

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



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Proposal for New Work on Large Cardamom

(Submitted by Bhutan and Nepal)

Background

This document is a proposal for new work submitted by Bhutan and Nepal in reflection on the discussions held during sub-regional terminal review meeting of Codex Trust Fund 2 BIN (Bhutan, India and Nepal) group project held from 15th – 16th August 2023 in Thimphu, Bhutan for collaboration on submission of new work proposal for large cardamom.

CCSCH7 is requested to consider the new work proposal for future work of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs.

PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK ON CODEX STANDARD FOR LARGE CARDAMOM

(CCSCH Group category - Dried Fruits and Berries)(Submitted by Bhutan and Nepal)

INTRODUCTION

Large cardamom (*Amomum subulatum* Roxb.) belongs to the botanical family called *Zingiberaceae* and is also known as 'black cardamom.' Large cardamom capsules are spindle-shaped and are light to dark brown to pink in color. The dried and/or dehydrated whole capsule normally vary from 6 mm to 10 mm in width and contain several black seeds inside with a spicy aroma.

While large cardamom is grown mainly in the sub-Himalayan region of Nepal, India, and Bhutan, between 800 and 2,100 meters above sea level, other types of cardamom known as green cardamom or small cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum* Maton) are mostly grown in Guatemala, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Tanzania etc.

For centuries, large cardamom has been utilized by many communities of South Asia for its smoky flavor in their traditional dishes as a symbol of wealth and now getting its market in countries particularly in the Gulf, North America, Europe and Australia. Compared to the green variety, large cardamom has a very distinct smoky smell and taste, and brownish to pinkish color, which originates from an ancient drying method.

1. Purpose and Scope of the Standard

The physical shapes and chemical/phyto-chemical constituents of large cardamom (*Amomum subulatum* Roxb.) differs widely from small or green cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum* Maton) which is having larger share in international trade. Currently, there is no Codex standards for large and small cardamom, however, official process have started for preparation and adoption of a new Codex standard for small cardamom. In order to avoid confusion and generalization of quality standards for small and large cardamoms for international trade, it is proposed to formulate a separate Codex standard for large cardamom. The scope of this work is to establish Codex standard for large cardamom in whole, seed and ground forms. The objective of this standard is to consider the identity and quality characteristics of large cardamom or any other factors to protect consumers' health and promote fair international trade.

2. Relevance and Timeliness

Due to the growing trend of large cardamom production, export and international trade, it is necessary to establish commodity standards covering the quality, hygiene and labelling to have a reference that has been internationally agreed by consensus between main producing and trading countries. The main producers of large cardamom are Bhutan, India and Nepal. Large cardamom continues to be in the top list of export commodities for Bhutan and Nepal.

In the world market, both small and large cardamoms, combined, are referred to as cardamom and trade data are put under the Customs HS Code 09.08.31 used for international trade.

Although it is difficult to get the segregated world trade data for large cardamom, based on the recent official data of main exporting countries (Bhutan, India and Nepal), the main importers are from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US), Japan, Canada and Australia.

Recent trends show that in terms of volume and value of exports from the South Asian region, the share of large cardamom is gradually increasing. The export price of large cardamom (in capsules) varies between US\$ 10 to US\$ 13 per kilogram in the season of 2023. Currently, it is considered as the world's fourth most expensive spice, surpassed in price per weight only by saffron, vanilla and green cardamom. Economics of this valuable spice is important from different perspectives such as marketing, employment, household income, globalization, and export.

Quality specifications for large cardamom were developed and adopted at international level and national levels. At the international level, ISO has adopted *ISO 10622:1997*- Large cardamom (*Amomum subulatum* Roxb.) as capsules and seeds — Specification and at the national level, various standards for large cardamom were adopted by countries. For international trade, American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) and European Spice Association (ESA) have also set common standards, making these standards applicable for both types of cardamom.

In view of the above, it is necessary to develop a Codex standard for large cardamom, its seeds and ground

forms so as to ensure its quality and safety in the international trade and also protect consumers' health.

