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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Seventh Session

Rome, 7-17 April 1970

REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Washington, D.C.

12-16 May 1969

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Introduction.

1. The Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables was held at the Pan American Health Organization/WHO Building, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., under the chairmanship of the United States, with Mr. F. L. Southerland in the chair. Representatives and observers from 21 countries and observers from five international organizations attended the session. The list of participants appears as Appendix I to this report. The chairman introduced Mr. Floyd F. Hedlund, Director of the Fruit and Vegetable Division of the Consumer and Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Committee, and welcomed the participants, particularly those who were attending for the first time. Mr. George Grange, U.S. Codex Coordinator, also welcomed the participants and referred to the progress which had been achieved by the Commission at its Sixth Session, alluding particularly to the fact that the Committee had now agreed upon an acceptance procedure for Codex Standards.

Adoption of the Agenda.

2. The provisional agenda was adopted with a small amendment to enable the Committee to discuss some matters of interest to it emanating from the Report of the Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Matters Arising from the Report of the Sixth Session of the Commission.

3. The Committee took note of the contents of a Secretariat paper covering matters dealt with by the Commission at its Sixth Session which were relevant to the work of the Committee (CX 5/5.3, April 1969). The paper covered the following matters:
 - (a) the confirmation of the chairmanship of the Committee under the Government of the U.S.A.

- (b) standards considered by the Commission at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6
- (c) inclusion of subtropical fruit cocktail in the work of the Committee, as suggested by the Delegation of China
- (d) standards at Step 9, and decision of the Commission with regard to amendments proposed to certain of these standards by the Delegations of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom
- (e) adoption by the Commission of a General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, and advice of the Commission regarding the manner of applying the General Standard to individual commodity standards.
- (f) amendment of the guidelines for Codex Committees concerning relations between Codex Commodity Committees and Codex General Subject Committees
- (g) the need for including in Codex Committee reports summary statements indicating the status of the work of Committees
- (h) criteria for the establishment of work priorities and for the establishment of new subsidiary bodies of the Commission
- (i) position regarding standards for pistachios, dried figs, dried apricots and dates, being elaborated both by this Committee and the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and
- (j) the advancement of the Sampling Plan for Processed Fruits and Vegetables, which had been renamed by the Commission to read "Sampling Plan for Prepackaged Foods" to Step 6.

4. The Committee was given a verbal summary of the decisions of the Commission regarding:

- (a) acceptance of Codex Standards and withdrawal or amendment of acceptance
- (b) amendments to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards

- (c) procedure for the consideration of standards by the Commission at Step 8
 - (d) guide to the Procedure for the Revision and Amendment of Recommended Codex Standards
5. The Committee agreed to consider certain matters arising out of par. 3 (d) above under "Other Business." Regarding par. 3 (i) above, the Committee stressed the need for ensuring, as far as possible, that the work of the UNECE on minimum requirements in standards for dried fruits should not be at variance with the requirements contained in standards for these products to be elaborated by this Committee.

Matters Arising from the Reports of (a) Twelfth Session of the Executive Committee, (b) Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, (c) Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling and (d) Sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

6. The Committee had before it the Reports of the above Committees containing matters relevant to the work of this Committee. These matters were contained in paragraphs 31 to 35 of ALINORM 69/3, Appendices II and III of ALINORM 69/22, Part IV and Appendix IV of ALINORM 69/23, and paragraphs 13 to 19 of ALINORM 70/13.

Executive Committee .

7. The Committee noted that the matters arising from the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Executive Committee relating to the Step 9 Standards for canned fruits and vegetables had been subsequently resolved by the Commission at its Sixth Session, with the exception of the Step 9 Standard for Canned Sweet Corn, which the Executive Committee had instructed should not be sent to Governments for acceptance, in the absence of a provision for modified starches in the standard, and pending consideration of modified starches by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (see pars. 34 and 35 of ALINORM 69/3).

Labelling.

8. The Committee noted that the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, as proposed by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling at its Fourth Session, had been amended by the Commission at its Sixth Session and adopted as a Recommended General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods for issue to Governments for acceptance. The Committee noted, therefore, that, in considering

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the labelling requirements of the various commodity standards before it, it should be guided by the provisions of the Recommended General Standard, as well as by the advice given by the Commission regarding the manner of setting out the provisions of the Recommended General Standard in the labelling section of the commodity standards.

Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

9. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had generally endorsed, with some modifications in some instances, the methods of analysis and sampling provisions which had been proposed by this Committee in the canned fruit and vegetable standards considered by that Committee at its Fourth Session. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had endorsed the method proposed by the Committee for the determination of drained weight in the draft standards for canned asparagus and canned pineapple. The Committee noted that the method was set out in detail in Appendix IV of ALINORM 69/23, with the appropriate AOAC literature reference. The Committee also noted that, in considering the proposal of the Committee regarding methods for the determination of syrup measurements in the draft standard for canned pineapple, the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had considered the question whether both the refractometric and the hydrometric methods should be endorsed. The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had decided, in view of the limitations of the latter, to endorse only the refractometric method. The Committee noted that the method was set out in detail in Appendix IV of ALINORM 69/23, with the appropriate AOAC literature reference.

Food Hygiene.

Nisin.

10. At its Fifth Session, this Committee decided to ask the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to express its views on the use of Nisin in canned vegetables (par. 4 (a) (ii) of ALINORM 69/20). The Committee noted that while the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene at its Sixth Session, held from 5 to 9 May, 1969, had acknowledged that there might be a case for the use of Nisin in canned vegetables in certain circumstances, it did not recommend the use of Nisin in canned vegetables, in view of the fact that the use of Nisin might give rise to certain hazards, such as the development of Ci. botulinum as a result of underprocessing. The Committee also noted other considerations which led the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to reach this conclusion.

Mould Count Provision in Draft Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrates.

11. The Committee was informed that the mould count provision in the hygiene section of the draft standard for processed tomato concentrates, which this Committee had included as a mandatory provision, had been considered by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had recommended that this provision should be advisory. The Committee also noted the reasons given by the Food Hygiene Committee for making this recommendation, and agreed to consider this matter when it came to examine the draft standard. The Committee further noted the remarks of the Food Hygiene Committee concerning the Howard Mould Count Method as being a useful international method for determining mould contamination.

Question of Need for Endorsement of End-Product Specifications Recommended in Codes of Hygienic Practice and Adopted as Mandatory in Codex Commodity Standards.

12. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had considered that when end-product specifications which it had recommended to specific Codex Commodity Committees were included as mandatory requirements in standards being elaborated by these Committees and were in conformity with the recommended end-product specifications, it was not necessary that these mandatory requirements should subsequently be referred back to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for formal endorsement. The Committee also noted that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had, however, agreed that where Codex Commodity Committees adopted, as mandatory requirements in standards, expanded versions of hygienic end-product specifications or parts of Codes of Practice other than end-product specifications, such mandatory requirements should be referred back to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for formal endorsement.

Question of Including Fourth Color Type "Green" Color Peaches in the Recommended Standard for Canned Peaches (Step 9).

13. The Committee noted the background to this question, which was set out in par. 3 of the Report of the Committee's Fifth Session (ALINORM 69/20). The Committee re-examined the request of Austria that a fourth color type green peaches be included in the Step 9 Recommended Standard for Canned Peaches, in the light of a paper on the subject prepared by Austria and distributed to delegates during the course of the session. The Austrian paper indicated that no statistics concerning the extent of international trade in this particular color type was available, since it was not possible for Austria to furnish a statistical breakdown of the

trade in the different varieties of peaches processed. The paper stressed that the peaches in question were green flesh peaches, that the skin of these peaches was slightly green even when ripe, and that there could be no mistaking them for unripe peaches. The Committee noted that the paper indicated that the significant feature about these peaches was the whitish-green color of the flesh when fully ripe.

14. In view of the above information, and recognizing that there was a trade in this product, even though statistics were not available the Committee saw no objection to the inclusion of this fourth color type in the Recommended Standard for Peaches, provided that these peaches were mature in accordance with the Product Definition in the standard, were appropriately labelled, and met the other requirements of the standard. The Committee agreed to leave it to Austria to consider whether these peaches should be described as "green" or "pale green." The Committee also agreed that Austria should be asked to draft an appropriate amendment to the standard in precise terms for submission to the Commission at its Seventh Session. The Committee agreed that Austria should, in submitting its proposed amendment to the Commission, follow the guidelines laid down in the "Guide to the Procedure for the Revision and Amendment of Recommended Codex Standards," which was adopted by the Commission at its Sixth Session (Appendix VII to the Report of the Sixth Session of the Commission). The Committee noted that it would be a matter for the Commission to decide whether an amendment of the Recommended Standard for Canned Peaches was desirable.

