

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda item 9

CX/ASIA 22/22/9 Add.1

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA
Twenty-second Session
Virtual

12, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 21 October 2022

PROPOSED DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR COOKED RICE WRAPPED IN PLANT LEAVES

Comments in reply to CL 2022/54/OCS-ASIA

Comments of Malaysia and Philippines

Background

1. This document compiles comments received through the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) in response to CL 2022/54/OCS – ASIA issued in August 2022. Under the OCS, comments are compiled in the following order: general comments are listed first, followed by comments on specific sections.

Explanatory notes on the appendix

2. The comments submitted through the OCS are hereby attached as **Annex I** and are presented in table format.

Annex I**GENERAL COMMENTS**

COMMENT	MEMBER/OBSERVER
N/A. The Philippines supports the progression of the document at Step 5 with some specific comments.	Philippines

DESCRIPTION

<p>2.1 Product definition</p> <p>Change definition to read as: Cooked Rice Wrapped in Plant Leaves is prepared from rice to which filling(s) such as meat, poultry, eggs, fruits and vegetables, beans, nuts, and their derived products etc. may or may not be added, and then completely wrapped with plant leaves (indocalamus leaves, reed leaves, banana leaves, lotus leaves etc.) used as food contact materials and not for consumption. The product may/ may not be bundled up before steaming or boiling and packaging. This is to improve clarity as the current definition seems to refer to the cooked rice as the filling while section 3.2.1 seems to indicate that the fillings pertain to the optional ingredients stuffed in the cooked rice. Specifying the leaves as “food contact materials and not for consumption” clarifies its purpose as a non-edible wrapping material for the product (s).</p> <p>2.2.2 Commercial sterilized product</p> <p>The Philippines would like to seek clarification regarding the kind of packaging that will be used for the cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves since the product shall meet the requirements of commercial sterility. Commercial sterilization is a physical technique of preserving food that is hermetically packaged in a container and subjected to high temperatures for a time to completely destroy its microorganisms, pathogens or not, and spores.</p> <p>2.3.4 Vacuum packing</p> <p>The Philippines is proposing to add a section on Packaging. Commercial sterilization is a physical technique of preserving food that is hermetically packaged in a container and subjected to high temperatures for a time to completely destroy its microorganisms, pathogens or not, and spores.</p>	Philippines
<p>2.3.2 Cooking</p> <p>The description does not limit the packing to vacuum packing. If the intention is to limit to vacuum pack, it must be stated in the text below the title</p> <p>2.3.4 Vacuum packing</p> <p>The description does not limit the packing to vacuum packing. If the intention is to limit to vacuum pack, it must be stated in the text below the title.</p>	Malaysia

ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

<p>3.1.1 Basic ingredients</p> <p>a) glutinous rice, rice. This standard is for cooked rice. So the only basic ingredient should be rice. This product is unique for Asia, thus, it should restrict base ingredient to rice.</p> <p>3.1.2 Optional ingredients</p> <p>Add “poultry” to optional ingredients. To be consistent with the product definition in 2.1</p>	Philippines
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FOOD ADDITIVES

It is not clear what is certain in this text, it is ambiguous. If there is no specific list, it should be deleted.	Malaysia
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CONTAMINANTS

<p>5.1 The Philippines is proposing to include Pesticides and Heavy metals, in accordance with Codex standard for Rice (CXS 198-1995).</p> <p>5.2 The Philippines is proposing to include Pesticides and Heavy metals, in accordance with Codex standard for Rice (CXS 198-1995).</p>	Philippines
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WEIGHT AND MEASURES

Malaysia does not see a need for this section as net weight already covered under 'Labelling' section.	Malaysia
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