

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
Organization

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DISCUSSION PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT OF A STANDARD FOR COOKED RICE

(Prepared by the Republic of Korea)

Introduction

The proposed standard will address the specific requirements for raw materials, ingredients, hygiene, quality factors and essential compositions, so as to improve the quality of products and ensure consumer's health and fair trade practices.

Cooked Rice is a type of product made with peeled raw rice which is through retort process or aseptic packaging process.

Necessity to develop the standard

In recent years, the global Cooked Rice consumption has rapidly increased, showing huge market demand and product potential. Since 2016, Cooked Rice has been continuously traded in more than 40 countries with significant increases of the export volume and value. In 2019, the export value and volume of Cooked Rice marked 24 million US dollar and 7,600 tons respectively, which is an increase almost doubled compared to 2016.

In spite of the steady increase of market demand of Cooked Rice around the world, there is no relevant worldwide standard. The absence of a uniform commodity standard can lead to production of low quality products, an impediment in international trade.

Given the current trend of trade and consumption of Cooked Rice, the establishment of a worldwide standard for Cooked Rice is necessary to ensure the health of consumers and safety of the product as well as fair trade practices across the globe.

Recommendation

The Republic of Korea invites CCASIA to consider the new work on the standard for Cooked Rice. The project document is attached as Appendix I.

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Proposal for New Work on Standard for Cooked Rice

1. The purposes and the scope of the standard

The purpose of the new work is to establish a regional standard for Cooked Rice which is aimed at improving the safety and high quality of products and promoting international market potential in accordance with the objectives of CODEX to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in trade.

2. Its relevance and timeliness

Recently, Cooked Rice has become an important commodity with noticeable growth rate among food industries in the world. As shown in Table 1, Cooked Rice is increasingly being consumed and traded globally in more than 40 countries including China, USA, Netherlands, Australia, etc.

In spite of the growing Cooked Rice production and trade, however, almost all trading countries do not have national standards and regulations applicable to this product. The lack of a harmonized standard, can lead to impediments in international fair trade with the distribution of low-quality products.

Therefore, it is necessary to establish a regional standard for Cooked Rice in order to protect consumers' health and ensure international fair trade.

Table1. Number of Cooked rice trading countries of Korea by year

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of countries	48	54	55	67

Source: Korea Trade Statistics Promotion Institute (cited by The Korea Agro-Fisheries Trade Information)

3. The main aspects to be covered

Based on the CODEX Procedure Manual, the main aspects to be covered in the standard for Cooked Rice are Scope, Product definition, Essential composition and Quality factors, Food additives, Contaminants, Hygiene, Labelling, Methods of analysis and sampling.

4. An assessment against the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities

General Criterion

The standard will cover the following aspects to meet general criterion regarding protection of consumer's health and fair trade practices.

- Improving the quality and safety of Cooked Rice and protecting consumer's health
- Ensuring international fair trade

Criterion applicable to commodities

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

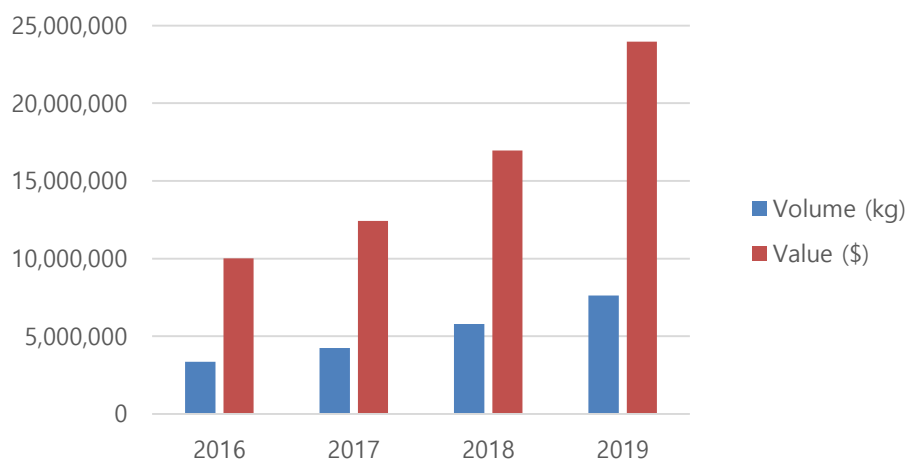
Since 2016, the number of Cooked Rice trading countries of Korea has been increasing steadily (see Table 1) leading to noticeable growth of total export volume and value of Cooked Rice. In 2019, the export value of Cooked Rice marked 24 million US dollars, with the export volume reaching 7,600 tons (see Table 2 and Figure 1). Compared to 2016, the export volume and value of Cooked Rice have doubled. In addition, it is reported that there has been continuous growth of total production volume of Cooked rice in Japan which is the major producing country (see Table 3). Furthermore, Cooked Rice has been internationally exported to various regions, such as Asia, America, Africa, Europe and Oceania (see Table 4).

Table 2. Total export volume and value of Cooked rice of Korea by year (kg, USD)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019
Volume (kg)	3,351,919.3	4,243,137.2	5,780,362.7	7,613,922.0
Value (\$)	10,023,136.0	12,434,888.0	16,968,783.0	23,970,006.0

Source: Korea Trade Statistics Promotion Institute (cited by The Korea Agro-Fisheries Trade Information)

*According to the statistical data provided by Korea major producing companies, total export volume and value of Cooked Rice made with peeled raw rice are estimated to be about 69% of the figures in Table 2.

**Figure 1. Total export volume and value of Cooked Rice of Korea by year****Table 3. Total production volume of Cooked rice in Japan by year (ton)**

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Volume (ton)	167,571	173,182	188,875	198,381

Source: Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

* The figures in Table 3 are the sum of the production volume of retort rice food and aseptic packaged rice food in published source. But It was difficult to collect data from published source specifically for peeled raw rice.

