

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 7

CX/FFV 15/19/9

July 2015

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

19<sup>th</sup> Session

Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico, 5 – 9 October 2015

### PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK ON CODEX STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

#### BACKGROUND

1. CCFFV15 (October 2010) agreed to discontinue the maintenance of the Priority List for the Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, noting that the proposals for new work would be continuously be requested by means of a Circular Letter attached to a session report.<sup>1</sup>
2. In addition, CCFFV18 (February 2014) invited those countries, which had submitted late project documents, e.g. Indonesia on shallots, or expressed interest in the development of new standards at this session, e.g. India on date palm, to submit their proposals accompanied by project documents within the deadline requested in the CL 2014/7-FFV on "Proposals for new work on fresh fruits and vegetables" attached to the report of its 18<sup>th</sup> Session for consideration at CCFFV19.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 10/33/35, para 121

<sup>2</sup> REP14/FFV, paras 9, 57

**PROJECT DOCUMENT**  
**PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON A CODEX STANDARD FOR DATE PALM**  
**(Prepared by India)**

**1. Purpose and the scope of the standard**

The scope of the work is to establish a worldwide standard for date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L. which belong to Arecaceae family), which must be supplied fresh to the consumer after proper preparation and packaging. It does not apply to other forms such as pieces or mashed dates or dried or dates intended for industrial purposes.

The objective of the standard is to consider the essential quality characteristics of date palm for fresh consumption to aid international trade.

**2. Relevance and timelines**

Due to the growing trend of worldwide date palm production and trade, it is necessary to establish a standard covering the safety, quality and labelling in order to have a reference that has been internationally agreed by consensus between the main producing and trading countries. The Codex Standard for date palm will help to protect consumers' health and to promote fair trade practices in accordance with the different international agreements.

Date palm is a staple food/fruit adapted to hot arid regions and can be produced easily under unfavourable natural and economic conditions. It is a perennial crop.

**3. Main aspects to be covered**

The standard will include characteristics relating to the size, categories, quality, contaminants, labelling and packaging. The most relevant items, which may be considered, are related to:

- a. Establish the minimum requirements of dates, which shall be complied with, independently from the quality class.
- b. Define the quality categories to classify dates in accordance with its characteristics.
- c. Consider the sizing classes to commercialize dates depending on its weight, width, length and shape.
- d. Establish the tolerance as regards quality and size that may be permitted in dates contained in a package.
- e. Include the provisions relating to uniformity of the packaged product and the package used.
- f. Include provisions for the labeling and marking in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods*.
- g. Include provisions for contaminants with reference to the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed*.
- h. Include provisions for hygiene and handling with reference to the General Principles of Food Hygiene and other relevant codes of hygiene practice.

**4. Assessment against the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities***

**General criterion:**

Dates come in different varieties, shape and size. Therefore, trading of dates is done according to its quality (fruit size, shape, colour and texture), varieties and size. Developing an international standard for dates will protect consumers from fraudulent practices while facilitating international trade. The drafting of a standard would thus benefit consumers and the major producing / exporting countries.

**Criteria applicable to commodities:**

**(a) Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries**

The main producer countries are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq and Algeria. There is a considerable export of Dates to European Community, India, North America, Australia and Russia etc, as these countries consume significantly. Most of the commercially important varieties are from the Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq and Egypt.

According to the FAOSTAT, the world production of dates is reported to be 7460195.00 Tonnes during the year 2012. It is grown mainly in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Algeria and Pakistan etc. Largest area and production is in Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan followed by Morocco, UAE, and Egypt.

According to FAOSTAT in 2013, worldwide production totalled 7627624.40 Tonnes, with Egypt accounting for 19.7% (or 1501799 Tonnes) share of production, Iran 14.2% (1083720 Tonnes), Saudi Arabia 14% (1065032 Tonnes) and Algeria 11% (848199 Tonnes).

<b>World Production of Dates (Tonnes)</b>				
<b>Country</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>1012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Albania	10921.00	11586.00	12935.00	10488.00
Algeria	644741.00	724894.00	789357.00	848199.00
Bahrain	14156.00	14591.00	15000.00	15041.00
Benin	1260.00	1286.00	1300.00	1320.00
Cameroon	450.00	559.00	600.00	630.00
Chad	19400.00	19500.00	20000.00	20000.00
China	140000.00	150000.00	140000.00	150000.00
China, mainland	140000.00	150000.00	140000.00	150000.00
Colombia	30.00	30.00	12.00	12.00
Djibouti	87.00	86.00	86.00	86.00
Egypt	1352954.00	137357.00	1470000.00	1501799.00
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1023126.00	1053870.00	1066000.00	1083720
Iraq	567668.00	619182.00	655450.00	676111.00
Israel	30618.00	37008.00	42866.00	45195.00
Jordan	11241.00	11213.00	10417.00	11981.00
Kenya	1216.00	1068.00	1100.00	1100.00
Kuwait	32561.00	33562.00	34600.00	36978.00
Libya	161000.00	165948.00	170000.00	17040.00
Mauritania	21000.00	21438.00	22000.00	18857.00
Mexico	4150.00	6811.00	6012.00	6828.00
Morocco	101351.00	102961.00	101862.00	107611.00
Namibia	375.00	380.00	400.00	372.00
Niger	39684.00	16444.00	17000.00	22154.00
Palestine	3400.00	3500.00	3600.00	3601.00
Oman	276405.00	268011.00	270000.00	269000.00
Pakistan	524041.00	557279.00	524612.00	526749.00
Peru	337.00	379.00	168.00	230.40
Qatar	21491.00	20696.00	21843.00	22100.00
Saudi Arabia	991546.00	1008105.00	1050000.00	1065032.00
Somalia	12935.00	12713.00	13000.00	13000.00
Spain	4002.00	3741.00	4000.00	4000.00
Sudan	431000.00	432100.00	433500.00	437835.00
Swaziland	300.00	320.00	330.00	319.00
Syrian Arab Republic	4373.00	4013.00	3986.00	4039.00
Tunisia	174000.00	180000.00	193000.00	195000.00
Turkey	26277.00	28295.00	31765.00	33232.00
United Arab Emirates	825300.00	239164.00	250000.00	245000.00
United States of America	26308.00	30028.00	28213.00	21768.00
Yemen	57849.00	55828.00	55181.00	54197.00
<b>World</b>	<b>7557553.00</b>	<b>7210159.00</b>	<b>7460195.00</b>	<b>7627624.40</b>
<b>Africa</b>	<b>2961753.00</b>	<b>3053267.00</b>	<b>3233535.00</b>	<b>3342322.00</b>
East Africa	14238.00	13867.00	14186.00	14186.00
Middle Africa	19850.00	20059.00	20600.00	20630.00
Northern Africa	2865046.00	2979473.00	3157719.00	3264484.00
Southern Africa	675.00	700.00	730.00	691.00
Western Africa	61944.00	39168.00	40300.00	42331.00
<b>America</b>	<b>30825.00</b>	<b>37248.00</b>	<b>34405.00</b>	<b>28838.40</b>
Northern America	26308.00	30028.00	28213.00	21768.00
Central America	4150.00	6811.00	6012.00	6828.00
South America	367.00	409.00	180.00	242.00
<b>Asia</b>	<b>4550052.00</b>	<b>4104317.00</b>	<b>4175320.00</b>	<b>4241976.00</b>
Eastern Asia	140000.00	150000.00	140000.00	150000.00
Southern Asia	1547167.00	1611149.00	1590612.00	1610469.00
Western Asia	2862885.00	2343168.00	2444708.00	2481507.00
<b>Europe</b>	<b>14923.00</b>	<b>15327.00</b>	<b>16935.00</b>	<b>14488.00</b>
Southern Europe	14923.00	15327.00	16935.00	14488.00
European Union	4002.00	3741.00	4000.00	4000.00

