

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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**TO** Codex Contact Points  
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

**FROM** Secretariat,  
Codex Alimentarius Commission,  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

**SUBJECT** **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AT STEP 6 ON THE DRAFT REVISION OF THE  
CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED:  
GROUP 020 – GRASSES OF CEREAL GRAINS**

**DEADLINE** **17 April 2017**

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## BACKGROUND

1. Background on the discussion of the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CAC/MISC 4-1993) can be found in the reports of the 36<sup>th</sup> – 48<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) including relevant sessions of the Codex Alimentarius (CAC) held from 2004 to 2016. Reports of Codex Committee meetings are available at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/en/>.
2. The 48<sup>th</sup> Session of CCPR (CCPR48) (April 2016) came to an agreement on the grouping of Group 020 – Grasses of Cereal Grain as follows: subgroups 020A Wheat; 020B Barley; 020C Rice; 020D Maize, Grain Sorghum and Millet and 020E Sweet Corn, with pseudo-cereals separated into either subgroup 020A Wheat or subgroup 020B Barley). Based on this agreement, the Committee agreed to send the Group 020 to the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC39) (July 2016) for adoption at Step 5.
3. In order to assist with the finalization of this Group, the Committee agreed that the Electronic Working Group on the revision of the Classification chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands would continue working on the commodities to be included in the different subgroups, with the understanding that the crop subgrouping for Group 020 would not be subject to any further discussion<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the EWG would consider the need for separate codes for sweet corn (kernels), sweet corn (corn-on-the cob) and baby corn. The list of participants is presented in Appendix IV.
4. The Commission adopted the proposed draft Group 020 at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6 for comments and finalization by CCPR49.<sup>2</sup>

## SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION

5. There was agreement within the EWG that a commodity should only be included in one group or subgroup to avoid any possible confusion of having two different CXLs for the same commodity. It was also agreed that the plant part needs to be considered when describing a commodity and it is acceptable to include the same commodity with different plant part in different groups (for example radish roots and radish leaves). Finally, it was agreed that it is appropriate to include cross-referencing where commodities (without a code number) can be listed in a group, but with reference to its primary classification.

<sup>1</sup> REP16/PR, paras.135-141, 158

<sup>2</sup> REP16/CAC, Appendix IV

**Location of canarygrass in Group 020**

6. There was general agreement within the EWG that chia should be a member of Group 020 rather than as previously proposed in Herbs and Spices (Group 028A Seeds HS 3283 at Step 7)<sup>3</sup>. There was also general agreement that separate codes were needed for commodities in Subgroup 020E Sweet Corns (Appendix III). In addition, Canada proposed relocating canarygrass from Subgroup 020D Maize, Grain Sorghum and Millet to Subgroup 020B Barley. This was opposed by the EU. Supporting documentation by Canada and the EU are presented in Appendix II.

**Location of maize in Group 020**

7. Australia also proposed grouping maize with sweet corn because of the higher residues in grain sorghum compared to maize (Appendix II). This was supported by a comparison of US grain sorghum, versus field corn (maize) tolerances (Appendix II).

8. Japan noted that there was general agreement that sweet corn would be included under a separate subgroup at CCPR47 (April 2015)<sup>4</sup>, but suggested two compromises

(1) transfer all commodities in Subgroup 020E Sweet corn into Subgroup 020D Maize, Grain Sorghum and Millet

(2) add grain sorghum as an example of a representative commodity for Subgroup 020D (Agenda item 7(e)). This second option aligns with the general agreement that sweet corn would be included under a separate subgroup at CCPR47<sup>4</sup>.

**CONCLUSIONS**

9. Following the mandate entrusted to it by CCPR48, the Committee finalized the revision of Group 020 as presented in Appendix III with two pending issues i.e. canarygrass and maize for further consideration and agreement by CCPR49 as explained in the precedent paragraphs (see proposals in Appendix II).

