

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4.1

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Forty-fourth Session

**WORK FROM THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS (CCSCH) FOR
ADOPTION OR APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION**

Standards and related texts submitted for final adoption

Draft standard for dried oregano

Comments of Ghana

Ghana

Position: Ghana supports the adoption of the Draft Standard for Dried Oregano at Step 8.

Rationale: The concern of Ghana was the inclusion of requirements related to tolerance levels for the insect fragments parameter, visible mould/insect damage, mammalian excreta and other excreta in ground oregano instead of the whole oregano which would then be an input to this product. Based on the consensus by the CCSCH committee to remove the requirements, it acceptable to have the standard adopted at step 8.

Draft standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs – dried or dehydrated ginger

Comments of Ghana

Ghana

Position: Ghana supports the adoption of the Draft Standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs – dried or dehydrated ginger at Step 8.

Rationale: Ginger is grown throughout Ghana and is reported to have medicinal properties and is consumed widely.

Draft standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves

Comments of Ghana

Ghana

Position: Ghana supports the adoption of the Draft standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves at Step 8.

Rationale: Cloves are important crop in Ghana and there are a number of African countries with large-scale commercial production of cloves. It is in the interest of Ghana to support the adoption of the Draft Standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves at Step 8.

Draft standard for dried leaves - dried basil

Comments of Ghana

Ghana

Position: Ghana supports the adoption of the Draft Standard for dried leaves – dried basil at Step 8.

Rationale: Ghana is satisfied with the outcome of deliberations at CCSC5. Thus Ghana supports the adoption of the Draft Standard for dried leaves – dried basil at Step 8.

Standards and related texts submitted for adoption at Step 5

Draft standard for dried seeds - nutmeg

Comments of Ghana and Philippines

Ghana

Position: Ghana supports the adoption of the Draft standard for dried seeds – nutmeg at Step 5.

Rationale: Nutmeg is grown across Africa and is important for trade and for processing food especially baked foods. Advancing the Proposed Draft Standard for adoption at Step 5 will move it along the Step process and ensure that the remaining work can be completed within the proposed timeline extension to CCSC6.

Philippines

The Philippines supports the adoption of the Draft standard for dried seeds – nutmeg at Step 5.

Rationale:

Nutmeg comes from the seed of the *Myristica fragrans* tree. It is an excellent addition to food as spice flavor. In addition to its taste, nutmeg offers health benefits as it contains antioxidants and disease-preventing phytochemicals. Nutmeg is rich in fiber, which helps keep the digestive system healthy and prevents blood sugar from spiking.

In the Philippines, it is being utilize as a flavor to many dishes such as our common adobo, and a key ingredient in many baked goods like the popular eggnog. Data shows that nutmeg is safe in small amounts. However, as little as 2 teaspoons or 5 grams can cause some symptoms of toxicity. At larger amounts, symptoms become worse and serious complications can occur (WebMD,LLC, 2020). Myristicin is the chemical compound in nutmeg that causes nutmeg intoxication. Upon consumption of myristicin, the body metabolizes forming 3-methoxy-4,5 methylenedioxyamphetamine (MMDA). MMDA has hallucinogenic properties and will affect the central nervous system (Medical News Today, Newsletter, 2020). Thus, the adoption of the draft standard will provide consumers a guide on the optimum amount considered beneficial to the body.

The Draft Standard for Dried Seeds – Nutmeg upon adoption can be harmonized with the existing Philippine National Standard for Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Herbs (PNS/BAFS 149:2015) on its future revisions. The standard will help in the quality upkeep of dried seeds nutmeg products in the Philippines in accordance to international standards approved by the CODEX Alimentarius Commission.

References:

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Proposals to elaborate new standards and related texts

Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for small cardamom

Comments of Ghana

Ghana

Position: Ghana supports the approval of the Proposal for new work on a CODEX Standard for Small Cardamom.

Rationale: Small Cardamom is grown in some African countries. It is traded within Africa and is also exported globally from Africa. Small Cardamom is an important crop for African economies and it is important for Ghana to support the Proposal for new work on a CODEX Standard for Small Cardamom.

Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for turmeric

Comments of Ghana

Ghana

Position: Ghana supports the Proposal for new work for a CODEX Standard for Dried and Dehydrated Tumeric.

Rationale: Tumeric is consumed in Ghana and is known to have medicinal properties. It is also a source of curcumin, which is used as a food additive. With a renewed interest in healthy eating, diets, wellbeing and traditional medicine, turmeric is being produced in countries across Africa. It is in the interests of Ghana to support the Proposed CODEX Draft Standard for Dried and Dehydrated Tumeric.

Proposal for new work on the development of a group standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries (All spice, Juniper berry, Star anise and Vanilla)

Comments of Ghana

Ghana

Position: Ghana supports the Proposal for new work on the development of a group standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries (All Spice, Juniper Berry, Star Anise and Vanilla).

Rationale: The proposed new work for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries is of importance to Ghana economically especially for Star Anise and Vanilla. It is in the interests of Ghana to support the proposed new work on a group standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries (All Spice, Juniper Berry, Star Anise and Vanilla).