3. Main aspects to be covered

The main aspects to be covered in the standard are the minimum quality required to ensure consumer health and to promote fair practices in international trade. Hence, the standard will cover:

- i. Product Definition - Defining the product as dry and/or dehydrated whole capsule or seeds or ground form of large cardamom and including references to the genus and the species and/or varietal types if necessary.
- ii. Styles - Listing/describing the different forms of presentation including sizes of whole, or seeds or ground form of large cardamom.
- iii. Classes/Quality Criteria - Including provisions for moisture content, ash content, volatile oil content, extraneous matter and classification of defectives vis-à-vis lot acceptance based on the defects allowed.
- iv. Quality Tolerances - Provisions for the labelling and marking of the product in accordance with the *Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods*.
- v. Provisions on contaminants that refer to the *Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed*.
- vi. Hygiene provisions that refer to the *Recommended International Code of Practice – General Principles of Food Hygiene*.
- vii. Provisions for pesticides residues, labelling and packaging with reference to pre-existing Codex documents.
- viii. References to Methods of Analysis and Sampling

4. Assessment against the criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities General Criteria

Since large cardamom is a high-priced commodity and is getting recognized in the international trade for its

pleasant and savory flavor, developing a Codex standard for large cardamom will supply high quality and safe products to protect consumer's health and will help improve fair trade.

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

Global production data for cardamoms is not available separately. However, the data is available for spice group under FAO Code 0702- Nutmeg, mace, cardamom, raw. By the year 2021, global production of this spice group reached 1, 92,990 tons. India appeared to be the largest producer of this group of spices, producing 50,000 tons and with a global production share of 34.0% followed by Indonesia (27.7%), Guatemala (24.23%) and Nepal (5.64%) (Table 1a). Amongst these countries, India and Nepal have consistent production growth. Cardamom accounts for the major production volume.

Table 1a- Top Producing Countries of Whole Cardamom Group (HS Code 09.80)- Year 2021

FAO Code 0702 : Spices: Nutmeg, mace, cardamoms, raw

Rank	Country	Country's Production share (%)	Production Quantity (tons)	1 -Year Growth in Qty (%)	3-Year Growth in Qty (%)	5-Year Growth in Qty (%)
		2021	2021	2020-2021	2018-2021	2016-2021
1	India	34.02	50,000	35.14	16.28	31.58

2	Indonesia	22.7	40,800	0.54	-7.48	22.51
3	Guatemala	24.2	35,600	-0.4	0.61	0.35
4	Nepal	5.64	8,290	-13.16	21.02	28.27
5	Sri Lanka	3.06	4,500	9.18	24.88	572.36
6	Laos	2.1	3,090	-0.53	0.34	2.47
7	Bhutan	1.09	1,610	-26.01	4.35	-41.19
8	Tanzania	0.5	730	-0.79	-2.66	-5.54
9	Grenada	0.48	700	7.47	26.28	34.54
10	Honduras	0.4	580	7.47	13.14	14.73

Source: Whole Cardamom production and top producing countries (tridge.com)

Large cardamom is exclusively grown in Bhutan, India and Nepal. By the year 2022, total production of large cardamom by these countries fluctuated between 19,000 to 20,000 tons per annum in the last four years. This is almost 10% of the total global production of cardamom. More than 90% of the production is from India (exclusively from states of Sikkim, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland) and Nepal (Table 1b). Cardamom grown in Bhutan and Nepal are exclusively large cardamom and Nepal had the highest yield of 550kg/ha.

Table 1b - World Large Cardamom Production (2017-2022)

Year	Large Cardamom Production (Tons)			
	Nepal	India	Bhutan	Total
2017-18	6849	7844	2245	16938
2018-19	7954	9976	1542	19472
2019-20	9545	10182	1413	21140
2020-21	8289	10034	2175	20502
2021-22	8714	8821	1609	19144

Sources:

1. *Spices Statistics at a Glance 2021- Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Ministry of Agriculture and farmers welfare, GOI, 2021*
2. *Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan published in s2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 by National Statistical Bureau of Bhutan, Oct 2023.*
3. *STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON NEPALESE AGRICULTURE: Annual Publications for fiscal years 2021/22, 2020/21; 2019/20, 2018/19 and 2017/18 by Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Planning and Development Cooperation Coordination Division, Govt. of Nepal*

The world trade data in the internationally published sources are readily accessible only for the product categories under the six-digit HS code. Large cardamom falls under HS code 090831 together with other types of cardamom (green/small cardamom, java cardamom etc.). Updated picture of import-export trend of all types of cardamom in terms of quantity, value, annual growth trend and share in trade are reflected below in Table 2a and Table 2b.

Table 2a - Export Trade between Countries- Cardamoms (large, small and others), neither crushed nor ground.

