



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS

Seventh Session

Kochi, Kerala India

29 January – 2 February 2024

Comment of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Agenda item 2

Comments for Saffron

47th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL47)

We would like to thank The Codex Committee on Food Labelling for consideration of Saffron Standard. Refer to request to clarify the distinction between country of origin and country of harvest; provide the rationale why the provision for the country harvest should be mandatory and how such a declaration would be beneficial for fraud prevention The Justification is prepared as follows:

8.3.2 Country of harvest

1- CCSC5 agreed to “Country of Origin/Country of Harvest” as two independent and clear provisions, (i.e. a provision on “Country of Origin” being mandatory and a provision on “Country of Harvest” being optional) and that these provisions would be reconsidered in individual standards, should the need arise. (REP21/SCH – paragraph 16 & 19-Virtual 20–29 April 2021)

1-According to REP22/SCH :

A mandatory declaration of the country of harvest for dried saffron was intended for the protection of the true origin and authenticity of the product. Labelling of the country of harvest would provide the consumer information on its originality including the type and nature of the plant and thus empower them to make an informed choice. This also prevented fraud.

2- According to (REP21/SCH - paragraph 19):

Conclusion

19. **CCSC5 agreed to:**

- I. keep both provisions in the standards.
- II. split “Country of Origin/Country of Harvest” into two independent and clear provisions, i.e. a provision on “Country of Origin” being mandatory and a provision on “Country of Harvest” being optional; and that these provisions would be reconsidered in individual standards, should the need arise.
- III. Inform the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) on the above decision.

Country of harvest should always be displayed on the label since the country of harvest was more relevant than the country of origin, while the indication of the region of production could be optional;

- In order to avoid food fraud, country of harvest should be mandatory if it was different from the country of origin. This could help consumers understand the different handling practices in harvest/storage between one country and another country.
- There were no definitions of country of harvest, region of harvest and year of harvest in the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985). Information on these aspects was not verifiable and inclusion of provisions in this regard might cause confusion.

3- According to (General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Food (GSLPF) - CXS 1-1985)**4.5 Country of origin**

4.5.1 The country of origin of the food shall be declared if its omission would mislead or deceive the consumer.

4.5.2 When a food undergoes processing in a second country which changes its nature, the country in which the processing is performed shall be considered to be the country of origin for the purposes of labelling.

For Agriculture products, specially products that is produced in few countries, such as coffee, tea, vanilla, saffron, the country of harvest is important for importers at trade. Specially when the product is re-exported by second country, country of harvest and country of origin may differ and the importers/consumers would like to know where the product has been cultivated, in addition to know country of origin. Mention of country of harvest, prevents mislead or deceive the consumer, economic fraud and helps to approve authenticity.

Absence of harvest definition in CXS 1-1985 in the previous meetings of the CCSCCH, it was agreed to make saffron harvest mandatory based on the previous approvals of the committee.

4 - Based on some scientific references plant origin concepts relating to classical botany (plant geography, knowledge of adventive and rural species, understanding of history of development of whole floras), bio-archaeology (plant remains, pictorial records), - paleontology and philology While the concept of plant harvesting is related to its cultivation and farming conditions.

Saffron is a high value spice which it is significant point to mention the place of its cultivation since the changes in geographical condition and climate affect the main characteristics of it. It has been demonstrated the origin of the plant and it has unique characteristics from the genetic point of view. Where origin

From the point of view of technical discussion and verification of saffron, the addition "harvest" as a mandatory section, is a necessity to provide a healthy and fair business, and omit it can mislead the buyer or the seller may use this gap to mislead the consumers. so it's better to origin and harvest country.

Considering the above Items, Iran would like to submit that keeping both the labelling provisions of country of origin and country of harvest as mandatory in the standard of saffron is warranted, and is also consistent with the decision taken in CCSCCH5 about assessing the need for these provision based on specific needs of SCH standards.

42nd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods and Analyses and Sampling (CCMAS42) – Questions from CCMAS to CCSCCH to assist in the endorsement of methods (Para 20 b. and Appendix of CX/SCH 24/7/2 Rev.1)**The Standard for dried floral parts – Saffron**

Standard for dried floral parts – saffron 1.

The taste strength, aroma strength, colouring strength provisions use the ISO 3632-2 and are listed as Type IV. As this ISO standard is specific to saffron, is there a reason it is listed as a Type IV and not a Type I?

ISO 3632-2 should be listed as Type I.