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

10. The Committee is invited to consider the subgrouping for canarygrass and maize for Group 020 – Grasses of Cereal Grains with a view to their finalization by CCPR49.

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

11. Codex members and observers are kindly invited to comment on the draft Group 020 Cereals Grass as described in Appendix III while keeping in mind agreement reached at CCPR48 on the subgrouping of this Group, therefore comments are requested on additional commodities to be added to or transferred within the subgroups.

12. In particular, comments are requested on two commodities (canarygrass and maize) as described in the proposals in Appendix II.

13. When submitting comments, Codex members and observers are kindly invited to take into consideration:

(1) The discussion held at CCPR 47 (2015)<sup>4</sup> and CCPR48<sup>1</sup>.

(2) The mandate of the EWG<sup>1</sup>.

(3) The guiding principles and the criteria for crop group of the Classification (as in Appendix I).

(4) The table for representative commodities for Group 020 as proposed in CL 2017/22-PR (Agenda Item 7e)

<sup>3</sup> REP11/PR, paras. 87-92, Appendix VI

<sup>4</sup> REP15/PR, para. 132

**APPENDIX I**  
**(For information)**

The Classification of Food and Feed (CAC/MISC 4-1993) includes food commodities and animal feedstuffs for which Codex maximum residue limits will not necessarily be established. The Classification is intended:

- to be a listing of food commodities in trade as complete as possible, classified into groups on the basis of the commodity's similar potential for pesticide residues;
- primarily to ensure the use of uniform nomenclature and secondarily to classify foods into groups and/or sub-groups for the purpose of establishing group maximum residue limits for commodities with similar characteristics and residue potential; and
- to promote harmonization of the terms used to describe commodities which are subject to maximum residue limits and of the approach to grouping commodities with similar potential for residue for which a common group maximum residue limit can be set.

**Characteristics for crop grouping are:**

1. Commodity's similar potential for pesticide residues;
2. Similar morphology;
3. Similar production practices, growth habits, etc;
4. Edible portion;
5. Similar GAP for pesticide uses;
6. Similar residue behavior;
7. To provide flexibility for setting (sub) group tolerances.

**APPENDIX II**  
**PROPOSALS FOR LOCATION OF CANARYGRASS AND MAIZE IN GROUP 020**  
**(For comments)**

**PROPOSAL (1): Location of canarygrass**

**Canada: Rationale supporting location of canarygrass in Subgroup 020B Barley:**

1. Canarygrass is a cool season grass. Cool season grasses are made up of relatively small statured species that utilise the C<sub>3</sub> carbon fixation. These typically grow best under moderate sunlight, moderate temperatures and adequate moisture. Both wheat and barley are cool season grasses. In contrast, warm season grasses, such as millet and sorghum are made up of relatively large-statured species that can also utilise the C<sub>4</sub> carbon fixation. Due to this plant metabolism, these can also grow well under high sunlight, high temperatures and reduced moisture.

2. The primary use of canary seed is for bird seed. The seed coat is brown and is covered by a yellow hull. The yellow hull is very attractive to birds, so it is desirable to maintain the hulls while harvesting. In this respect, it would be more similar to barley (husk remains attached to the kernels) than to wheat (husks are separated from the kernels during threshing). Therefore, it is more appropriate for canarygrass to be placed in the barley subgroup than in the Maize, Grain Sorghum and Millet subgroup.

3. It is noted that the hairless varieties of brown and yellow coloured canary seed that are dehulled before entering the human food market have been developed for human consumption and may require the establishment of Codex MRLs in the future.

**EU: Rationale to keep canarygrass in Subgroup 020D Maize, Grain Sorghum and Millet**

Having in mind the seven characteristics for crop grouping listed in CL 2014/16-PR

1. Commodity's similar potential for pesticide residues;
2. Similar morphology;
3. Similar production practices, growth habits, etc;
4. Edible portion;
5. Similar GAP for pesticide uses;
6. Similar residue behaviour;
7. To provide flexibility for setting (sub) group tolerances)

and in particular the numbers 2 and 4, the EU notes the similar morphology between canarygrass and other small grains, like the different kinds of millet. Millet grains have a similar size to canarygrass seeds and are listed in the subgroup 020D.