World Production of Dates (Tonnes)				
Country	2010	2011	1012	2013
Least Developed Countries	583215.00	559395.00	562067.00	567449.00
Land Locked Developing Countries	59384.00	36264.00	37330.00	42473.00
Low Income Food Deficit Countries	584881.00	561022.00	563767.00	569179.00
Net Food Importing Developing Countries	2749030.00	2786565.00	2863956.00	2912610.40

Source: As provided by FAOSTAT- 2015 (<http://faostat3.fao.org/download/Q/QC/E>)

International Trade Statistics						
HS Code: Dates, fresh/chilled'						
Qty In MT, Value in (1000 US\$)						
Exporting Country	2009		2010		2011	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Albania	18.00	9.00	21.00	5.00	58.00	21.00
Algeria	12000.00	12000.00	10393.00	16930.00	28143.00	25374.00
Australia	66.00	174.00	106.00	310.00	138.00	335.00
Austria	533.00	1600.00	825.00	2994.00	582.00	2200.00
Azerbaijan	0	0	2.00	3.00	10.00	8.00
Bahrain	8.00	139.00	18.00	57.00	1.00	3.00
Belarus	3.00	4.00	2.00	3.00	14.00	20.00
Belgium	821.00	3694.00	1425.00	5392.00	1063.00	4842.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9.00	27.00	25.00	72.00	9.00	31.00
Brunei Darussalam	15.00	12.00	15.00	12.00	15.00	12.00
Bulgaria	14.00	14.00	1.00	1.00	0	0
Cameroon	1.00	1.00	0	0	0	0
Canada	268.00	428.00	92.00	230.00	261.00	475.00
Chile	2.00	5.00	10.00	36.00	1.00	3.00
China	520.00	1182.00	643.00	1456.00	868.00	2080.00
China ex.int	409.00	1023.00	471.00	1174.00	486.00	1393.00
China, Hong Kong SAR	357.00	883.00	406.00	968.00	628.00	1535.00
China, mainland	0	0	0	0	15.00	26.00
China, Taiwan Province of	163.00	299.00	237.00	488.00	225.00	519.00
Costa Rica	8367.00	3854.00	23.00	6.00	44.00	26.00
Czech Republic	89.00	233.00	121.00	307.00	115.00	306.00
Denmark	122.00	616.00	190.00	871.00	231.00	1319.00
Djibouti	191.00	76.00	191.00	76.00	75.00	121.00
Ecuador	7.00	74.00	0	0	0	0
Egypt	14659.00	17535.00	19562.00	18529.00	23792.00	28211.00
EU(12)ex.int	5166.00	14838.00	5206.00	16618.00	6227.00	20242.00
EU(15)ex.int	3181.00	8507.00	3201.00	10245.00	4416.00	13719.00
EU(25)ex.int	2011.00	7177.00	2477.00	9188.00	2730.00	10851.00
EU(27)ex.int	1972.00	7045.00	2409.00	9000.00	2691.00	10676.00
Finland	1.00	4.00	2.00	7.00	2.00	11.00
France	11310.00	27061.00	11514.00	32112.00	11322.00	33083.00
Germany	2274.00	7550.00	2186.00	7087.00	2282.00	8844.00
Greece	39.00	136.00	48.00	121.00	22.00	68.00

International Trade Statistics						
HS Code: Dates, fresh/chilled'						
Qty In MT, Value in (1000 US\$)						
Exporting Country	2009		2010		2011	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Guatemala	0	0	24.00	20.00	110.00	42.00
Honduras	15.00	1.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	0
Hungary	24.00	45.00	17.00	36.00	6.00	19.00
India	1769.00	1792.00	3515.00	6494.00	627.00	1134.00
Indonesia	14.00	24.00	8.00	17.00	1.00	2.00
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	68837.00	55819.00	106760.00	134001.00	112030.00	160251.00
Iraq	183701.00	46886.00	120123.00	35913.00	138437.00	46851.00
Ireland	21.00	32.00	6.00	14.00	4.00	10.00
Israel	12427.00	59169.00	12676.00	63381.00	14610.00	85869.00
Italy	1327.00	7788.00	1802.00	11225.00	805.00	4924.00
Jordan	1935.00	3166.00	2603.00	4388.00	3228.00	6158.00
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	719.00	684.00
Kenya	10.00	6.00	4.00	8.00	4.00	149.00
Kuwait	88.00	101.00	74.00	47.00	115.00	51.00
Latvia	80.00	151.00	116.00	249.00	384.00	726.00
Lebanon	115.00	346.00	187.00	600.00	396.00	1180.00
Libya	13.00	52.00	32.00	56.00	0	56.00
Lithuania	386.00	1169.00	549.00	2120.00	659.00	3249.00
Luxembourg	1.00	12.00	2.00	17.00	2.00	13.00
Malaysia	2869.00	2899.00	4268.00	3539.00	3906.00	3721.00
Mali	52.00	5.00	52.00	15.00	300.00	27.00
Mauritius	1.00	3.00	0	0	1.00	3.00
Mexico	2545.00	5158.00	1680.00	3590.00	1694.00	4597.00
Morocco	3.00	7.00	11.00	15.00	31.00	135.00
Namibia	77.00	310.00	83.00	313.00	77.00	320.00
Nepal	4.00	0	8.00	7.00	11.00	5.00
Netherlands	2227.00	9263.00	2813.00	9780.00	3438.00	12450.00
New Zealand	15.00	15.00	31.00	47.00	47.00	73.00
Niger	1123.00	241.00	6730.00	1262.00	5404.00	1063.00
Norway	2.00	10.00	0	0	0	0
Palestine	136.00	717.00	216.00	1094.00	278.00	1627.00
Oman	7333.00	5874.00	6782.00	6960.00	7171.00	9013.00
Pakistan	111715.00	42716.00	121681.00	48690.00	113358.00	64081.00
Poland	25.00	73.00	16.00	43.00	41.00	116.00
Portugal	15.00	83.00	20.00	111.00	14.00	85.00
Qatar	446.00	1466.00	112.00	105.00	3186.00	1613.00
Romania	1.00	2.00	14.00	28.00	36.00	45.00
Russian Federation	98.00	124.00	124.00	53.00	4.00	4.00
Saudi Arabia	1593.00	1650.00	73362.00	78126.00	77795.00	86293.00
Senegal	0	0	19.00	15.00	29.00	15.00
Singapore	593.00	1490.00	318.00	1132.00	338.00	1328.00

