

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 16

CRD23

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

16th Session

18-21 April 2023 (physical plenary meeting)

26 April 2023 (virtual report adoption)

Comments submitted by Uganda

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

GENERAL COMMENT

Uganda supports the adoption of the Provisional Agenda Items as was circulated.

Agenda Item 2: Matters referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies

GENERAL COMMENT

Uganda takes note of the Standards and related texts adopted at Steps 8 and 5/8 of the Procedure including consequential amendments by CAC45.

Agenda Item 3: Matters of interest arising from FAO and WHO including the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

GENERAL COMMENT

Uganda would like to thank the joint FAO/WHO JECFA Secretariats on their work: the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives has addressed issues on residues of veterinary drugs and food additives; while the WHO work on dioxin and dioxin-like compounds and the recommendations on updating the REP database indicated a need to re-evaluate the 2005 WHO TEF values for dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs is welcome.

Uganda further lauds the reliable information published on the Global Food Consumption Databases and ongoing activities to support countries to generate and to use data for risk analysis purposes, as this will significantly reduce costs of research in developing countries.

Agenda Item 5: Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (at Steps 4 and 7)

Uganda would like to appreciate the Electronic Working Group chaired by Brazil for their good work.

SPECIFIC COMMENT

Appendix I on Soft brown, Raw and non-centrifuged sugars

Uganda supports the adoption of ML of 0.15 mg/kg for Soft brown, Raw and non-centrifuged sugars

Appendix I on Ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children

Uganda supports the adoption of a single ML of 0.03 mg/kg for the whole category of ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children

Justification

Provides opportunity to regulate cereal-based products for infants and young children.

Agenda Item 6: Code of Practice for prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products (at Step 7)

Uganda would like to thank the Electronic Working Group chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana for their good work to come up with this draft code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products supports the advancement of the CoP to step 8 by CAC46.

Agenda Item 7: Sampling plans for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children (At Step 4)**GENERAL COMMENT**

Uganda appreciates the work done by the EWG chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by India and supports the proposed sampling plan for total aflatoxins in the selected food for consideration in the advancement to the next step.

Agenda Item 8: Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan (at Step 4)**GENERAL COMMENT**

Uganda appreciates the work done by the EWG and support the recommendation that a paper on a proposes ML for total aflatoxins in RTE peanuts and associated sampling plan be presented at CCCF17 (2024)

Justification

To facilitate establishment of relevant ML taking into consideration data from geographically diverse regions.

Agenda Item 9: Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans (at Step 4)**GENERAL COMMENT**

The EAC appreciates the work done by the EWG and proposes the work to be held at step 4 to allow incorporation of data from Africa so as to set a realistic ML for all spices

Justification

To facilitate establishment of relevant ML taking into consideration data from geographically diverse regions. Available data from EAC will be presented for inclusiveness.

Agenda Item 10: Discussion paper on the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning**GENERAL COMMENT**

Uganda appreciates the work done by the EWG chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the European Union and recommends the EWG to revise the discussion paper for consideration by CCCF17.

Justification

To fill the gaps that have been observed in the existing discussion paper.

Agenda Item 16: Priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA**GENERAL COMMENT**

Uganda appreciates and takes note comments on the priority list submitted by submitted by Comments of Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, Japan, Kenya, Iran, New Zealand, Peru, Republic of Korea, United States of America (USA), American Oil Chemists' Society (AOCS). The EAC proposes the following priority list;

1. ML for aflatoxins in peanuts intended for further processing (Priority 2).

Rationale: since aflatoxins are genotoxic carcinogens, and there are possible deficiencies with other work Aflatoxins in Peanuts CoP (CXC 55-2004), where in List A.2 (Priority 2); CCCF is currently elaborating an ML for aflatoxins in RTE peanuts.

2. Aflatoxins in Peanuts CoP (CXC 55-2004)

Rationale: CCCF is currently elaborating an ML for aflatoxins in RTE peanuts.

3. ML for Aflatoxin M1 in Milks

Rationale: In List A.2 (Priority 2); aflatoxin M1 is a genotoxic carcinogen; possible efficiencies with other work – i) CoP for Raw Materials and Supplemental Feeding stuffs for Milk-Producing Animals (CXC 45-1997) in List A.2; ii) CoP for mycotoxins in cereals (CXC 51-2003) established in 2003 and since updated.

4. CoP for Raw Materials and Supplemental Feeding stuffs for Milk-Producing Animals (CXC 45-1997)

Rationale: aflatoxin M1 is a genotoxic carcinogen; possible efficiencies with other work concerning CoP for Raw Materials and Supplemental Feeding stuffs for Milk-Producing Animals (CXC 45-1997) in List A.2.

5. Patulin in apple juice ML

Rationale: In List A.2 (Priority 2); in revised List (Priority 2); dated JECFA evaluation (JECFA44, 1995) in 2007 as ML was established and not high priority (ALINORM 07/30/41, para. 127); possible defficiencies with other work-patulin in apple juice CoP (CXC 50-2003) in List A.2.

6. Patulin in apple juice CoP (CXC 50-2003)

Rationale: dated JECFA evaluation (JECFA44, 1995) in 2007 as ML was established and not high priority (ALINORM 07/30/41, para. 127); possible efficiencies with other work – i) patulin in apple juice CoP (CXC 50-2003) in List A.2

7. Tin in canned foods [in tinfoil cans] CoP (CXC 60-2005) In List A.2 (Priority 2);

Rationale: Possible efficiencies with other work i) the two MLs for tin in foods and beverages packaged in tinfoil packaging will be in List A.2 in 2023; there are 5 MLs for tin meats not packaged in tinfoil cans in List A.1.

8. Cadmium in listed food commodities (certain cereal grains, legume vegetables, pulses, Brassica vegetables, bulb vegetables, fruiting vegetables, certain leafy vegetables, certain root and tuber vegetables, certain stalk and stem vegetables, wheat, cephalopods, marine bivalve molluscs, rice, polished): potential safety concern is moderate to high (priority level 1) – new occurrence data available, new dietary exposure data available, new health-based guidance value (HBGV), updated health risk assessment available from JECFA.

9. Fumonisin

Rationale: MLs for maize is long overdue and necessary to protect consumer health, considering that maize is a staple food in most parts of the African continent.

10. Acrylonitrile & vinyl chloride

Rationale: In List A.1 (Priority 1). For possible consideration for future topics for forward work planning, CCCF briefly discussed future food packaging and food contact materials, noting that these compounds are covered by the scope of the definition of a contaminant (CX/CF 19/13/18, Appendix D).