**PROPOSAL (2): Location of maize****Australia: Proposal for Maize:**

Table 1 Mean residues (mg/kg) in maize and sorghum obtained from JMPR evaluation monographs and normalised to an application rate of 1 kg ai/ha. Often mean and median maize residues <LOQ so ratios would be higher as here assumed levels <LOQ are at the LOQ.

Chemical	Mean residue			Median residue		
	sorghum	maize	ratio	sorghum	maize	ratio
alpha-cypermethrin	34.4	0.28	125.1	20	0.29	69
azoxystrobin	8.4	0.04	224.5	6.4	0.04	180
chlorantraniliprole	10.6	0.09	117.4	10.9	0.09	120
chlorpyrifos	0.30	0.009	32.3	0.17	0.006	28
fluopyram	2.6	0.04	64.4	1.9	0.04	49
flutriafol	2.3	0.077	30.1	1.8	0.077	24
fluxapyroxad	2.2	0.11	19.0	1.9	0.1	19
lambda-cyhalothrin	2.1	0.29	7.1	1.1	0.29	3.7
penthiopyrad	0.64	0.03	22.3	0.51	0.03	18
propiconazole	10.6	0.4	25.7	11.1	0.4	26.6
pyraclastrobin	0.28	0.1	2.8	0.11	0.1	1.1
Average			60.97			48.95

The JMPR has accepted a factor of 5 for differences in median residues between members of a group when deciding whether a group MRL is possible.

Clearly the difference between sorghum (and millet) and maize is much greater (average mean ratio >61x, average median ration >49x).

Australia proposes that maize be separated from sorghum and millet and that maize be combined with Sweet Corn Cereals. Residues in maize and sweet corn generally do not differ by much and are mostly <LOQ.

Chemical	US Tolerance (ppm)			
	Field Corn, grain ( <b>Maize</b> )	Corn, pop, grain	Corn, Sweet (kernel plus cob with husk removed)	Sorghum, grain <sup>1</sup>
2,4-D	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.2
S-(2-(Ethylsulfinyl)ethyl) O,O-dimethyl phosphorothioate	--	--	0.5	0.75
Acetochlor	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Alachlor	0.2	0.2	0.05	0.1
Atrazine	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Azoxystrobin	0.05	0.05	0.05	11
Bentazon	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Carbaryl	0.02	0.02	0.1	10
Chlorpyrifos	0.05	--	0.05	0.5
Cyfluthrin	0.05	0.05	0.05	3.5
Cypermethrin and isomers alpha-cypermethrin and zeta-cypermethrin	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.5
Dicamba	0.1	0.1	0.04	4
Dimethenamid	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Dimethoate	0.1	0.1	--	0.1
Esfenvalerate	0.02	0.02	0.1	5
Fluoxastrobin	0.02	--	0.01	1.5
Fluroxypyr 1-methylheptyl ester	0.02	--	0.02	0.02
Flutriafol	0.01	0.01	--	1.5
Halosulfuron-methyl	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Hexythiazox	0.02	--	0.1	3
Lambda-cyhalothrin	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.2
Linuron	0.1	--	0.25	0.25
Mancozeb	0.06	0.1	0.1	0.25
Mesotrione	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Methomyl	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Metolachlor	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Methoxyfenozide	0.05	0.05	0.05	6
Nicosulfuron	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8
Nitrapyrin	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Novaluron	--	--	0.05	3
Paraquat	0.1	0.1	0.05	0.05
Pendimethalin	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Penthiopyrad	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.8
Phorate	0.05	--	0.05	0.05
Propargite	0.1	0.1	--	5
Propiconazole	0.2	0.2	0.1	3.5
Pyraclostrobin	0.1	0.1	0.04	0.6
Sedaxane	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Spinetoram	0.04	0.04	0.04	1
Terbufos	0.5	0.5	0.05	0.05

<sup>1</sup> Grain sorghum tolerances that are shaded are >5X of corn tolerances.