International Trade Statistics						
HS Code: Dates, fresh/chilled'						
Qty In MT, Value in (1000 US\$)						
Exporting Country	2009		2010		2011	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Slovakia	199.00	704.00	197.00	610.00	327.00	1148.00
Slovenia	148.00	930.00	120.00	820.00	253.00	1728.00
Somalia	631.00	3862.00	878.00	5060.00	1095.00	5588.00
Spain	734.00	1973.00	668.00	2028.00	639.00	2157.00
Sri Lanka	3.00	11.00	1.00	1.00	4.00	10.00
Sudan	7.00	7.00	30.00	13.00	10.00	4.00
Swaziland	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00
Sweden	174.00	709.00	149.00	528.00	312.00	1133.00
Switzerland	28.00	174.00	71.00	311.00	12.00	97.00
Syrian Arab Republic	3293.00	1467.00	868.00	416.00	1040.00	614.00
Thailand	33.00	31.00	109.00	72.00	91.00	124.00
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	9.00	6.00	54.00	44.00	25.00	19.00
Trinidad and Tobago	3.00	56.00	5.00	12.00	0	12.00
Tunisia	77254.00	176280.00	84282.00	200091.00	86910.00	211451.00
Turkey	1577.00	2104.00	2429.00	3881.00	2747.00	4334.00
Ukraine	12.00	33.00	7.00	19.00	7.00	24.00
United Arab Emirates	56240.00	32330.00	50068.00	33282.00	51214.00	31001.00
United Kingdom	1045.00	2818.00	974.00	2475.00	1080.00	3082.00
United Republic of Tanzania	1.00	3.00	1.00	4.00	1.00	1.00
United States of America	3777.00	22304.00	4385.00	25339.00	5628.00	33436.00
Yemen	609.00	425.00	609.00	425.00	592.00	770.00
<b>World</b>	<b>598755.00</b>	<b>571343.00</b>	<b>660133.00</b>	<b>775596.00</b>	<b>710394.00</b>	<b>902201.00</b>
Africa	106025.00	210391.00	122286.00	242400.00	145893.00	272532.00
Eastern Africa	203.00	88.00	212.00	100.00	97.00	286.00
Middle Africa	1.00	1.00	0	0	0	0
Northern Africa	103936.00	205881.00	114310.00	235634.00	138886.00	265231.00
Southern Africa	710.00	4173.00	963.00	5374.00	1174.00	5910.00
Western Africa	1175.00	248.00	6801.00	1292.00	5736.00	1105.00
Americas	14985.00	31882.00	6241.00	29257.00	7765.00	38598.00
Northern America	4045.00	22732.00	4477.00	25569.00	5889.00	33911.00
Central America	10927.00	9014.00	1749.00	3636.00	1870.00	4665.00
Caribbean	3.00	56.00	5.00	12.00	0	12.00
South America	10.00	80.00	10.00	40.00	6.00	10.00
Asia	455875.00	261816.00	507455.00	424099.00	532808.00	508889.00
Central Asia	2.00	0	0	0	719.00	684.00
Eastern Asia	520.00	1182.00	643.00	1456.00	868.00	2086.00
Southern Asia	182328.00	100338.00	231965.00	189193.00	226030.00	225481.00
South-Eastern Asia	3524.00	4456.00	4718.00	4772.00	4351.00	5187.00
Western Asia	269501.00	155840.00	270129.00	228678.00	300840.00	275451.00
Europe	21789.00	67051.00	24014.00	79483.00	23746.00	81774.00
Eastern Europe	465.00	1232.00	434.00	1100.00	548.00	1682.00

International Trade Statistics						
HS Code: Dates, fresh/chilled'						
Qty In MT, Value in (1000 US\$)						
Exporting Country	2009		2010		2011	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Northern Europe	1831.00	5512.00	1986.00	6264.00	2672.00	9530.00
Southern Europe	2299.00	10953.00	2758.00	14426.00	1825.00	9033.00
Western Europe	17194.00	49354.00	18836.00	57693.00	18701.00	61529.00
Oceania	81.00	203.00	137.00	357.00	182.00	408.00
Australia & New Zealand	81.00	203.00	137.00	357.00	182.00	408.00
European Union	21610.00	66661.00	23775.00	78976.00	23639.00	81624.00
Least Developed Countries	1987.00	759.00	7656.00	1829.00	6438.00	2018.00
Land Locked Developing Countries	1192.00	253.00	6848.00	1332.00	6471.00	1808.00
Small Island Developing States	598.00	1549.00	323.00	1144.00	339.00	1343.00
Low Income Food Deficit Countries	202161.00	67015.00	150891.00	62810.00	169328.00	78375.00
Net Food Importing Developing Countries	207664.00	240852.00	235912.00	273897.00	233870.00	312550.00

Source: As provided by FAOSTAT- 2015 (<http://faostat3.fao.org/download/T/TP/E>)

International Trade Statistics						
HS Code:'070930 Dates fresh/chilled'						
Qty (Tonnes), Value (1000 US\$)						
Importing Country	2009		2010		2011	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Afghanistan	1188.00	800.00	0	0	6037.00	6824.00
Albania	7.00	15.00	22.00	39.00	16.00	19.00
Algeria	3.00	1.00	50.00	88.00	2.00	1.00
Angola	9.00	46.00	6.00	40.00	34.00	123.00
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	0	6.00	16.00
Argentina	107.00	158.00	168.00	323.00	102.00	193.00
Armenia	470.00	428.00	599.00	646.00	715.00	825.00
Aruba	3.00	3.00	6.00	34.00	8.00	59.00
Australia	4610.00	8376.00	6334.00	13063.00	6776.00	16278.00
Austria	1633.00	5394.00	2056.00	6804.00	1851.00	6865.00
Azerbaijan	312.00	151.00	452.00	215.00	264.00	220.00
Bahamas	4.00	18.00	4.00	18.00	4.00	18.00
Bahrain	677.00	945.00	591.00	1117.00	985.00	1167.00
Bangladesh	1516.00	948.00	1528.00	946.00	619.00	542.00
Barbados	12.00	26.00	17.00	35.00	24.00	52.00
Belarus	482.00	498.00	448.00	588.00	420.00	561.00
Belgium	2257.00	7594.00	2062.00	6457.00	3013.00	8436.00
Belize	1.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	3.00
Benin	7.00	5.00	10.00	7.00	2.00	8.00
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0	0	3.00	6.00	0	1.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	163.00	332.00	224.00	384.00	246.00	465.00
Botswana	10.00	30.00	14.00	58.00	49.00	76.00
Brazil	514.00	1209.00	631.00	1588.00	821.00	2588.00
Brunei Darussalam	56.00	200.00	48.00	209.00	35.00	196.00
Bulgaria	367.00	255.00	359.00	256.00	424.00	335.00

