



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES**

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**DISCUSSION PAPER ON USE OF FRUCTANS, BETA-CAROTENE, LYCOPENE IN
STANDARD FOR INFANT FORMULA AND FORMULAS FOR SPECIAL MEDICAL PURPOSES
INTENDED FOR INFANTS (CXS 72-1981)**

(Comments by Burundi, Panama, Thailand)

Burundi

Position: i) Burundi encourages Member States to support this first recommendation of the EWG.

Position: ii) and iii) Burundi encourages Member States not yet to support use of fructans and lycopenes in CXS 72-1981.

Rationale: i) (beta-carotene) The safety of this pro-vitamin A has already been established and it meets the requirements of optional ingredient as defined in CXS 72-1981 and is listed in the Advisory lists of nutrient compounds for use in foods for special dietary uses intended for infants and young CX/NFSDU 24/44/8 2 children (CXG 10-1979).

ii) (Fructans and lycopene): Discussions during the EWG consultations show that member states were not in a position to provide scientific evidence that these nutrient compounds meet the requirements of the provisions established in section 2 and section 3 of: The advisory list of nutrient compounds for use in foods for special dietary uses intended for infants and young children (CXG 10-1979). This implies that they may or may not be suitable for inclusion in the Standard for infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants (CXS 72- 1981) of safe use. Scientific evidence needs to be availed first before these nutrients can be allowed to be included in CXS 72-1981.

Panama

Panama supports the debate on the use of fructans, beta-carotene and lycopene in the Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants (CXS 72-1981). We propose that further studies be conducted on the effects of these ingredients on the health of infants.

It is important to consider the variability in response to these nutrients in different populations. This will ensure that recommendations are appropriate and relevant to all groups.

We suggest establishing clear criteria for the inclusion of these components in the standards, based on solid scientific evidence supporting their use in infant formulas.

Panama is positioned favorably regarding the debate on the inclusion of ingredients such as fructans, beta-carotene and lycopene in Regulation CXS 72-1981, which regulates infant formula and specialized products. We recognize the importance of ensuring that these products are safe, effective and nutritionally adequate for the child population, thus guaranteeing the health and well-being of our children.

Fructans, including fructooligosaccharides and oligofructose, have demonstrated positive effects as prebiotics, which may contribute to intestinal health and immune system development in infants. Therefore, Panama supports their consideration as optional ingredients based on their properties that could replicate the benefits observed in breast milk.

Beta-carotene is recognized as a source of vitamin A, essential for the development and growth of infants. Panama supports the recommendation for its inclusion in the standard, provided that the benefits of its addition to infant formula are supported by solid scientific evidence and the proposed analysis methods are ratified.

Regarding lycopene, we understand that its inclusion has been a matter of debate due to the lack of consensus on its impact on the health of infants. Panama proposes that further research be carried out to clarify its possible nutritional benefits before making a decision on its inclusion. However, if it is decided to move forward

with its proposal, it is essential that clear criteria and scientific evidence be established to demonstrate its safety and efficacy for this age group.

Panama suggests that additional studies be conducted to specifically assess the effects of these ingredients on infant health, taking into account the genetic and dietary variations of different populations. This information will be essential to establish a solid and representative basis for decision-making.

Spanish:

Panamá apoya el debate sobre el uso de fructanos, betacaroteno y licopeno en la Norma para preparados para lactantes y preparados para usos medicinales especiales destinados a los lactantes (CXS 72-1981). Proponemos que se realicen estudios adicionales sobre los efectos de estos ingredientes en la salud de los lactantes.

Es importante considerar la variabilidad en la respuesta a estos nutrientes en diferentes poblaciones. Esto garantizará que las recomendaciones sean adecuadas y pertinentes para todos los grupos.

Sugerimos establecer criterios claros para la inclusión de estos componentes en las normas, basados en evidencia científica sólida que respalde su uso en los preparados destinados a lactantes.

Panamá se posiciona favorablemente respecto al debate sobre la inclusión de ingredientes como fructanos, betacaroteno y licopeno en la Normativa CXS 72-1981, la cual regula preparados para lactantes y especializados. Reconocemos la importancia de asegurar que estos productos sean seguros, eficaces y nutricionalmente adecuados para la población infantil, garantizando así la salud y bienestar de nuestros niños.

Los fructanos, incluidos los fructooligosacáridos y oligofructosa, han demostrado efectos positivos como prebióticos, que pueden contribuir a la salud intestinal y al desarrollo del sistema inmunológico en lactantes. Por lo tanto, Panamá apoya su consideración como ingredientes facultativos basados en sus propiedades que podrían replicar los beneficios observados en la leche materna.

El betacaroteno se reconoce como una fuente de vitamina A, esencial para el desarrollo y crecimiento de los lactantes. Panamá respalda la recomendación de su inclusión en la norma, siempre y cuando se respalden con evidencia científica sólida los beneficios de su adición a los preparados para lactantes y se ratifiquen los métodos de análisis propuestos.

Respecto al licopeno, entendemos que su inclusión ha sido motivo de debate debido a la falta de consenso sobre su impacto en la salud de los lactantes. Panamá propone que se realicen más investigaciones para aclarar sus posibles beneficios nutricionales, antes de tomar una decisión de inclusión. No obstante, si se decide avanzar con su propuesta, es fundamental que se establezcan criterios claros y pruebas científicas que demuestren su seguridad y eficacia para este grupo de edad.

Panamá sugiere la realización de estudios adicionales que evalúen específicamente los efectos de estos ingredientes en la salud de los lactantes, considerando las variaciones genéticas y dietéticas de diferentes poblaciones. Esta información será fundamental para establecer una base sólida y representativa en la toma de decisiones

Thailand

1. We agree to inform CCMAS that beta-carotene is a suitable optional ingredient as defined in CXS 72-1981 and is listed in the Advisory lists of nutrient compounds for use in foods for special dietary uses intended for infants and young children (CXG 10-1979), and requesting CCMAS to endorse AOAC 2016.13 / ISO DIS 23443 (beta carotene and lycopene) for use with beta-carotene in the CXS 72-1981 as a Type II method.

2. We are of the opinion that fructooligosaccharides (FOS), oligofructose (OF), and oligofructan are nutrient compounds consistent with the provisions established in CXG10-1979 and are suitable optional ingredients as defined in CXS 72-1981. However, we view that it is not necessary to request CCMAS to endorse AOAC 2016.14/ISO DIS 22579 | IDF 241 (Fructans) for use with CXS 72-1981 as a Type II method since this should be determined by competent national and/or regional authorities.

3. We agree to inform CCMAS that CCFSDU could not determine a rationale to endorse the method of analysis AOAC 2016.13 / ISO DIS23443 (beta-carotene and lycopene) for use with lycopene at this time.