Exporters	Value exported in 2022 (USD thousand)	Trade balance in 2022 (USD thousand)	Quantity exported in 2022, Tons	Unit value (USD/unit)	Annual growth in value between 2018-2022 (%)	Annual growth in quantity between 2018-2022 (%)	Annual growth in value between 2021-2022 (%)	Share in world exports (%)
World	831,653	15,153	102,509	8,113	6	12	-20	100
Guatemala	411,598	410,188	52,262	7,876	-3	6	-19	49.5
India	143,596	87,498	10,605	13,540	30	31	-26	17.3
United Arab Emirates	94,102	-15,736	9,255	10,168	13	15	-17	11.3
Indonesia	69,877	69,624	16,810	4,157	52	24	-9	8.4
Nepal	46,609	41,666	6,887	6,768	13	18	-1	5.6
Saudi Arabia	12,855	-145,144	863	14,896	28	25	6	1.5
Netherlands	11,121	708	583	19,075	13	6	-34	1.3
Singapore	8,731	-1,080	971	8,992	-7	0	-59	1
Viet Nam	5,102	3,821	418	12,206	124	134	576	0.6
Honduras	3,786	3,785	1,435	2,638	2	9	4	0.5
United Kingdom	3,019	-7,568	221	13,661	3	5	-60	0.4
Bhutan	2,944	2,866	426	6,911	46	54	-61	0.4
Germany	2,917	-7,560	168	17,363	1	-3	-27	0.4
Türkiye	2,562	-3,974	162	15,815	143	140	90	0.3

Source: ITC calculation based on UNCOMTRADE and ITC Statistics, unit: US Dollar thousand

Table 2b - Import Trade between Countries – Cardamoms (large, small and others), neither crushed nor ground

Importers	Value imported in 2022 (USD thousand)	Trade balance in 2022 (USD thousand)	Quantity imported in 2022, Tons	Unit value (USD/unit)	Annual growth in value between 2018-2022 (%)	Annual growth in quantity between 2018-2022 (%)	Annual growth in value between 2021-2022 (%)	Share in world imports (%)
World	816,500	15,153	88,644	9,211	14	17	-19	100
Saudi Arabia	157,999	-145,144	12,366	12,777	20	20	-26	19.4
United Arab Emirates	109,838	-15,736	11,539	9,519	7	11	-21	13.5
China	85,638	-85,613	18,217	4,701	1,176	186	-2	10.5
India	56,098	87,498	7,732	7,255	8	12	-7	6.9
Bangladesh	55,031	-55,016	6,670	8,251	4	5	-17	6.7
Egypt	32,091	-32,091	2,235	14,358	21	18	-18	3.9
Jordan	27,744	-26,668	1,932	14,360	4	-2	-8	3.4
Pakistan	23,334	-23,273	2,871	8,127	15	-2	-8	2.9
United States of America	21,821	-21,297	1,482	14,724	17	15	-27	2.7
Kuwait	20,212	-19,849	1,654	12,220	-2	1	-15	2.5
Iraq	17,637	-17,623	1,703	10,356	11	8	6	2.2
Afghanistan	16,796	-16,249	1,630	10,304	47	49	43	2.1
Iran, Islamic Republic of	16,376	-16,373	1,209	13,545	25	22	34	2
Oman	13,491	-13,358	1,124	12,003	5	6	-30	1.7
Qatar	11,874	-11,874	811	14,641	9	6	3	1.5
Yemen	11,847	-11,847	1,027	11,536	24	23	-21	1.5
Syrian Arab Republic	11,841	-11,819	1,578	7,504	-3	0	-24	1.5
United Kingdom	10,587	-7,568	879	12,044	9	9	-46	1.3
Germany	10,477	-7,560	773	13,554	7	3	-49	1.3

Importers	Value imported in 2022 (USD thousand)	Trade balance in 2022 (USD thousand)	Quantity imported in 2022, Tons	Unit value (USD/unit)	Annual growth in value between 2018-2022 (%)	Annual growth in quantity between 2018-2022 (%)	Annual growth in value between 2021-2022 (%)	Share in world imports (%)
Netherlands	10,413	708	886	11,753	5	3	-44	1.3
Singapore	9,811	-1,080	1,115	8,799	-4	2	-56	1.2
Japan	9,214	-9,214	526	17,517	19	11	-28	1.1
Canada	7,167	-6,522	499	14,363	16	15	-21	0.9
Türkiye	6,536	-3,974	1,559	4,192	56	58	138	0.8
Malaysia	4,951	-4,741	564	8,778	2	6	-18	0.6
Nepal	4,943	41,666	430	11,495	56	51	66	0.6
France	4,319	-3,200	222	19,455	24	13	-19	0.5
Israel	3,647	-3,606	254	14,358	7	5	-2	0.4
Bahrain	3,548	-3,018	252	14,079	11	10	-42	0.4
Australia	3,532	-3,409	271	13,033	9	7	-35	0.4
Sudan	3,032	-3,032	419	7,236	22	33	16	0.4
Somalia	2,825	-2,825	346	8,165	-8	-2	-41	0.3
Finland	2,822	-2,639	157	17,975	5	2	-34	0.3
Sweden	2,527	-2,195	143	17,671	4	0	-47	0.3
Lebanon	2,061	-1,927	193	10,679	-2	-1	-46	0.3
Guatemala	1,410	410,188	1,238	1,139	10	10	-17	0.2
Bhutan	112	2,832	9	12,444	159	73	-6	0