International Trade Statistics						
HS Code:'070930 Dates fresh/chilled'						
Qty (Tonnes), Value (1000 US\$)						
Importing Country	2009		2010		2011	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Burkina Faso	214.00	418.00	389.00	339.00	611.00	417.00
Burundi	26.00	5.00	0	1.00	0	0
Cabo Verde	12.00	42.00	25.00	67.00	9.00	45.00
Cambodia	77.00	142.00	44.00	40.00	14.00	26.00
Cameroon	3.00	7.00	96.00	264.00	103.00	309.00
Canada	7577.00	17732.00	9373.00	24392.00	9208.00	26578.00
Chad	65.00	48.00	1.00	9.00	25.00	96.00
Chile	11.00	34.00	30.00	70.00	45.00	73.00
China	11124.00	7484.00	15361.00	8268.00	26923.00	11796.00
China ex.int	4497.00	1113.00	8064.00	2140.00	20576.00	5300.00
China, Hong Kong SAR	1613.00	1738.00	2983.00	2134.00	2770.00	3100.00
China, Macao SAR	105.00	85.00	156.00	182.00	0	0
China, mainland	4435.00	919.00	7949.00	1814.00	20344.00	4850.00
China, Taiwan Province of	4971.00	4742.00	4273.00	4138.00	3809.00	3846.00
Colombia	15.00	34.00	14.00	29.00	40.00	212.00
Comoros	10.00	17.00	24.00	50.00	24.00	50.00
Congo	16.00	18.00	22.00	29.00	1.00	3.00
Cook Islands	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	3.00
Costa Rica	13.00	43.00	14.00	50.00	23.00	84.00
Côte d'Ivoire	107.00	274.00	87.00	294.00	315.00	752.00
Croatia	96.00	271.00	99.00	273.00	95.00	271.00
Cuba	0	0	1.00	3.00	1.00	3.00
Cyprus	239.00	590.00	256.00	563.00	237.00	710.00
Czech Republic	649.00	1013.00	765.00	1502.00	873.00	1669.00
Democratic Republic of the Congo	13.00	20.00	2.00	24.00	1.00	9.00
Denmark	2811.00	7336.00	2497.00	6676.00	3181.00	7201.00
Djibouti	463.00	274.00	463.00	274.00	463.00	274.00
Dominican Republic	1.00	7.00	6.00	35.00	9.00	47.00
Ecuador	1.00	4.00	0	2.00	25.00	64.00
Egypt	1972.00	3091.00	1972.00	3091.00	5327.00	3732.00
El Salvador	8.00	15.00	92.00	35.00	262.00	68.00
Estonia	53.00	111.00	76.00	167.00	55.00	162.00
Ethiopia	1015.00	681.00	3534.00	1459.00	1144.00	954.00
EU(12)ex.int	62517.00	168761.00	65776.00	177905.00	67061.00	183954.00
EU(15)ex.int	64247.00	171589.00	68026.00	182416.00	69413.00	189563.00
EU(25)ex.int	66893.00	175358.00	70556.00	186744.00	72152.00	194572.00
EU(27)ex.int	67771.00	176264.00	71486.00	187779.00	73189.00	195497.00
Faroe Islands	27.00	115.00	11.00	66.00	13.00	82.00
Fiji	69.00	109.00	74.00	150.00	95.00	174.00
Finland	438.00	1353.00	421.00	1514.00	494.00	1760.00
France	24129.00	63236.00	28171.00	72011.00	25934.00	69203.00



International Trade Statistics						
HS Code:'070930 Dates fresh/chilled'						
Qty (Tonnes), Value (1000 US\$)						
Importing Country	2009		2010		2011	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
French Polynesia	8.00	42.00	8.00	47.00	8.00	37.00
Gabon	11.00	37.00	16.00	40.00	6.00	22.00
Gambia	62.00	26.00	98.00	24.00	162.00	29.00
Georgia	180.00	124.00	187.00	205.00	245.00	300.00
Germany	10660.00	30412.00	9539.00	27438.00	11690.00	34047.00
Ghana	13.00	42.00	37.00	36.00	49.00	86.00
Greece	791.00	2082.00	493.00	1404.00	625.00	1982.00
Grenada	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00
Guatemala	51.00	38.00	34.00	35.00	52.00	52.00
Guinea	120.00	80.00	120.00	80.00	120.00	80.00
Guyana	1.00	5.00	5.00	15.00	3.00	12.00
Honduras	5.00	17.00	31.00	46.00	26.00	59.00
Hungary	444.00	582.00	505.00	721.00	432.00	599.00
Iceland	124.00	409.00	155.00	503.00	215.00	808.00
India	298423.00	99059.00	193467.00	95042.00	256295.00	141713.00
Indonesia	16436.00	16263.00	16986.00	18097.00	20142.00	20546.00
Ireland	202.00	698.00	193.00	653.00	206.00	849.00
Israel	69.00	56.00	47.00	43.00	78.00	67.00
Italy	8266.00	28086.00	8980.00	30261.00	7576.00	24754.00
Jamaica	3.00	17.00	5.00	22.00	1.00	7.00
Japan	892.00	1015.00	1108.00	1299.00	1736.00	2190.00
Jordan	9760.00	10745.00	8048.00	10400.00	9608.00	12355.00
Kazakhstan	2032.00	1244.00	2695.00	2516.00	3178.00	2770.00
Kenya	2026.00	787.00	1688.00	650.00	1688.00	650.00
Kuwait	273.00	654.00	398.00	618.00	282.00	500.00
Kyrgyzstan	140.00	70.00	73.00	37.00	77.00	82.00
Latvia	277.00	372.00	292.00	591.00	711.00	1118.00
Lebanon	6314.00	7224.00	6373.00	9724.00	6930.00	9068.00
Libya	1710.00	2116.00	2228.00	2392.00	1014.00	1581.00
Lithuania	623.00	1442.00	837.00	2720.00	996.00	3775.00
Luxembourg	29.00	242.00	47.00	259.00	40.00	236.00
Madagascar	42.00	31.00	6.00	14.00	9.00	18.00
Malawi	27.00	118.00	118.00	163.00	34.00	27.00
Malaysia	15810.00	27105.00	17980.00	36120.00	16236.00	34408.00
Maldives	420.00	850.00	383.00	566.00	326.00	533.00
Mali	500.00	900.00	500.00	900.00	156.00	199.00
Malta	134.00	205.00	89.00	134.00	190.00	343.00
Mauritania	882.00	2051.00	2820.00	1327.00	3646.00	1217.00
Mauritius	230.00	478.00	209.00	506.00	216.00	414.00
Mexico	446.00	842.00	243.00	446.00	357.00	735.00
Mongolia	1.00	4.00	3.00	11.00	3.00	11.00

