

THE MAPPING OF FOOD CATEGORIES IN THE GSFA TO THE FOODEx2 DATABASE

1. BACKGROUND

The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), in its conclusions to its 89th meeting, requested additional information in order to complete the exposure assessment for sucrose esters of fatty acids (INS 473) and sucrose oligoesters, type I and type II (INS 473a). Specifically, JECFA requested that the foods be classified according to the FoodEx2 classification system, and that the data be presented in tabular format by mapping the foods recorded in the FoodEx2 to those foods in the GSFA food categories to aid in the use of both the Chronic Individual Food Consumption database - Summary statistics (CIFOCoss)¹ and the Global Individual Food consumption data Tool (GIFT)² databases. The JECFA also noted that this exercise can improve mapping consistency for all future meetings.³

As part of the discussions during the in-session working group on the JECFA Priority List at CCFA52(2021), Japan, as the proponent of the original request for the evaluation of INS 473 and 473a, had agreed to conduct a mapping exercise for these additives, but also understood that the mapping exercise would be more broadly applicable to all food additives. To ensure that a complete mapping between the GSFA and the FoodEx2 could be produced that would be suitable for future exposure assessments conducted by JECFA, the working group Chair suggested that the development of such a mapping should undergo greater scrutiny by the Committee.⁴

As a result of the discussion, CCFA52 endorsed new work to develop a discussion paper with the purpose of developing a complete mapping exercise between the food categories of the GSFA and the FoodEx2 database and agreed to a discussion paper to be co-authored by Canada, Australia and Japan at that time.⁵

CCFA53(2023) discussed the project document, the JECFA Secretariat noted that the exercise was complicated and therefore important to finish the preliminary mapping initiated by Canada on a limited number of GSFA Food Categories, to learn as much as possible about the mapping process. JECFA also mentioned it would be willing to host the mapping document. CCFA53 agreed that when the initial mapping had been tested by JECFA, it would support JECFA in hosting the mapping and any additional documentation.⁶ CCFA53 supported that the initial full mapping be undertaken by Japan based on Japan's previous willingness to undertake this work for SUCROSE ESTERS.⁷

The initial mapping was submitted to JECFA secretariat in January 2025.

CCFA56(2026) agreed to publish it as an information document for everyone's reference.

2. STRUCTURE

It consists of a **master file** and **four appendices**.

MasterFile: The “MasterFile” was created by splitting it into 21 Excel spreadsheets corresponding to the 21 top-level groups in FoodEx2. Furthermore, the EU food categories have been added to the right end column.

Appendix1: Twenty one (21) “MasterFile” sheets have been consolidated into one.

Appendix2: Appendix 1 has been organized by Core Terms based on the discussion in CCFA53. It contains 2 sheets.

- Sheet “with empty cells”: Empty cells are left in order to be easily compared with Appendix1.
- Sheet “without empty cells”: Empty cells have been removed.

Appendix3: All FoodEx2 food codes with GSFA category information are sorted.

Appendix4: FoodEx2 food codes with multi-codes of GSFA category in Appendix3 are separated into multiple rows.

¹ CIFOCoss accessed on WHO Food Safety Collaborative Platform (FOSCOLLAB): <https://apps.who.int/foscollab/Download/DownloadConso> , accessed October 2025.

² FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool (GIFT): methodological document: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8809en/cb8809en.pdf> , accessed October 2025.

³ FAO/WHO. 2020. Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives: Eighty-ninth meeting (Safety evaluation of certain food additives), Virtual meeting, 1-12 June 2020, Summary and Conclusions. <https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/cb73a490-36bf-4702-afec-d85ae2122d4e/content> , accessed October 2025.

⁴ [CCFA52 CRD6](#) Recommendation 6

⁵ [REP21/FA](#) paragraph 226, 227(iii)

⁶ REP23/FA paragraph 157

⁷ CCFA53 CRD35 Recommendation 6

**LIST OF LINKS TO THE MAPPING OF FOOD CATEGORIES IN THE GSFA TO
THE FOODEx2 DATABASE**

- MasterFile: https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/GSFA-FoodEx2-Mapping_MasterFile_2025-01-31.xlsx
- Appendix1: https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/Appendix1_GSFA-FoodEx2-Mapping_OneSheet_2025-01-31.xlsx
- Appendix2: https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/Appendix2_GSFA-FoodEx2-Mapping_CCFA53-recommended-CoreTerms_2025-01-31.xlsx
- Appendix3: https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/Appendix3_FoodEx2-sorted_OneLongList_with-Multi-code_2025-01-31.xlsx
- Appendix4: https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/doc/Appendix4_FoodEx2-sorted_OneLongList_without-Multi-code_2025-01-31.xlsx