



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Fifty-sixth Session

Santiago, Chile

8-13 September 2025

CODEX MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS FOR OKRA, MARTYNIA AND ROSELLE

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

BACKGROUND

1. The 53rd Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticides (CCPR53, 2022) agreed to request advice from the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticides (JMPR) on the establishment or extrapolation of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides for okra given the exclusion of okra, martynia, and roselle from the MRL recommendations for the subgroup of peppers (VO 0051) arising from JMPR. This follows the difficulties expressed by JMPR in extrapolating MRLs for these commodities using sweet pepper and chili pepper as representative commodities to extrapolate okra, as set out in the *Principles and guidance for the selection of representative commodities for the extrapolation of MRLs for pesticides to commodity groups* (CXG 84-2012).
2. CCPR54 (2023) reviewed JMPR's feedback on adding a separate entry for okra in CXG84 by creating Subgroup 12D Okra (including martynia and roselle) with okra as the representative crop and acknowledged delegates' concerns since okra is a minor but internationally traded crop. This option would require okra field trials to generate data for MRL establishment, which would be challenging for developing countries and could result in technical trade barriers. Other options, such as retaining the current crop grouping as in CXG84 or having a separate group for okra, martynia, and roselle with chili pepper as the sole representative commodity, could still be explored.
3. CCPR54 noted the clarification of the JMPR Secretariat that, based on existing data, JMPR considered that okra could not be included in Subgroup 12B - Pepper and pepper-like commodities and that MRLs for commodities in this subgroup could not be extrapolated to okra based on the recommendation of the 2018 and 2022 JMPR meetings.
4. CCPR54 could not find consensus on the most viable alternative to address the establishment or extrapolation of MRLs for okra and decided to retain the current classification of okra in CXG84 and the revised *Classification of food and feed* (CXA 4-1989). In addition, the Committee noted that the JMPR report provided clear guidance on the type of data to be generated and acknowledged that data generation would require a certain amount of time. The Committee agreed to assess countries' commitments to generate and submit data for evaluation by JMPR at the next session of CCPR in 2024.
5. In considering group MRLs for the subgroup of peppers, and the potential negative impact on trade of excluding okra, martynia and roselle from these MRLs, CCPR54 further agreed to take the risk management decision to remove the parenthetical qualifier statement "except okra, martynia, and roselle" from any relevant entry of MRLs or CXLs in the Codex database awaiting new residue trial data that could allow JMPR to complete its evaluation. This decision was made, considering the evaluation by the 2022 JMPR, that there may be uncertainties for producers and importers regarding the level of residues in okra compared to pepper. There was therefore a need for residue trial data to confirm classification and representative commodities for okra, martynia, and roselle. Meanwhile, the indicated CXLs are provisionally applied. It was also agreed to add a note to the CXL and the CCPR remarks to clarify the situation regarding these CXLs further.
6. Members who supported the JMPR's assessment of the available information on okra and the conclusions presented in the General Considerations of the 2022 JMPR Report highlighted the importance for members and observers to provide residue trial data to JMPR so that the evaluation could be completed. The Committee reconfirmed its decision to consider the data generation commitment at CCPR55 (2024) to assess the decision taken at this Session.

7. At CCPR55, the Observer of the Global Pulse Confederation (GPC) advised the Committee on their commitment to data support for okra and indicated that they had identified three pesticide compounds appropriate for field trials of pepper and eggplant and were awaiting confirmation of their field trial protocol before proceeding.
8. Further details on the discussions and decisions regarding MRLs for okra vis-à-vis the CXLs for the pepper's subgroup (VO 0051) can be found in the CCPR reports. The list of MRLs for the pepper subgroup (VO 0051), which provisionally includes okra, martynia, and roselle, is included in the relevant appendices of the CCPR's reports. Pertinent references to JMPR reports and the grouping and designated representative commodities, as agreed upon by CCPR and adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in CXG84-2012 and CXA 4-1989, are presented in Appendices I and II for information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. The current arrangement to provisionally extend the CXLs for the pepper's subgroup (VO 0051) to okra, martynia, and roselle, as described in paragraph 5, is dependent on data generation commitment for submission to JMPR to conduct the evaluation.
10. Based on the above, CCPR may wish to reassess this commitment at this 56th Session, and seek information from Codex members and observers on:
 - (i) Availability of data (i.e., whether there is data readily available for JMPR to conduct the evaluation) or,
 - (ii) Commitment to generate and submit data for evaluation by JMPR and, in the affirmative, by when such data would be available, if possible, the kind of data/information to be available to JMPR, compounds involved, and any other relevant information as appropriate.

Information on data availability for okra would enable CCPR to identify a time limit (target year) that could be introduced in the database to reassess these CXLs in the future.

11. Based on the outcomes of the discussion, CCPR may also wish to consider the opportunity to issue a circular letter to gather information from Codex members and observers on data availability/generation for okra, or whether such a request could be channelled through the CL on priorities to allow proper planning and timely resolution of this issue.