International Trade Statistics						
HS Code:'070930 Dates fresh/chilled'						
Qty (Tonnes), Value (1000 US\$)						
Importing Country	2009		2010		2011	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Montenegro	47.00	49.00	31.00	34.00	37.00	48.00
Morocco	50479.00	64673.00	51449.00	77894.00	33140.00	75208.00
Myanmar	2.00	1.00	0	1.00	0	1.00
Namibia	2.00	11.00	0	2.00	0	0
Nepal	1323.00	467.00	1726.00	672.00	1812.00	1011.00
Netherlands	3926.00	14710.00	4130.00	16388.00	4511.00	16532.00
New Caledonia	10.00	77.00	11.00	69.00	12.00	72.00
New Zealand	1390.00	2295.00	1573.00	2870.00	1518.00	2692.00
Nicaragua	1.00	3.00	1.00	6.00	2.00	9.00
Niger	10624.00	1234.00	11583.00	1479.00	18977.00	2130.00
Nigeria	0	0	6.00	31.00	5183.00	1131.00
Norway	482.00	2122.00	573.00	2620.00	769.00	3286.00
Palestine	475.00	428.00	405.00	361.00	455.00	405.00
Oman	11747.00	10775.00	11512.00	10042.00	8899.00	8332.00
Pakistan	9872.00	3459.00	2330.00	1070.00	13206.00	7000.00
Panama	33.00	83.00	12.00	87.00	39.00	118.00
Paraguay	3.00	1.00	1.00	9.00	3.00	10.00
Peru	2.00	2.00	2.00	4.00	2.00	7.00
Philippines	43.00	76.00	91.00	35.00	54.00	44.00
Poland	1142.00	1470.00	1035.00	1805.00	1102.00	1896.00
Portugal	277.00	927.00	306.00	1055.00	374.00	1103.00
Qatar	2713.00	4719.00	3468.00	6570.00	307.00	6570.00
Republic of Korea	35.00	24.00	24.00	74.00	56.00	71.00
Republic of Moldova	93.00	133.00	45.00	72.00	64.00	122.00
Romania	567.00	801.00	738.00	1046.00	735.00	940.00
Russian Federation	16190.00	21271.00	20814.00	29166.00	19814.00	27596.00
Rwanda	9.00	2.00	7.00	2.00	0	0
Saint Lucia	2.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	2.00	4.00
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00
Saudi Arabia	876.00	2223.00	4053.00	1933.00	2998.00	1742.00
Senegal	1374.00	2217.00	1581.00	2219.00	1370.00	2339.00
Serbia	94.00	146.00	123.00	179.00	150.00	241.00
Seychelles	2.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	4.00
Sierra Leone	87.00	2.00	87.00	2.00	87.00	2.00
Singapore	1715.00	3796.00	1716.00	4426.00	1398.00	4070.00
Slovakia	339.00	795.00	401.00	1160.00	947.00	3189.00
Slovenia	283.00	1511.00	263.00	1394.00	431.00	2175.00
Somalia	763.00	1275.00	4.00	8.00	952.00	2177.00
South Africa	1456.00	1548.00	1462.00	2431.00	1375.00	2278.00
Spain	7119.00	20935.00	7115.00	22272.00	5848.00	18698.00
Sri Lanka	5523.00	1229.00	6201.00	1453.00	8386.00	2096.00

International Trade Statistics						
HS Code:'070930 Dates fresh/chilled'						
Qty (Tonnes), Value (1000 US\$)						
Importing Country	2009		2010		2011	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Sudan	53.00	93.00	25.00	73.00	27.00	37.00
Swaziland	20.00	91.00	20.00	91.00	20.00	91.00
Sweden	1793.00	3922.00	2178.00	5167.00	2337.00	5884.00
Switzerland	1891.00	10194.00	2049.00	10332.00	2127.00	13217.00
Syrian Arab Republic	24518.00	8217.00	17343.00	7947.00	999.00	1480.00
Thailand	178.00	372.00	231.00	521.00	212.00	442.00
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	188.00	170.00	454.00	350.00	342.00	335.00
Togo	13.00	3.00	59.00	10.00	12.00	5.00
Trinidad and Tobago	60.00	110.00	53.00	111.00	36.00	342.00
Tunisia	61.00	136.00	493.00	1218.00	164.00	400.00
Turkey	10398.00	9592.00	13158.00	13158.00	15399.00	14836.00
Uganda	49.00	42.00	30.00	15.00	57.00	26.00
Ukraine	1838.00	1766.00	2420.00	2646.00	3351.00	3502.00
United Arab Emirates	4457.00	5836.00	25421.00	27490.00	4866.00	7657.00
United Kingdom	12781.00	29480.00	12827.00	33248.00	13985.00	35553.00
United Republic of Tanzania	1447.00	543.00	1593.00	699.00	3448.00	1652.00
United States of America	15835.00	18682.00	11811.00	18503.00	21398.00	30360.00
Uruguay	18.00	35.00	37.00	83.00	19.00	60.00
Uzbekistan	200.00	135.00	140.00	120.00	140.00	120.00
Vanuatu	1.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	120.00	277.00	69.00	57.00	0	0
Vietnam	63.00	66.00	97.00	133.00	70.00	121.00
Yemen	23935.00	11167.00	23935.00	11167.00	30364.00	14071.00
Zambia	103.00	188.00	33.00	80.00	11.00	45.00
Zimbabwe	2.00	4.00	6.00	24.00	11.00	20.00
<b>World</b>	<b>675244.00</b>	<b>635179.00</b>	<b>605889.00</b>	<b>724947.00</b>	<b>677785.00</b>	<b>796501.00</b>
Africa	76112.00	83711.00	82896.00	98506.00	80045.00	98717.00
Eastern Africa	6214.00	4448.00	7638.00	3947.00	8058.00	6311.00
Middle Africa	117.00	178.00	143.00	406.00	170.00	562.00
Northern Africa	54278.00	70111.00	56217.00	84756.00	39674.00	80959.00
Southern Africa	1488.00	1680.00	1496.00	2582.00	1444.00	2445.00
Western Africa	14015.00	7294.00	17402.00	6815.00	30699.00	8440.00
Americas	24849.00	39427.00	22670.00	46057.00	32523.00	61748.00
Northern America	23412.00	36414.00	21184.00	42895.00	30606.00	56938.00
Central America	558.00	1045.00	430.00	709.00	764.00	1128.00
Caribbean	87.00	209.00	96.00	267.00	93.00	553.00
South America	792.00	1759.00	960.00	2186.00	1060.00	3129.00
Asia	464482.00	238683.00	378478.00	273824.00	440586.00	316918.00
Central Asia	2372.00	1449.00	2908.00	2673.00	3395.00	2972.00
Eastern Asia	12052.00	8527.00	16496.00	9652.00	28718.00	14068.00
Southern Asia	318265.00	106812.00	205635.00	99749.00	286681.00	159719.00