Source: ITC calculation based on UNCOMTRADE and ITC Statistics, unit: US Dollar thousand

Since the trade data for large cardamom is available at the national level with 8-digit HS Code (HS Code 09083110), recent official data on the annual export and import of Bhutan, India and Nepal were utilized for obtaining an indicative international trade pattern of large cardamom.

Table 3a gives a quantity-wise export data of large cardamom between 2018 to 2023, from Bhutan, India and Nepal. The recent trend shows that the total volume of exports have increased and within the past three years fluctuated between 10,000 to 14,000 tons. This accounts for approximately 12% of the global trade of total cardamom.

Since large cardamom represents nearly 10% of production volume and 12% of all types of cardamom export volume and with positive export growth rate (Table 3a), the global demand for large cardamom is expected to increase in future, mainly on account of its increased culinary applications and functional foods in more than 30 countries. It can lead to a gradual increase in export volume and value of large cardamom and therefore, international market potential for large cardamom is substantial. Due to the importance of food safety, hygiene and quality control of cardamom specifications, it's necessary to develop an internationally harmonized standard for large cardamom.

Table 3a - Export Trade of Large Cardamoms, (neither crushed nor ground) from Nepal, India and Bhutan (HS Code 09083110)

Year	Export Quantity (tons)				Annual Growth Rate in Export Quantity (%)
	Nepal	India	Bhutan	Total	
2018-19	3298	724	1698	5721	-
2019-20	3170	1049	2451	6670	16.6
2020-21	8843	1220	1971	12033	89.4
2021-22	5367	1982	3430	10779	-10.4
2022-23	9991	1884	2145	14020	30.1

Sources:

1. Nepal Foreign Trade Statistics, Annual Publications, Department of Customs, Govt. of Nepal; website: <https://customs.gov.np/>

2. Export Import Data Bank, Directorate General of Foreign Trade/Govt. of India website: <https://tradedat.commerce.gov.in/eibd/default.asp>;

3. Bhutan Trade Statistics, Annual Publications, Dept. of Revenue and Customs/ Royal Govt. of Bhutan; website: <https://www.mof.gov.bt/publications/reports/bhutan-trade-statistics>

Country-wise export of large cardamom from India, Nepal and Bhutan is also computed and presented in Table 3b. Being one of the most important export products for Nepal and Bhutan, large cardamom plays a significant role in income and employment generation in these countries. The internal consumption of large cardamom is high for culinary purposes in India. Hence, besides being a major producer of large cardamom, India is also seen as the largest importer of large cardamom. Other importing countries are Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, the US, UK, Canada, Australia and Japan.

Table 3b – Country-wise Export of Large Cardamom from India, Nepal and Bhutan(three years between 2020 and 2023)

Importers	Export of Large Cardamom (HS Code: 09083110) , Quantity (tons)								
	From India			From Nepal			From Bhutan		
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total	1220	1981.8	1883.5	8842.7	5367.4	9990.8	1970.6	3430	2145
Afghanistan	262.7	488.5	171.5						
Australia	11.09	18.03	16.71						
Bangladesh							1240	1335	1270
Canada	26.56	38.79	29.03						
China	0.14	15							
India				8596.7	5297.4	9946.2	730	2095	875
Iran	157	10.5	33						
Iraq			24.77						
Isreal	5.75	8							
Italy	0.88	13.45							
Japan	7.6	31.9	38.4						
Kuwait	13.47	21.7	13						
Malaysia	19.4	10.1	6.1						
Nepal	7.5	11.2							
Netherlands	0.78	17.3	6.5						
Oman ,Qatar,	12.3	18.2	27.86						
Pakistan		39	305	246	70	43.75			
Saudi Arabia		39.7	157.2						
Singapore	21.43	3	3						
UAE	479.1	997.3	866.7						
UK	88.22	92.4	56.6						
US	58	58.5	77						
Others	48.08	49.23	51.13			0.84			