**APPENDIX III  
(For comments)**

**TYPE 3                      GRASSES**

Grasses are herbaceous annual and perennial monocotyledonous plants of different kinds, cultivated extensively for their ears (heads) of starchy seeds used directly for the production of food. Grasses used for animal feed are classified under Class C: Primary Animal feed commodities, Group 051.

The plants are fully exposed to pesticides applied during the growing season.

**Cereal grains**

Class A

**Type 3                      Grasses    Group 020            Group Letter Code GC**

Group 020. Cereal grains are derived from the ears (heads) of starchy seeds produced by a variety of plants, primarily of the grass family (Gramineae).

Pseudocereals or pseudograins, are not grasses, but have similar uses and are generally considered with cereal grains. Pseudocereals, produce dry fruit referred to as seed, nutlets, grains or achenes and are found in families such as Amaranthaceae (amaranths), Chenopodiaceae (Cañihua) and Polygoniaceae (buckwheat). This group also includes the small seeded crop chia (Lamiaceae).

The edible seeds are protected to varying degrees from pesticides applied during the growing season by husks. Husks are removed before processing and/or consumption.

Cereal grains are often exposed to post-harvest treatment with pesticides.

Portion of the commodity to which the MRL applies (and which is analysed): Whole commodity in trade. Wheat, rye, triticale, maize, sorghum, pearl millet and other similar cereals with husks readily separable from kernels during threshing: kernels. Barley, oats, rice and other similar cereals with husks that remain attached to kernels even after threshing: kernels with husks (Note: For rice, only about 10% of traded grains is with husk). Corn-on-the-cob (kernels plus cob with husk removed).

For Fodders and straw of cereals, see Class C, Type 11 Group 051

**Group 020            Cereal grains**

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Commodity</u>
GC 0080	<b>Cereal grains</b> Seeds of <i>gramineous</i> plants and of dicotyledonous plants with similarities in size and type of the seed, residue pattern and the use of the commodity
GC 0081	<b>Cereal grains</b> , cereal grains except pseudocereals
GC 0082	<b>Pseudocereals</b> , or pseudograins, produce dry fruit referred to as seed, nutlets, grains or achenes and are found in families such as Amaranthaceae (amaranths), Chenopodiaceae (Cañihua) and Polygoniaceae (buckwheat). This group also includes the small seeded crop chia (Lamiaceae).

**Subgroup 020A Wheat, similar grains, and pseudocereals without husks**

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Commodity</u>
GC 2086	<b>Wheat, similar grains, and pseudocereals without husks</b> (includes all commodities in subgroup 020A)
GC 3080	<b>Amaranth, grain</b> <i>Amaranthus</i> spp.
-	<b>Amaranth, purple</b> , see Amaranth grain, GC 3080 <i>Amaranthus cruentus</i> L.
GC 0642	<b>Cañihua</b> <i>Chenopodium pallidicaule</i> Aellen
GC 3084	<b>Chia</b> <i>Salvia hispanica</i> L.