International Trade Statistics						
HS Code:'070930 Dates fresh/chilled'						
Qty (Tonnes), Value (1000 US\$)						
Importing Country	2009		2010		2011	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
South-Eastern Asia	34380.00	48021.00	37193.00	59582.00	38161.00	59854.00
Western Asia	97413.00	73874.00	116246.00	102168.00	83631.00	80305.00
Europe	103712.00	262455.00	113843.00	290355.00	116220.00	299857.00
Eastern Europe	22111.00	28584.00	27530.00	38962.00	28162.00	40409.00
Northern Europe	19611.00	19611.00	20060.00	53925.00	22962.00	60478.00
Southern Europe	17465.00	54729.00	18199.00	57779.00	15930.00	50434.00
Western Europe	44525.00	131782.00	48054.00	139689.00	49166.00	148536.00
Oceania	6089.00	10903.00	8002.00	16205.00	8411.00	19261.00
Australia & New Zealand	6000.00	10671.00	7907.00	15933.00	8294.00	18970.00
Melanesia	80.00	189.00	86.00	221.00	108.00	250.00
Polynesia	9.00	43.00	9.00	51.00	9.00	41.00
European Union	82325.00	225825.00	86730.00	243939.00	88893.00	250285.00
Least Developed Countries	46019.00	23849.00	50249.00	22126.00	70219.00	34393.00
Land Locked Developing Countries	18614.00	7366.00	22348.00	9274.00	33730.00	16412.00
Small Island Developing States	2567.00	5636.00	2557.00	6175.00	2190.00	5975.00
Low Income Food Deficit Countries	370918.00	144878.00	271149.00	141349.00	367986.00	205630.00
Net Food Importing Developing Countries	126728.00	110223.00	123442.00	119827.00	143044.00	138343.00

Source: As provided by FAOSTAT- 2015 (<http://faostat3.fao.org/download/T/TP/E>)

**(b) Diversification of national legislation and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade:**

As mentioned above, dates are traded according to varieties and size. The size of dates varies largely ranging from round, oval, oblong or cylindrical in shape, depending on cultivar. Dates may be designated as to size in accordance to unpitted and pitted dates. The standards for dates include three sizes based on the number of dates per 500 gm: small (>110 dates without seed or >90 dates with seed), medium (90-110 dates without seeds or 80-90 dates with seeds) and large (<90 dates without seeds or <80 dates with seeds). Currently no country has national legislations (quality and grading standards) for dates. ISO does not have standard for dates whereas the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) does. This new work will provide guidance, which countries could use to develop their own quality and grading standards for dates and, when applied internationally, may assist in providing a harmonized approach.

**(c) International or regional market potential**

The import of dates by most countries is increasing. The trade can be enhanced by developing quality and grading standards for dates.

**(d) Amenability of the commodity to standardization**

The characteristics of dates from its cultivation to harvest, cultivar varieties, composition, quality and packaging all lead to adequate parameters for the standardization of the product.

Taking into account that technical information is available and certain degree of harmonization at regional / international levels has already been achieved on certain aspects relevant to consumer's protection and trade facilitation as mentioned in point (b), complementary work to come up with an inclusive standard on this worldwide traded produce should be amenable.

**(e) Coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards**

There is no commodity standard covering dates. Currently, Unpitted and Pitted according to size are the only criteria taken into the consideration. Therefore, the new work will enhance consumer protection and facilitate trade by establishing an internationally agreed quality standard covering minimum requirements, categories, size, colour, shape, uniformity, packaging and other relevant quality requires.

**(f) Number of commodities, which would need separate standards including whether raw, semi-processed or processed.**

A single standard for dates will cover all varieties of dates traded worldwide.

**(g) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field and/or suggested by the relevant international intergovernmental body(ies)**

UNECE STANDARD FFV-05 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of dates. This new work will consider this standard in formulating the Codex Standard.

**5. Relevance to the Codex strategic objectives**

The elaboration of a Codex Standard for dates is in line with the strategic objective to promote the maximum application of codex standards by countries in their national legislation and to facilitate international trade by protecting the health of the consumers. This proposal is relevant to STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019, Objective 1.1: *Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.*

The new work will contribute to state the minimum quality requirements for dates for human consumption, different categories based on quality parameters and size with the purpose of protecting the consumer's health and achieving fair practices in the food trade.

**6. Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents**

This is proposed as a new global standard and has no relation to any other existing Codex text on this item, except that the standard will make references to relevant safety standards and related texts developed by general subject committees.

**7. Identification of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice**

There is no need foreseen for expert scientific advice.

**8. Identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies**

There is no need of technical input from external bodies.

**9. Proposed timeline for completion of the new work**

Development of the standard would be expected to take three sessions of CCFFV or less, depending upon relevant inputs and agreement from members.

**Discussion Paper on the Development of a Codex Standard for Shallots**  
(Prepared by Indonesia)

### Introduction

1. Shallot (*Allium ascalonicum*) from the *Alliaceae* family is one of the bulb vegetables and mainly produced in South East Asia. It is used as food seasoning and ingredient in the food industry as well as traditional medicine is currently growing rapidly. Shallots can be eaten as fresh or processed form. Shallots are in the same species with onions because of its ability to cross with onions and produce fertile tillers. Although belong to the same species with onions, shallots have some different properties and characteristics i.e. form of crop, aroma, propagation, shape and point of grow with detail as in the table below.

**Tabel 1. Characteristics Differences between onions and shallots**

Nr	Parameter	Onion	Shallot
1	Form of Crop	Single tuber	Plant Clump
2	Aroma	Less	Strong
3	Propagation	Generative	Vegetative
4	Shape	Short round, flat	Oval round, elongated
5	Point of Grows	Single, max. 2	Double

2. Based on the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) statistic, data on production and trade of shallot is incorporated with other layered tuber vegetable commodities (shallots, onions, green). The FAO statistic shows that the growth of harvest area of shallots and onions in the world during the period 1980 to 2011 is increase with the average growth 2.14% per year. The growth of world production on shallots and onions is also increasing. Based on the FAO data, the production is increased 2.70% per year.