Sources:

1. Nepal Foreign Trade Statistics, Annual Publications, Department of Customs, Govt. of Nepal; website:<https://customs.gov.np/>

2. Export Import Data Bank, Directorate General of Foreign Trade/Govt. of India website:<https://tradedstat.commerce.gov.in/eibd/default.asp>;

3. Bhutan Trade Statistics, Annual Publications, Dept. of Revenue and Customs/ Royal Govt. of Bhutan; website: <https://www.mof.gov.bt/publications/reports/bhutan-trade-statistics>

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

1. Trade of large cardamom has an important contribution in the economy of exporting as well as importing countries.
2. As import, export and re-export of large cardamom is taking place between many countries, establishing international standard criteria based on codex standard is becoming necessary for international trade and consumer support.

Large cardamom is traded according to purity, quality specifications and forms.

3. There are many standards available internationally and nationally for large cardamom.
 - i. ISO 10622:1997 Large cardamom (*Amomum subulatum* Roxb.) as capsules and seeds — Specification.
 - ii. IS 13446:2009 -Large Cardamom (capsules and seeds) Specifications (Indian Standard)
 - iii. NS 35- Large Cardamom, published in 2040 BS (Nepal Standard)
 - iv. BTS 370:2022, Large Cardamom Specifications (Bhutan Standard)
 - v. European Spice Association Quality Minima Document Rev 5, 2018
 - vi. Cleanliness Specifications for Spices, Seeds and Herbs, Guidance from the American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) 2017 Update

Two of the three producing countries, Nepal and India, also have, under their Food Laws, mandatory standards for large cardamom in the form of whole, seeds and powder:

- i. Food Rules, 2027 (1970): Food Product Standards 04.01, 0402 and 04.03 for large cardamom capsule, seeds, and powder (Nepal)
- ii. Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011: Food Product Standards 2.9.2.4;2,9.2.5 and 2.9.2.6 for Large Cardamom (Badi-Elaichi) capsule, seeds, and powder, respectively (India)

The proposed standard would reduce possible barriers to trade and would provide a comprehensive framework setting out the minimum internationally acceptable requirements for large cardamom.

This new work will provide a recommendation, which countries could use to develop/revise their own quality and grading standards for large cardamom and, when applied internationally, may assist in providing a harmonized approach.

Lack of harmonized and internationally accepted standards for large cardamom will lead to malpractices in the trade. To facilitate fair trade, an internationally accepted Codex standard is essential.

Therefore, due to the importance of food safety, hygiene and quality control of large cardamom specifications, it is necessary to develop an internationally harmonized Codex standard to facilitate international trade of this commodity and help countries to adopt the standard for large cardamom in their national legislations.

c) International or regional market potential

The quantity exported of all types of cardamom in 2022 has been reported as 102,509 tons, having a value of US

\$ 831.6 million (Table 2a). The average annual growth rate in quantity exported **for all types of cardamoms** between 2018 and 2021 is 8%. In 2022, annual growth rate in terms of quantity **exported** is recorded as 27% (Table 4a). This pattern of worldwide export trade and growth rates shows that there is an increased market potential for all types of cardamom, regionally and globally.

Table 4a - Pattern of Export International Trade **for Cardamoms (large, small and others)**

Worldwide export data expressed as Growth rate

In Quantity Exported (%)			
Year	Export quantity (In Tons)	Value, (US Dollar thousand)	Growth rate in Quantity Exported (%)
2018	65,094	665,135	-
2019	62,303	943,001	-4
2020	89,126	1,457,393	+43
2021	80,569	1,050,948	-10
2022	102,509	831,650	+27

Sources: ITC calculations based on UN COMTRADE and ITC statistics

Since large cardamom represents nearly 10% of production volume and 12% of all types of cardamom export volume and with positive export growth rate (Table 4b), the global demand for large cardamom is expected to increase in future, mainly on account of its increased culinary applications and functional foods in more than 30 countries. It can lead to a gradual increase in export volume and value of large cardamom and therefore, international and regional market potential is substantial. Due to the importance of food safety, hygiene and quality control of cardamom specifications, it's necessary to develop an internationally harmonized standard.

