, with several opportunities offered to exchange with representatives of producing countries, as well as key organizations representing the community of Camel milk producers and food scientists specialized in this area.

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Sultanate of Oman therefore wishes to see the Commission help chart a path forward that enables the progress of this work as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Republic of Iraq

The Delegation of Republic of IRAQ would like to recall the proposal introduced in CRD03 by the United Arab Emirates in the form of a DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORK ON A CAMEL MILK COMMODITY STANDARD.

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Republic of IRAQ therefore wishes to see the Commission help chart a path forward that enables the progress of this work as efficiently and effectively as possible.

State of Qatar

بشأن مناقشة ورقة شكل في CRD03 في المملكة العربية الإمارات قدمته الذي الاقترحى إل تشير أن قطر دولة تود جدي د عمل تطوير

الإبل حلب سلع مواصفة بشأن

إتاحة مع المقترح، هذا تطوير في وهو شركا المملكة العربية الإمارات دولة أطلقتها التي المشاركة بمسئولية نعترف أن ذود من العديد

وعلماء الإبل حلب من تجي مجتمعت التي الت الرئيسدية المنظمات وكذلك المنفعة، الدول ممثلي مع ل لتبادل الفرص الم تخصص بين الأغذية

ل المجاهدي

المنسقون يسرطوال التي المملكة العربية الإمارات دولة أجرتها التي الرسمية غير المشاورات بمسئولية نوه أن أيضا وذود الإقليميون

أسيا وكذلك الكاريبي البحر ومنطقة اللاتينية وأمريكا وأفريقيا وأوروبا الأذنى ق ل لشر

وفرصة، مشكلة بوضوح المناقشة ورقة ت حدد

ل الإحتيايات أهدافها ي تم أعلى، قيمة ذات تعبر الإبل حلب من تجت لأن نظرا بمشكلة

تنمية على يساعداً أن الغذائي ل ل دستور ال توجهي المبادئ إلى استنادا ل لمتجيبين الإضافي ال توجه شأن من فرصة القطاع

المزارعين على أف ضل عائد مع ل لدخل، إندتاج وأكثرات نظيم أكثر بديئة إلى الرسمية غير وال تجارة الإندتاج من وندقله والمجمعات

والاقتصاد المحلية

المسائل تين كل تاي تناول الذي الغذائي الدستور مواصفة خلال من الإجابة تقديم يمكن

ل لخط الحلية الأهداف مع ي تماش بما الجديد، العمل هذا تطوير ل لتمكي اللجنة ستبذله جهد أي قطر دولة تدعم الاستراتيجيات

الناشئة القضايا ومعالجة أعضائه لاحتياجات الدستور يس تجيب ل كي، 2020 - 2025

لمواصفات واضعاً بعبارة الغذائي، الدستور تدخل إلى الدستور أعضاء من العديد فيها يسعى مسألة المقترح يوضع المرجعية، الأغذية

إندتاج قيمة سلاسل تطوير من تمكن شأنه من التي الحلية المواصفات تحديث أو مواصفة وضع خلال من ل لتدخل الإبل حلب

ممكن قدر بأكبر العمل هذا في تقدم إحرار من يملك، الأمل إلى طريق رسم في تساعداً اللجنة ترى أن قطر دولة تود لذلك الكفاءة

والفعالي

State of Qatar would like to refer to the proposal submitted by the United Arab Emirates in CRD03 in the form of a discussion paper on the development of new work on the prescription of camel milk commodities.

We would like to acknowledge the level of participation launched by the UAE and its partners in the development of this proposal, while providing many opportunities for exchange with representatives of producing countries, as well as key organizations representing the community of camel milk producers and food scientists specializing in this field.

We would also like to note the level of informal consultations conducted by the United Arab Emirates facilitated by the regional coordinators for the Near East, Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Asia.

The discussion paper clearly identifies a problem and opportunity,

Problem: Because camel milk products are considered to be of higher value, they are targeted by fraudulent activities.

Opportunity: Additional product guidance based on the Codex Alimentarius guidelines would help develop the sector and move it from informal production and trade to a more regulated and more productive income environment, with a better return on farmers, local communities and economies.

The answer can be provided through the Codex Specification, which addresses both issues.

The State of Qatar supports any effort that the Committee will make to enable the development of this new work, in line with the current objectives of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, so that the Constitution responds to the needs of its members and addresses emerging issues.

The proposal clearly clarifies an issue in which many members of the Constitution seek to intervene the Codex Alimentarius, as a setter of reference food standards, to intervene by establishing a standard or updating existing standards that would enable the development of the value chain for the production of camel milk.

Therefore, the State of Qatar would like to see the Committee help to chart a way forward that enables progress in this work as efficiently and effectively as possible.