### Necessity to develop the standard

3. Varieties of Shallots being produced in developed and developing countries. Shallots traded globally not only by the exporters but also by importers, are subject to various national legislations.

4. To overcome the resultant or potential impediments to international trade, it is essential to incorporate all existing different standards in a single improved comprehensive standard acceptable across board internationally. For example, Indonesia as an exporter, producers and importers has his own standard for shallots.

### Recommendation

5. Indonesia invites the Committee to support the proposal for the development of a Codex Standard for Shallot and consider the attached project document (Annex).

## PROJECT DOCUMENT

A Standard for Shallots (*Allium ascalonicum*)

## 1. The Purpose and Scope of the Standard

The scopes of proposed Codex standard on Shallot (*Allium cepavar. ascalonicum*) from the *Alliaceae* family are classification, size, quality tolerances and quality requirements. Shallots for fresh consumption is bulbs of shallots plants (*Allium ascalonicum*) shall consist of pithy cloves, whole, fresh, hygiene and clean.

The objectives of the project are:

- to develop a world-wide standard based on classification, size and quality requirements that are widely accepted by producers and consumers in international market in order to provide food safety and quality assurance;
- to avoid fraudulent practices and disputes in international trade of the layered tuber/bulb vegetables commodities.

## 2. Relevance and Timeliness

In 1980-2011 the harvest area on shallots and onions in the world are increase with the average is 2.14% per year. In 1980 the total harvest area of shallots and onions in the world was 125.642 hectares and increased to 236.934 hectares in 2011.

The growth of world production of shallots and onions is increasing. Based on FAO data, in 1980 – 2011 the average growth of world production of shallots and onions increased 2.70% per year. In 1980 the world production of shallots and onions was 1.92 million tonnes and increased to 4.28 million tonnes in 2011.

The growth of world export and import volume of shallots and onions during 1980 – 2011 were fluctuated increasing with the average growth were 5.73% per year for export and 8.60% for import per year. In general, the world production of shallots and onions in the period 2007-2011 was dominated by the ten countries which cumulatively contributed to 76.92% of the total world production of onions and onions. China was the largest contributor to the world production on shallots and onions by 18.16%, it's equivalent to 756,000 tonnes, followed by Japan with 13.44%, Republic of Korea with 11.23%, Iraq with 7.55%, Nigeria for 5.29%, Tunisia for 5.06%, New Zealand for 4.76%, Thailand for 4.73%, Turkey for 4.04%, Taiwan for 2.65% and other Countries contributed for 23.08% (FAO). Table 2 show the production of shallots and onions in 2007 – 2011.

Tabel 2. Production of Shallots and Onions in 2007 - 2011

Country	Production (Tonnes)						Share (%)	Cumulative share (%)
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Average		
China, mainlad*	700.000	725.000	760.000	785.000	813.000	756.600	18.16	18.16
Japan*	558.700	575.500	575.100	541.300	549.500	560.020	13.44	31.60
Republic of Korea*	488.814	505.056	446.991	417.229	482.143	468.047	11.23	42.83
Iraq*	310.000	336.244	308.239	291.212	326.616	314.462	7.55	50.37
Nigeria*	225.000	226.000	179.706	235.500	236.000	220.441	5.29	55.66
Tunisia*	180.000	235.000	210.000	220.200	210.000	211.040	5.06	60.73
New Zealand*	205.620	200.000	203.000	204.900	178.566	198.417	4.76	65.49
Thailand*	208.995	199.435	201.662	180.696	195.228	197.203	4.73	70.22
Turkey*	185.140	168.223	169.271	165.478	153.823	168.387	4.04	74.26

Country	Production (Tonnes)						Share (%)	Cumulative share (%)
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Average		
Taiwan*	105.825	107.073	123.190	111.205	105.826	110.624	2.65	76.92
Others*	871.861	903.645	1.003.709	1.002.979	1.026.945	961.828	23.08	100.00
World*	4.039.955	4.181.176	4.180.868	4.155.699	4.277.647	4.167.069	100	-
Indonesia**	-	-	965.164	1.048.934	893.124	964.221	1.010.773	-

Source: FAO and Indonesia Statistic Central Agency

\*: Shallots and Onions; \*\*: Shallots

### 3. Main aspects to be covered

The draft of Codex standard on shallots applies to the quality aspects of shallot (*Allium. ascalonicum*) from the *Alliaceae* family. To supply high quality safe products, the objective of the standards are to:

- Establish Product Definition;
- Establish the minimum quality requirements such as maturity (Volatile Reducing Substances (VRS), amount of clove, size (diameter), cleanliness specifications and defects action levels as per the products;
- Establish provisions concerning tolerances with respect to quality and size allowed in every classes;
- Establish provisions concerning presentation – the uniformity of the packaged product with respect to same origin, quality, size, etc;
- Establish provisions for the packaging and marking or labelling of the product in accordance with the Codex general standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods;
- Establish provision for the maximum levels of the Codex general standard for contaminants (chemical and biological) and toxins in shallots;
- Establish provision for hygiene with reference to the *Recommended International Code of Practice for Hygiene and General Principles of Food Hygiene*;
- Establish Methods of Analysis for various parameters for shallots.

### 4. Assessment against the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities

#### General criterion

- Promoting consumer health protection.
- Prevention of fraudulent practices.
- Providing greater assurance of the Quality of the produce to meet consumer needs and the minimum requirements of food safety.
- Arriving at levels of standardization based on the properties of different varieties to meet industrial and consumers needs with exactness and credibility.

#### Criteria applicable to commodities

##### (a) Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries:

Based on the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of data, where the shallots data are combined with onions (shallots include onions, green), the growth of harvest area of shallots and onions in the world during the period 1980 to 2011 are increase with the average growth 2.14% per year. The growth of world production of shallots and onions is increasing. Based on FAO data during 1980 – 2011, the average growth in world production of shallots and onions increased 2.70% per year.