Table 4. Export volume and value of Cooked rice of Korea by continent (kg, USD)

Continent	Country		2016	2017	2018	2019
			2016	2017	2018	2019
Asia	China	Volume	344,698.7	362,151.2	398,038.3	610,865.7
		Value	1,172,898.0	1,246,756.0	1,375,030.0	2,187,986.0
	Philippines	Volume	77,390.0	87,831.7	93,556.6	108,090.3
		Value	258,891.0	295,468.0	345,878.0	463,795.0
	Vietnam	Volume	87,303.8	183,748.4	242,918.2	328,801.6
		Value	326,384.0	562,971.0	665,211.0	946,878.0
	Singapore	Volume	62,643.2	87,687.5	83,600.3	99,033.6
		Value	282,547.0	335,002.0	372,346.0	430,664.0
	Others	Volume	96,729.5	87,393.1	110,511.8	174,965.8
		Value	533,337.0	401,439.0	485,966.0	878,948.0

	Total	Volume	668,765.2	808,811.9	928,625.2	1,321,757.0
		Value	2,574,057.0	2,841,636.0	3,244,431.0	4,908,271.0
America	USA	Volume	2,010,449.2	2,565,498.4	3,786,143.5	5,289,182.0
		Value	5,387,408.0	6,969,381.0	10,337,263.0	15,496,887.0
	Mexico	Volume	163,887.9	221,024.1	303,393.6	186,403.6
		Value	405,567.0	498,797.0	663,766.0	444,355.0
	Canada	Volume	105,818.0	146,987.4	170,425.3	95,580.8
		Value	282,679.0	385,318.0	550,836.0	399,983.0
	Chile	Volume	819.9	373.0	1,945.8	1,317.9
		Value	2,915.0	2,030.0	5,763.0	6,099.0
	Others	Volume	2,602.5	7,359.9	5,313.6	8,384.5
		Value	13,738.0	27,072.0	26,548.0	37,153.0
Total	Volume	2,283,577.5	2,941,242.8	4,267,221.8	5,580,868.8	
	Value	6,092,307.0	7,882,598.0	11,584,176.0	16,384,477.0	
Europe	Netherlands	Volume	43,809.6	47,047.3	50,820.7	62,297.4
		Value	158,014.0	183,396.0	217,917.0	239,525.0
	UK	Volume	21,338.0	43,059.9	52,560.9	71,712.8
		Value	81,760.0	162,743.0	210,888.0	259,910.0
	Germany	Volume	8,067.4	5,870.9	20,262.3	25,636.7
		Value	27,895.0	25,057.0	92,182.0	119,642.0
	Czech Republic	Volume	3,353.9	7,786.1	9,808.8	12,137.5
		Value	11,934.0	25,303.0	37,487.0	39,680.0
	Others	Volume	8,147.3	25,281.8	58,751.6	65,840.4
		Value	33,433.0	90,509.0	125,327.0	250,032.0
Total	Volume	84,716.2	129,046.0	192,204.3	237,624.8	
	Value	313,036.0	487,008.0	683,801.0	908,789.0	
Oceania	Australia	Volume	253,122.6	287,913.6	311,224.0	355,388.1
		Value	828,175.0	957,002.0	1,124,076.0	1,326,839.0
	New Zealand	Volume	37,406.5	52,221.7	42,191.1	68,634.9
		Value	127,470.0	178,857.0	141,486.0	250,570.0
	Others	Volume	19,668.2	12,363.7	17,572.7	26,209.4
		Value	68,970.0	43,822.0	77,700.0	122,644.0
Total	Volume	310,197.3	352,499.0	370,987.8	450,232.4	
	Value	1,024,615.0	1,179,681.0	1,343,262.0	1,700,053.0	
Africa	Total	Volume	2,498.3	1,061.5	3,505.4	2,535.5
		Value	14,086.0	12,445.0	62,508.0	12,820.0

Source: Korea Trade Statistics Promotion Institute (cited by The Korea Agro-Fisheries Trade Information)

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

Although Cooked Rice has been increasingly produced, consumed and traded across the globe, absence of a harmonized global standard and quality requirements for this commodity can cause impediments to fair

practices in trade.

c) International or regional market potential

In recent years, the trade volume and value of Cooked Rice has been continually increasing in the international market. It is also expected that the number of countries trading Cooked Rice will exceed 60 in the near future. Given the current trend of trade and consumption of Cooked Rice, it will have strong growth and market potential.



Figure 2. Cooked Rice

d) Amenability of the commodity to standardization

Parameters with regard to the quality of commodity such as hygiene, quality factors and essential compositions will be included in the standard for Cooked Rice.

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

Currently there is no worldwide commodity standard for Cooked Rice. Therefore, the proposed standard will cover the specific requirements for raw materials, ingredients, quality factors and methods of analysis and sampling to ensure consumer's health and fair trade practices.

f) Number of commodities which would need separate standards indicating whether raw, semi-processed or processed

There is no need to elaborate separate standards.

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

None identified.

5. Relevance to the Codex strategic objectives

This proposal meets the Goal 1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner, presented

in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025.

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

The work will take into account existing Codex documents as follows.

- *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969)
- *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995)
- *General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985)
- *Recommended methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999)
- *Standard for Rice* (CXS 198-1995)
- *Code of Hygienic Practice for Aseptically Processed and Packaged Low-Acid Foods* (CXC 40-1993)

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

None identified.

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

None is required.

9. The proposed time-line for completion of the new work

To be advised (because of Covid-19)