

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 2.1, 3, 4, 5

CRD07

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

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

Twenty-third Session

Mexico City, Mexico

25 February - 1 March 2025

Comments by Kenya

Agenda Item 2.1: Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other committees

Kenya notes all the matters from the commission and other subsidiary bodies and specifically:

Comment: Para 8: CCFFV23 to request the commission to develop an actionable mechanism of mentorship including twinning programmes to assist the less active members

Justification: The recommendation by CCEXEC86 that '*Codex Secretariat and experienced working group Chairs to proactively seek engagement of other Members and provide guidance and support*' does not contain actionable steps towards achieving any progress. Recognizing sovereignty of nations, it may be difficult for one member to engage another directly. Codex being an intergovernmental body, should lead the process of engaging different members to be mentored by others.

Comment: Para 20: Kenya acknowledge the concerns raised by CCFL regarding the use of the term "wild" in the product name and requests CCFFV23 to determine whether the term 'wild' is a claim or not. If it is a claim, then provisions of CXG 1-1979- *General guidelines on claims* applies. If the term is not a claim, CCFFV should define it clearly in the standard.

Agenda Item 3: Draft standard for fresh dates (at Step 7)

Comment: Considering the concerns raised and comments made at CAC45, Kenya notes existence of Standards for Dates CXS 143-1985 and General Standard for dried Fruits CXS 360-2020 developed under CCPFV and now under development, the Standard for fresh dates under CCFFV.

The issue of minimum moisture content for fresh dates should only be considered after alignment of the two (2) standards under CCPFV with the standard under development for fresh dates.

Justification: Noting that Codex is moving towards group standards it would be unnecessary to have several standards for one type of product.

Agenda Item 4: Draft standard for fresh curry leaves (at Step 4)

Kenya appreciates India and the EWG that developed the draft standard for fresh curry leaves. The following proposals are made to improve the standard and facilitate its progression to the next step of standard development process:

General comment: The term 'Produce' and 'Product' are used interchangeably. Kenya proposes that the term 'produce' be consistently used.

Justification: The standard is for fresh produce and not in any way processed.

Clause 1: Scope: Kenya proposes the scope to read:

This standard specifies the requirements for fresh curry leaves.

Justification: The second sentence of the scope is well covered under **clause 3.1**, while the second para does not reflect the spirit of a standard but a guideline.

Clause 2: Definition of produce: Kenya proposes clause 2 to read:

This Standard applies to commercial varieties of fresh curry leaves obtained from varieties (cultivars) of *Murraya koenigii*(L.) Sprengel of Rutaceae family and does not apply to other forms such as dehydrated, powdered and dried curry leaves.

Justification: The second part of the first sentence of the Chapeau reflects a regulation more than a standard requirement.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion paper on the review of existing FFV standards

Kenya appreciates the work done by EWG on the “Review of the existing fresh fruits and vegetable (FFV) standards” chaired by Germany. Considering the recommendations outlined in the EWG report Kenya proposes the following:

Comment: Kenya agrees to the methodology as described in paragraph 5 of the EWG report and notes the proposed draft for regarding the added specific requirements pointed out in the boxes in the Appendices I and II of the EWG report.

Comment: For recommendation (iii) and (iv) regarding substantial changes for the revised standards Kenya supports the revisions and proposes the scope to read:

- Standard for Avocado: This standard specifies quality requirements for avocados after preparation and packaging.
- Standard for Asparagus: This standard specifies quality requirements for [shoots of] asparagus [*here after* referred as asparagus] after preparation and packaging.

Justification: The second sentence of the scope is well covered under **clause 3.1**, while the second para does not reflect the spirit of a standard but a guideline.

Comment: Kenya support the changes in the standard layout as outlined in paragraphs 32 and 33 of the EWG report.

Justification: The changes made to the standard layout do not deviate from the outlined format of Codex standards in PM.

Comment: Regarding recommendation (vi) to allow the EWG to continue the review of all FFV standards, Kenya requests that the invitation to join the EWG be circulated again to allow more members to participate in the work.

Justification: Following the outcomes of the EWG, it confirms that it is an excellent approach to review CCFFV standards.