**Table 3. Pattern of International Trade of Shallots and Onions**

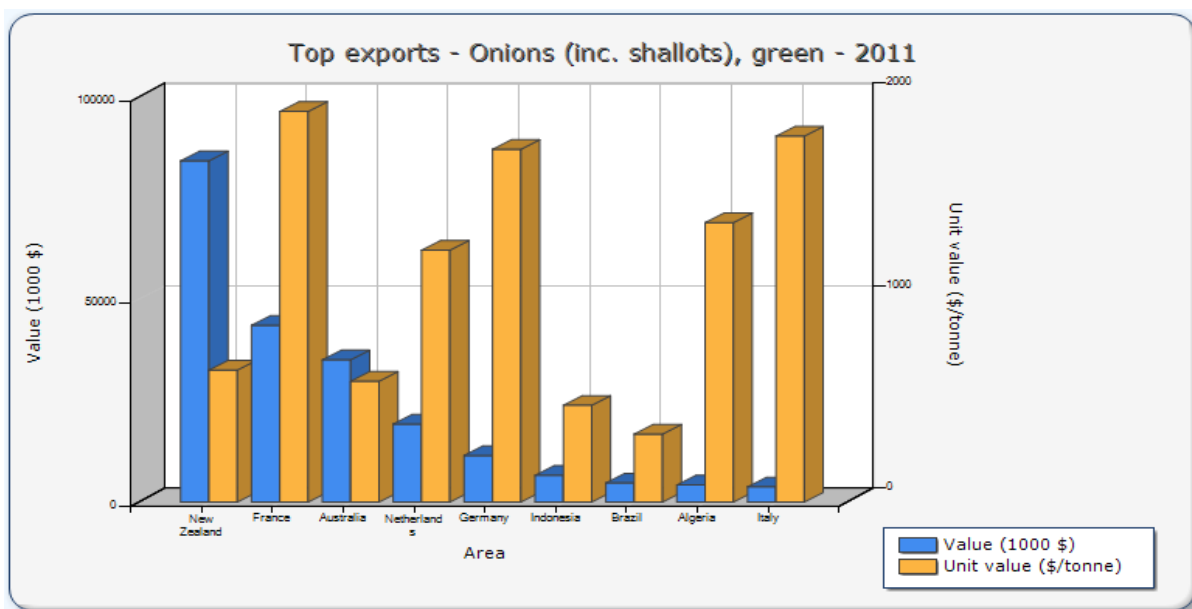
Export	World (in Tonnes)
2007	301.039
2008	231.647
2009	197.251
2010	262.367
2011	287.675
Average	266.287

Source: FAO

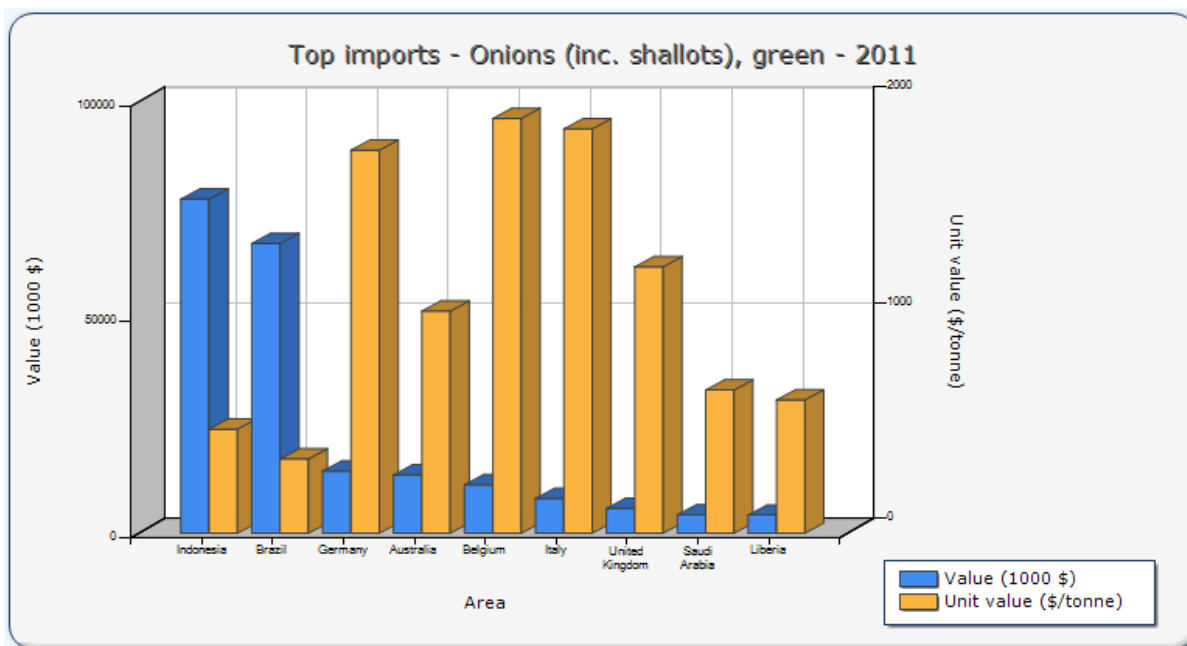
**Table 4. Pattern of International Trade of Shallots and Onions**

Import	World (in Tonnes)
2007	417.665
2008	477.743
2009	433.859
2010	492.273
2011	464.370
Average	467.436

Source: FAO



**Figure 1. Top Exports – Onions (inc. Shallots), green – 2011 (Source: faostats.fao.org)**



**Figure 2. Top Imports – Onions (inc. Shallots), green – 2011 (Source: faostats.fao.org)**

**(b) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade:**

Regional organizations such as Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) have dealt with the standards for Shallots. Shallots being produced in developed and developing countries. Shallots traded globally not only by the exporters but also by importers, is subject to various national legislations.

To overcome the resultant or potential impediments to international trade, it is essential to incorporate all existing different standards in a single improved comprehensive standard acceptable across board internationally. For example, Indonesia as an exporter, producers and importers has his own standard for shallots.

**(c) International or regional market potential**

Total export of shallots and onions during 2012 as per FAO is 287.675 tonnes. There is constant high demand for shallots.

**(d) Amenability of commodity to standardization:**

The characteristics of shallots as traded, as form, colour firm, fresh, taste and defect allowed are adequate parameters of the produce.

**(e) Coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards**

There are only two regional standards on shallots and there is no general commodity standard covering shallots under codex and so the new work will facilitate shallots trade by establishing an internationally agreed quality standard.

**(f) Number of commodities which would need separate standards including whether raw, semiprocessed or processed**

The standar will be for shallots (*Alliumascalanicum*)

**(g) Work already undertaken by other international organization in this field**

1. ASEAN Standard on Shallots
2. UNECE STANDARD FFV-56 on Shallots

## 5. Relevance to the Codex Strategic Objectives

This proposal is consistent with the Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission 2014-2019, in particular Objective 1.1, 1.3, 2.3 and 3.1 and aims at setting up international accepted minimum quality requirements of shallot for human consumption. It also contributes to fair trade practices wherein the farmers will be able to assess their produce with reference to the quality standards thereby empowering them to realize more monetary values.

## 6. Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents

This proposal is for a new global standard and has no relation to any other existing Codex text on this item, except that this standard will make reference to relevant standards and related texts developed by general subject Committees.

## 7. Identification of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice

No expert scientific advice is foreseen at this stage. Published research documents by international bodies will be referred in the process of preparing the standard, if found necessary.

## 8. Identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies so that this can be planned for

None

## 9. Proposed Time Schedule

Development of the standard would be expected to take three sessions of CCFFV or less, depending upon relevant inputs and agreement from members.



Figure 3. Types of Onion Plants