APPENDIX I**(For information)****Discussion and decisions made by CCPR on the establishment or extrapolation of MRLs for okra**

- CCPR50 (2018) ([REP18/PR50](#)), paragraphs 18-20
- CCPR51 (2019) ([REP19/PR51](#)), paragraphs 43-47
- CCPR52 (2021) ([REP21/PR52](#)), paragraphs 178-179
- CCPR53 (2022) ([REP22/PR53](#)), paragraphs 25-26, 156-165
- CCPR54 (2023) ([REP23/PR54](#)), paragraphs 49-53, 61, 71-76, 176, Appendix VII
- CCPR55 (2024) ([REP24/PR55](#)), paragraphs 77-82, 222, Appendix VII

CCPR reports can be downloaded from the CCPR webpage on the Codex webpage as follows:

- Codex/CCPR: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/en/?committee=CCPR>

Discussion and recommendations made by JMPR on the establishment or extrapolation of MRLs for okra

- [JMPR](#) (2017), Chapter 2 General considerations, Section 2.5 Further consideration of the process establishing group MRLs: Update on the use of the revised commodity classification for vegetables
- [JMPR](#) (2018), Chapter 2, General considerations, Section 2.9 Recommendations for (sub) group maximum residue levels for fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits revisited.
- [JMPR](#) (2022), Chapter 2 General considerations, Section 2.6, Establishment of MRLs for pesticides for okra

JMPR reports can be downloaded from the FAO and WHO websites as follows:

- FAO: <https://www.fao.org/pest-and-pesticide-management/guidelines-standards/faowho-joint-meeting-on-pesticide-residues-jmpr/reports/en/>
- WHO: [https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-meeting-on-pesticide-residues-\(jmpmr\)/publications](https://www.who.int/groups/joint-fao-who-meeting-on-pesticide-residues-(jmpmr)/publications)

JMPR reports are available in English only.

APPENDIX II**ESTABLISHMENT/EXTRAPOLATION OF MRLs for OKRA**

Excerpts from the revised *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989) and the *Principles and guidance for the selection of representative commodities for the extrapolation of MRLs for pesticides to commodity groups* (CXG 84-2012)

(For information)

PART I. CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED (CXA 4-1989)

CLASS A	PRIMARY FOOD COMMODITIES OF PLANT ORIGIN
TYPE 02	VEGETABLES
Fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits	
Class A	
Type 02	Vegetables Group 012 Group Letter Code VO
Group 012	Fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits
Subgroup 12B	Pepper and pepper-like commodities
<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Commodity</u>
VO 0051	Subgroup of Peppers (includes all commodities in this subgroup)
-	Bird chili peppers , see Peppers, chili, VO 0444 <i>Capsicum Frutescens</i> L.
-	Cherry pepper , see Peppers, chili, VO 0444 <i>Capsicum annuum</i> L., var. <i>acumimata</i> Fingerh.
-	Chili peppers , see Peppers, chili, VO 0444 Cluster pepper , see Peppers, chili, VO 0444 <i>Capsicum annuum</i> L., var. <i>fasciculatum</i> (Sturt.) Irish
-	Cone pepper , see Peppers, chili, VO 0444
-	Lady's finger , see Okra, VO 0442
VO 2709	Martynia <i>Proboscidea louisianica</i> (Mill.) Thell.
VO 0442	Okra <i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> (L.) Moench.
-	Paprika , see Peppers, sweet, VO 0445
-	Peppers, bell , see Peppers, sweet, VO 0445
VO 0444	Peppers, Chili <i>Capsicum annuum</i> L.; several pungent cultivars
-	Peppers, long , see Peppers, sweet, VO 0445 <i>Capsicum annuum</i> L., var. <i>longum</i> (D. C.) Sendt.
VO 0445	Peppers, sweet (including pimento or pimienta) <i>Capsicum annuum</i> , var. <i>grossum</i> (L.) Sendt. and var. <i>longum</i> (D. C.) Sendt.
-	Peppers, sweet piquante , see Peppers, sweet, VO 0445 <i>Capsicum baccatum</i> var. <i>Piquanté</i>
-	Pimento or pimienta , see Peppers, sweet, VO 0445
VO 0446	Roselle <i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i> L., var. <i>sabdariffa</i> L.

**PART II. PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE FOR THE SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE COMMODITIES FOR THE
EXTRAPOLATION OF MRLS FOR PESTICIDES TO COMMODITY GROUPS (CXG 84-2012)**

**TABLE 2. EXAMPLES OF SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE COMMODITIES
CLASS A - PRIMARY FOOD COMMODITIES OF PLANT ORIGIN
TYPE 02 - VEGETABLE COMMODITY GROUPS**

Codex group / subgroup	Examples of representative commodities¹	Extrapolation to the following commodities
Group 012 Fruiting vegetables, other than Cucurbits	One cultivar of large variety Tomato and one cultivar of small variety Tomato and Sweet Pepper and Chili pepper and One cultivar of large variety eggplant and/or tomato and one cultivar of small variety eggplant and/or tomato	<u>Fruiting vegetables, other than Cucurbits (VO 0050)</u> : African eggplant; Bush tomato; Cherry tomato; Cocona; Currant tomato; Eggplant; Garden huckleberry; Goji berry; Ground cherries, Martynia; Okra; Pea eggplant; Pepino; Peppers, Chili; Peppers, sweet; Roselle; Scarlet eggplant; Sunberry; Tomatillo; Tomato; Thai eggplant
Subgroup 12A, Tomatoes	One cultivar of large variety Tomato and one cultivar of small variety Tomato	<u>Tomatoes (VO 2045)</u> : Bush tomato; Cherry tomato; Cocona; Currant tomato; Garden huckleberry; Goji berry; Ground cherries; Sunberry; Tomatillo; Tomato
Subgroup 12B, Pepper and pepper-like commodities	Sweet Pepper and Chili pepper	<u>Peppers (VO 0051)</u>: Martynia; Okra; Peppers, Chili; Peppers, sweet; Roselle
Subgroup 12C, Eggplant and eggplant-like commodities	One cultivar of large variety eggplant and/or tomato and/or sweet pepper, and one cultivar of small variety eggplant and/or tomato and/or chili pepper	<u>Eggplants (VO 2046)</u> : African eggplant; Eggplant; Pea eggplant; Pepino; Scarlet eggplant; Thai eggplant

¹ Alternative representative commodities may be selected based on documented regional/country differences in dietary consumption and/or areas of production.