- GC 3085      **Cram-cram**  
                   *Cenchrus biflorus* Roxb.
- **Durum wheat**, see Wheat, GC 0654  
                   syn: *Triticum durum* Desf.
- Einkorn wheat**, see Wheat, GC 0654  
                   *Triticum monococcum* L. subsp. *monococcum*
- **Emmer**, see Wheat, GC 0654  
                   *Triticum turgidum* L. subsp. *dicoccon* (Schrank) Thell.
- GC 3086      **Huauzontle**  
                   *Chenopodium berlandieri* Moq. subsp. *nuttalliae* (Saff.) H. D. Wilson & Heiser
- **Inca wheat**, see Amaranth grain, GC 3080  
                   *Amaranthus caudatus* L.
- Khorasan wheat**, see Wheat, GC 0654  
                   *Triticum turgidum* L. subsp.
- **Princess–feather**, see Amaranth grain, GC 3080  
                   *Amaranthus hypochondriacus* L.
- GC 3087      **Psyllium sp.**  
                   *Plantago spp*
- **Psyllium**, see Psyllium sp.GC 3087  
                   *Plantago arenaria* Waldst. & Kit.
- **Psyllium, blond**, see Psyllium sp.GC 3087  
                   *Plantago ovata* Forssk.
- GC 0648      **Quinoa**  
                   *Chenopodium quinoa* Willd.
- GC 0650      **Rye**  
                   *Secale cereale* L.
- **Spelt**, see Wheat, GC 0654  
                   *Triticum spelta* L.
- GC 0653      **Triticale**  
                   Hybrid of Wheat and Rye
- GC 0654      **Wheat**  
                   Cultivars of *Triticum aestivum* L.;  
                   syn: *T. sativum* Lam.; *T. vulgare* Vill.; *Triticum* spp., as listed

**Subgroup 020B Barley, similar grains, and pseudocereals with husks**

<b><u>Code No.</u></b>	<b><u>Commodity</u></b>
GC 2087	Barley, similar grains, and pseudocereals with husks (includes all commodities in subgroup 020B)
GC 0640	<b>Barley</b> <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.;
GC 0641	<b>Buckwheat</b> <i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> Moench;
GC 3082	<b>Buckwheat, tartary</b> <i>Fagopyrum tataricum</i> (L.) Gaertn.
GC 0647	<b>Oats</b> <i>Avena sativa</i> L.; <i>A. abyssinica</i> Hochst.
-	<b>Oat, Red</b> , see Oats, GC 0647 <i>Avena byzantina</i> Koch

**Subgroup 020C Rice Cereals**

<b><u>Code No.</u></b>	<b><u>Commodity</u></b>
GC 2088	Rice cereals (includes all commodities in subgroup 020C)
GC 0649	<b>Rice</b> <i>Oryza sativa</i> L.; several ssp. and cultivars
GC 3088	<b>Rice, African</b> <i>Oryza glaberrima</i> Steud.
GC 0655	<b>Wild rice</b> <i>Zizania palustris</i> L.
-	<b>Wild Rice, Eastern</b> , see wild rice GC 0655 <i>Zizania aquatica</i> L.

**Subgroup 020D Maize, Grain Sorghum and Millet****Code No.****Commodity**

GC 2089

**Maize, Grain Sorghum and Millet**

(includes all commodities in subgroup 020D)

- **Acha**, see Hungry Rice, GC 0643
- **Adlay**, see Job's Tears, GC 0644
- **African millet**, see Millet, GC 0646
- **Brown-corn millet**, see Millet, GC 0646
- **Bulrush millet**, see Millet, GC 0646

GC 3083

**Canarygrass, annual***Phalaris canariensis* L.

- **Cat-tail millet**, see Millet, GC 0646
- **Chicken corn**, see Sorghum, GC 0651  
*Sorghum drummondii* (Steud.) Millsp. & Chase
- **Corn**, see Maize, GC 0645
- **Dari seed**, see Sorghum, GC 0651
- **Durra**, see Sorghum, GC 0651  
syn: *Sorghum durra* (Forsk.) Stapf.
- **Feterita**, see Sorghum, GC 0651  
syn: *Sorghum caudatum* Stapf.
- **Finger millet**, see Millet, GC 0646
- **Fonio**, see Hungry Rice, GC 0643
- **Fonio, black**, see Hungry Rice, GC 0643  
*Digitaria iburua* Stapf
- **Fonio, white**, see Hungry Rice, GC 0643  
*Digitaria exilis* (Kippist) Stapf
- **Foxtail millet**, see Millet, GC 0646
- **Fundi**, see Hungry Rice, GC 0643
- **Guinea corn**, see Sorghum, GC 0651  
syn: *Sorghum guineense* Stapf.
- **Hog millet**, see Millet, GC 0646

GC 0643

**Hungry rice***Digitaria exilis* Stapf.; *D. iburua* Stapf.**Indian corn**, see Maize, GC 0645syn: *Zea indurata* Sturtev.

