

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 3 and 4

CRD21

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

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

Twenty-third Session

Mexico City, Mexico

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Comments by Bangladesh

This Conference Room Document (CRD) presents comments on behalf of Bangladesh regarding **Agenda Items 3 and 4** of the 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV23), which address the **Draft Standard for Fresh Dates at Step 7** and the **Draft standard for fresh curry leaves (at Step 4)**, respectively.

Agenda item 3: Draft standard for fresh dates (at step 7)

Bangladesh would like to express appreciation to the Electronic Working Group (EWG), chaired by India and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia, for their dedicated efforts in developing the draft standard, and values their continued commitment to facilitating discussions following CAC45's decision to adopt the draft standard at Step 5, allowing for further deliberation on this matter.

As CCFFV23 considers the draft standard at Step 7, this stage presents a crucial opportunity to finalize a standard that is scientifically sound, trade-inclusive, and reflective of market realities, while ensuring broad applicability to all fresh date varieties.

After reviewing the revised draft text in document FFV23/CRD04, prepared by India as chair of the EWG with Saudi Arabia as co-chair, and considering the comments and recommendations submitted in response to CL 2023/84/OCS-FFV, as compiled in CX/FFV 25/23/4, **Bangladesh supports the proposed amendment to delete the statement on minimum range of moisture content.**

In this regard, Bangladesh offers the following observations:

- Based on the majority of received comments, setting the minimum moisture content at 30% would prevent a significant number of widely traded date varieties, particularly dry and semi-dry varieties that are classified and marketed as fresh dates, to be called "fresh dates" internationally.
- The concept of "freshness" should not be determined by moisture content but rather by the Codex Alimentarius definition of fresh fruits and vegetables. As a result, only artificial interventions would remove the characteristic of "freshness" of dates.

Therefore, Bangladesh believes that the deletion of the minimum range of moisture content would ensure inclusivity across all fresh date varieties and maturity stages, while avoiding overlapping with the existing Standard for dried Dates (GENERAL STANDARD FOR DRIED FRUITS CXS 360-2020 / ANNEX B), developed by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV).

Agenda item 4: Proposed draft standard for fresh curry leaves

Bangladesh encourages reaching a consensus on the provisions related to defect tolerances and sizing, as this will strengthen the text and ensure clear, unambiguous quality requirements.

Bangladesh supports forwarding of the Proposed Draft standard for Fresh Curry Leaves, after final considerations of the bracketed provisions, for its final adoption (Step 5/8) at the upcoming commission (CAC48).