Table 4b – Pattern of Export International Trade of Large Cardamom from Nepal, India and Bhutan

Year	Export Quantity (tons)				Annual Export Growth rate in Quantity
	Nepal	India	Bhutan	Total	%
2018-19	3298.3	724.4	1698.0	5720.7	
2019-20	3170.0	4049.0	2451.0	6670.0	16.6
2020-21	8842.7	4220.0	1970.6	12033.3	89.4
2021-22	5367.4	4981.8	3430.0	10779.2	-10.4
2022-23	9990.8	4883.8	2145.0	14019.6	30.4

Sources:

1. Nepal Foreign Trade Statistics, Annual Publications, Department of Customs, Govt. of Nepal; website: <https://customs.gov.np/>

2. Export Import Data Bank, Directorate General of Foreign Trade/Govt. of India website: <https://tradedat.commerce.gov.in/eibd/default.asp>;

2. Bhutan Trade Statistics, Annual Publications, Dept. of Revenue and Customs/Royal Govt. of Bhutan; website: <https://www.mof.gov.bt/publications/reports/bhutan-trade-statistics>

d) Amenability of commodity to standardization

The characteristics of **large** cardamom cultivated to retail sale e.g. cultivar varieties, composition, quality characteristics, processing, packaging, etc., all lead to adequate parameters for the standardization of the product. Considering **of the** technical information available and a certain degree of harmonization that has already been achieved at national level and international levels on certain aspects relevant to consumer's protection and trade facilitation as mentioned in point b), it is therefore, timely to develop an international harmonized standard for large cardamom.

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

There is no general commodity standard covering large cardamom under the Codex. The development of commodity standard for small cardamom is in progress, now in 6/7 step of Codex. The proposed standard for large cardamom will heighten consumer protection and facilitate its trade by establishing an internationally agreed quality standard. Thus, there is a need to pay special attention to consumer protection against adulteration as the large cardamom is one of the high-priced products, with an emerging international market.

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

A single standard for large cardamom will cover all forms of large cardamom traded worldwide. The different forms of large cardamom like whole capsule, seed, ground etc., will be individually examined under this standard.

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

The existing international standard which may be considered while developing a Codex standard for large cardamom is *ISO 10622:199 Large cardamom (Amomum subulatum Roxb.) as capsules and seeds - Specification*.

5. Relevance to the Codex strategic objectives

The elaboration of a Codex standard for large cardamom is according to strategic objectives of the Codex to identify and prioritize needs and emerging issues of its members; timely development of relevant Codex standards; raise the awareness of codex standards; proactively promoting the use of codex standards by codex members and increase the use of Codex standards for food trade. This standard is important to guarantee quality, as well as providing new opportunities to produce these healthy and beneficial products and promote the international market.

Therefore, this proposal is consistent with the Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for 2020-2025, adopted by the 42nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in particular strategic objectives 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1 and 3.2.

The proposed work will promote elaboration of Codex commodity standards based on the rigorous scientific analysis of collected data as set in the Strategic Goal 2: Develop standards based on Science and Codex risk analysis principles.

This Codex standard will facilitate fair trade of large cardamom, to ensure quality, purity parameters and food safety. The purity of large cardamom allows providing proper criteria for the quality control of these products. Hence, elaborating this standard can help to avoid the risks such as lack of Good Hygienic Production, non-compliance with grading and adding artificial color. In addition, this proposed standard can be a reference for solving food safety issues such as microbial contamination, heavy metals, contaminants, residue pesticides and food additives.

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

This is proposed as a new global standard and has no relation to any other existing Codex texts on this item, except that this standard will refer to relevant standards and related texts developed by General Subject Committees as follows:

- *Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21 – 2013)*.

- *General Principles of Food Hygiene*. Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice, (CXC 1-1969). FAO and WHO. 2023 Codex Alimentarius Commission. Rome. Revised and renamed 2022.
- Data bases related to the maximum limits for pesticides residues issued by Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues in Food (CCPR)
- *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CODEX STAN 193-1995) [last amendment 2022](#)
- *Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs* (CAC/RCP 42-1995) Revised 2014
- *Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods* (CXC 75-2015)
- *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxins in Spices* (CXC 78-2017)
- *General Standard for the Labeling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985)
- *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods* (CXS 346-2021)
- *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999)
- *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995)

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

The need for expert scientific advice is not foreseen at this stage. Published research documents by international bodies will be referred to in the process of preparing the standard.

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

The technical inputs from external bodies such as International Organization for Standardization (ISO), American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) and European Spice Association (ESA) may be sought when developing this standard.

9. Proposed Time Schedule

It is expected that the development of this standard would be conducted in three CCSCH sessions or less, depending on the agreement reached by the Committee.