GC 0644

**Job's tears***Coix lacryma-jobi* L.

- **Kaffir corn**, see Sorghum, GC 0651  
syn: *Sorghum caffrorum* P. Beauv.
- **Kaoliang**, see Sorghum, GC 0651  
syn: *Sorghum nervosum* Bess. ex Schult. & Schult. f.

**GC 0645 Maize*****Zea mays* L., several cultivars, not including Sweet corn**

GC 0646

**Millet**

Including Barnyard Millet, Bulrush Millet, Common Millet, Finger Millet, Foxtail Millet, Little Millet; (see for scientific names, specific commodities listed as Millet, followed by a specific denomination)

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**Millet, Barnyard**, see Millet, GC 0646*Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) Beauv.;syn: *Panicum crus-galli* L.;*E. frumentacea* (Roxb.) Link;syn: *Panicum frumentaceum* Roxb.

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**Millet, Bulrush**, see Millet, GC 0646*Pennisetum glaucum* (L.) R. Br.syn: *P. typhoides* (Burm. f.) Stapf. & Hubbard; *P. americanum* (L.) K. Schum.; *P. spicatum* (L.) Koern.

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**Millet, Common**, see Millet, GC 0646*Panicum miliaceum* L.

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**Millet, Finger**, see Millet, GC 0646*Eleusine coracana* (L.) Gaertn.

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**Millet, Foxtail**, see Millet, GC 0646*Setaria italica* (L.) Beauv.;syn: *Panicum italicum* L.; *Chaetochloa italica* (L.) Scribn.

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**Millet, Kodo**, see Millet, GC 0646*Paspalum scrobiculatum* L.

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**Millet, Little**, see Millet, GC 0646*Panicum sumatrense* Roth

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**Millet, Pearl**, see Millet, GC 0646

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**Milo**, see Sorghum, GC 0651syn: *Sorghum subglabrescens* (Steud.) Schweinf. & Asch.

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**Pearl millet**, see Millet, GC 0646

GC 0656

**Popcorn***Zea mays* L., var. *everta* Sturt.;syn: *Zea mays* L., var. *praecox*

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**Proso millet**, see Millet, GC 0646

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**Russian millet**, see Millet, GC 0646

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**Shallu**, see Sorghum, GC 0651syn: *Sorghum roxburghii* Stapf.

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**Sorgo**, see Sorghum, GC 0651

GC 0651

**Sorghum***Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench; several *Sorghum* ssp. and cultivars

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**Spiked millet**, see Millet, GC 0646

GC 0652

**Teff or Tef***Eragrostis tef* (Zucc.) Trotter;syn: *E. abyssinica* (Jacq.) Link

GC 0657

**Teosinte***Zea mays* ssp. *mexicana* (Schrader) Iltis;syn: *Zea mexicana* (Schrader) Kunze; *Euchlaena mexicana* Schrader.

**Subgroup 020E Sweet Corns**

<b><u>Code No.</u></b>	<b><u>Commodity</u></b>
GC 2090	<b>Sweet Corns</b> (includes all commodities in subgroup 020E)
GC 3081	<b>Baby corn</b> <i>Zea mays</i> L., several cultivars
GC 0447	<b>Sweet corn (Corn-on-the-cob) (kernels plus cob with husk removed)</b> <i>Zea mays</i> L., several cultivars, not including popcorn
GC 1275	<b>Sweet corn (whole kernel without cob or husk)</b> <i>Zea mays</i> L., several cultivars, not including popcorn

**APPENDIX IV  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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