Modified Food Starches (Revised May 1969)

15. The Committee, at its Fifth Session, had noted that modified starches had been deleted by the Commission, at its Fifth Session, from the Standards for Canned Green and Wax Beans and Canned Sweet Corn, because modified starches had not been endorsed by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The Committee had also noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had asked this Committee to define clearly which modified starches were meant. The Committee at its last session agreed on a list of modified starches to be used, and this had appeared as Appendix XII to the Report of this Committee's Fifth Session (ALINORM 69/ 20). Subsequently, at the request of the chairman of the Committee, the FAO Secretariat appended a proposed amendment to the list of food starches modified by chemical means in Appendix XII, since there were some omissions in the list. An FAO Secretariat Note attached to the proposed amendment made it clear that the proposed amendment had not been placed before this Committee for adoption.
16. The Committee, at the current session had before it for consideration a revised document on this subject, which included a revised list of modified starches. The document, which was prepared by the Delegation

of the U.S.A. was referenced as "Proposed Revision, Appendix XII, ALINORM 69/20" dated February 1969. During the course of the discussions of this document, various amendments were agreed to, and the document, as revised by the Committee, appears as Appendix II to this report.

17. The Committee agreed that it wished to provide for the use in standards, as appropriate, of starches modified by physical and/or enzymatic and/or chemical treatment. The Committee considered that the definition of "modification by physical means" appearing in the Definition Section of the document adequately covered what was intended, and therefore agreed to delete the specific example of modification by physical means cited further on in the Annex to the document. As regards the question of indicating the enzymes referred to in "modification by enzymatic means," the Committee agreed that, at this stage it had in mind small amounts of starch splitting enzymes, including but not limited to, the amylases and the proteases. The Committee thought, however, that it might be necessary to consider at a later stage whether other enzymes ought to be included.
18. The Committee was of the opinion that starch modified solely by physical means or enzymatic means should be considered as native or natural starches under the heading "Ingredients" in the standards, and should not be treated as food additives requiring endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Additives.
19. The Committee agreed to draw to the attention of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Food Additives that the Norms listed in the document were only suggested Norms and were intended to provide background information.
20. The Committee agreed that the revised document should be sent for consideration to the next session of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and of the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

Standard for Canned Asparagus Considered at Step 7.

21. The Committee considered the Standard for Canned Asparagus contained in document Codex/PFV 68/Asparagus, dated October 1968, in the light of Government comments received thereon. The standard, as revised by the Committee, is contained in Appendix III to this report. The following were the main points emerging from the Committee's deliberations:
 - (a) The Committee considered the general point made by the Delegation of the Netherlands at the Sixth Session of the Commission, and to which reference was made in the Report of the Sixth Session of the Commission, that it should be stated specifically

in the canned fruit and vegetable standards that only the packing media, ingredients and additives listed in the standards were permitted to be used. The Committee recalled that it had discussed this matter at an earlier session, and had decided that a statement of this kind was not necessary, since it was clearly understood that the lists in question were positive lists and that anything not listed was not permitted. The Committee was of the opinion that there was no reason to depart from this view, and did not think it necessary to include in the standards a statement along the lines suggested by the Netherlands.

- (b) The Committee agreed to provide for a fourth color type--mixed color type--in the standard. The Delegation of the Netherlands reserved its position temporarily on this decision.
- (c) The Delegation of France reserved its position regarding section 1.3 (c) of the standard defining the style "Tips," stating that these units should be not more than 6 cm and not less than 4 cm.
- (d) The Committee amended and expanded the section of the standard entitled "Designation in Accordance with Size," to provide for the optional use of size nomenclature.
- (e) In the Ingredients Section of the standard, the Committee extended the scope of the provision permitting the use of starch only when butter was an ingredient to include other edible animal or vegetable fats or oils.
- (f) The Committee amended the section of the standard dealing with Allowances for Defects. In doing so, the Committee clarified the meaning of the table containing the allowances for defects, amended the individual allowances for the various categories of defects and limited each category of defects to a maximum of 10 percent.
- (g) The Committee amended the Food Additive Section of the standard. The principal amendments were the listing in this section of the edible organic acids which the Committee wished to provide for, and the extension of the provision on stannous chloride to asparagus packed in fully enamelled (lacquered) cans. The Committee reiterated what it had stated at its previous session, that is, it was not aware of any suitable alternative to stannous chloride as an additive in asparagus packed in glass. Neither was it aware of any suitable alternative to stannous chloride as an additive in asparagus packed