CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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Agenda item 11 **CX/AFRICA 17/22/12 Add.1**
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

22nd Session

Nairobi, Kenya, 16 - 20 January 2017

PROPOSED DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR GNETUM LEAVES Spp.

Comments at Step 3

(Comments of Kenya)

General comment

Kenya appreciates the work done by electronic Working Group chaired by Cameroon and co-chaired by Nigeria to come up with a draft for members comments

Specific comments

Kenya would like to submit its comments as indicated below in bold and underlined in the texts while striking off the ones to be deleted

1 – SCOPE

This standard applies to **fresh** leaves of ~~Gnetum spp, namely~~ ~~commonly~~ *Gnetum africanum* and *Gnetum bucholzianum*.. ~~called Eru, okok, fumbua and okasi~~.

Comment:

We propose the scope to read "This standard applies to fresh leaves of Gnetum africanum and Gnetum bucholzianum"

Rationale: These are the common species of gnetum leaves in Africa.

2 – DESCRIPTION

Comment:

Kenya would like to modify the clause as follows:

The gnetum plant is wild vine that is perennial and grows approximately 10m long with the leaves growing approximately 8cm long oftenly found in the rainforests. ~~Leaves of *Gnetum spp* is a wild evergreen climber found in the rain forests.~~ The most common species found in Africa; *G. africanum* and *G. bucholzianum*, ~~These two tropical forests species of Gnetum~~ are morphologically similar but have slight differences in leaf shape.

Comment:

There are numerous common names in various countries like Eru, okok, fumbua (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo) and ukase or afang (Nigeria), koko (Congo Angola, Gabon,). ~~They are creeping or climbing vines with often knotted and branched stems, without resinous channels. They are dioecious liana up to 10m long and sometimes longer.~~

Comment:

The new description should read as follows:

"The gnetum plant is wild vine that is perennial and grows approximately 10m long with the leaves growing approximately 8cm long oftenly found in the rainforests. The most common species found in Africa; *G. africanum* and *G. bucholzianum* are morphologically similar but have slight differences in leaf

shape. There are numerous common names in various countries like Eru, okok, fumbua (Cameroon, DRC) and ukase or afang (Nigeria), koko (Congo Angola, Gabon CAR,)"

3 - PROVISIONS CONCERNING COMPOSITION AND QUALITY

Comment:

We have noted that the table below is a mixture of Nutrition information and Heavy metals so we have deleted the heavy metals and there is need to get the acceptance level of these and be transfered to clause of contaminants.

3.1 - Proximate composition of *Gnetum africanum spp*

Comment

Propose to delete the parameters for "chromium" and "lead" in the Table

3.2 Minimum requirements

In all varieties, subject to the special provisions for each variety and tolerances allowed the leaf shall be:

- Fresh appearance. ~~and smell.~~

Comment:

We propose the inclusion of the above two clauses as part of the minimum requirements.

- **practically free of damage caused by pests;**
- **free of any foreign smell and/or taste;**

The Gnetum leaves must be carefully picked and have reached a sufficient level of maturity.

3.3 – Classification

3.3.2 - Class I

The Gnetum leaves in this class must be of good quality, well-developed and display satisfactory ripeness. ~~A tiny amount of~~ Young leaves **of up to** 20% of the total amount of leaves **on weight basis**.

3.3.3 - Class II

This includes Gnetum leaves which cannot get into the previous two categories, but satisfy the minimum requirements specified in sections 3.1. Nearly 40% of the leaves **on weight basis** may differ from the maturity and color requirements, without prejudice to minimum quality requirements.

Comment on clause 3.3.3:

The Gnetum leaves in class ii of 40% tolerance is unrealistic and we propose 10% by weight can be allowed for young leaves. In no case can there be more than 15% young leaves in each package or bundle.

4 – PROVISION ON PRESENTATION AND TOLERANCE

4.1 - Provisions of tolerance

Comment clause 4.1**:**

Class I and class II tolerances are not consistent with the classification in clause 3.3. therefore we recommend members to submit data to that effect

7 – LABELLING

7.1 - Name ~~and~~ of the Product ~~Nature~~

7.2 - Labelling of Non-Retail Containers

Each package ~~must~~ shall bear information on product identification, the nature of the product, the product's origin and commercial characteristics. This information should be printed on the same side in readable character, and visible from the outside. This information may also be included in the documents accompanying the product.

8. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

See relevant Codex texts on methods of analysis and sampling…..CODEX STAN 234:1999 Rev 2016