CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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Agenda Item 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9 **CAC/44 CRD/26**

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-fourth Session

Comments of Nigeria

AGENDA ITEM 4.1: Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs - CX/CAC 21/44/3

Part 1

Draft standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs — dried or dehydrated ginger REP21/SCH Para. 65, Appendix III (At Step 8)

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

Rationale: Ginger is grown and consumed in Africa. Nigeria's concerns were addressed at CCSCH5 hence the interests to support the adoption of the proposed draft standard for rhizomes and bulbs – dried and dehydrated ginger for adoption at Step 8.

Draft standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves REP21/SCH Para. 81, Appendix IV (At Step 8)

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

Rationale: Cloves are an important crop in Nigeria. It is in the interest of the Nigeria to support the adoption of the Draft Standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves at Step 8.

Part 3

Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for turmeric (REP21/SCH, Appendix VIII, Annex II)

Nigeria supports the approval of the Proposal for new work for a CODEX Standard for Dried and Dehydrated Tumeric.

Rationale: Tumeric is grown in Africa and it is widely consumed as a food additive. With renewed interest in healthy eating, diets, wellbeing and traditional medicine, turmeric is being produced in countries across Africa. It is in the interests of the Nigeria to support the Proposed CODEX Draft Standard for Dried and Dehydrated Tumeric.

AGENDA ITEM 4.2: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods - CX/CAC 21/44/4

Part 1

Proposed MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis (CXS 193-1995) REP21/CF Paragraphs 18-27, Appendix II (At Step 8)

Nigeria supports the adoption of proposed draft ML of 0.3mg/kg for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis.

Rationale: JECFA 91 (2021) evaluation of the GEMS/Food contaminants database showed that of the 4008 records for chocolates it was only possible to establish percentage cocoa solids for 638 (15.9%). In all, 114 samples of chocolate contained less than 30% total solids on a dry weight basis. Using the proposed ML of 0.3mg/kg, a rejection rate of 2.6% was obtained which is well below the 5% normally

accepted in Codex. CCCF14 (2021) therefore agreed to advance the ML of 0.3mg/kg to Step 8 for adoption by CAC44 (Appendix II), noting the reservations of the European Union, Norway and Egypt to this decision. Based on this low rejection rate of 2.6% and the fact that no new information has been brought forward to justify a change in the ML by CCCF14, Nigeria supports that CAC44 adopts the ML of 0.3mg/kg for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis at Step 8.

Proposed MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis (CXS 193-1995) CCCF REP21/CF Para. 28-40, Appendix II (At Step 5/8)

Nigeria supports the adoption of the proposed draft ML of 0.7mg/kg for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis

Rationale: JECFA91 (2021) has further confirmed that the presence of cadmium in chocolate was not a significant public health concern. The ranges of MLs (0.5 – 0.6mg/kg; 0.6 – 0.7mg/kg proposed for this category of chocolates were all protective of consumers' health on a global basis and therefore the focus was on considering an ML with a minimum negative impact on trade that could best accommodate all regions concerned. The ML of 0.7mg/kg accounts for rejection rates of 5.7% (worldwide basis) and 7.3% (Latin America and the Caribbean) and 0% (Africa) which gives a reasonable compromise both globally and regionally bearing in mind that a rejection rate of 5% is what is usually acceptable in Codex.

Revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods (CXS 56-2004) REP21/CF Para. 106, Appendix V (At Step 5/8)

Nigeria supports revisions to the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in foods (CXS 56-2004). The revision was comprehensive enough for the revised CoP to be considered for adoption at step 5/8.

Rationale: The discussion paper submitted at CCCF 13 provided enough additional information available on Lead sources and mitigation strategies to justify the revision of the 15 years old COP. The additional sources of exposure to Lead and mitigation strategies identified in the document are applicable and achievable in Africa. Invariably, the implementation of the revised COP will be protective of public health and international trade of the continent.

<u>Part 3</u>

Proposal for new work on MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel (CXS 193-1995) (REP21/CF, paragraphs 163 and 166, Appendix VI, Annex I of CX/CAC 21/44/4)

Nigeria supports the proposal for new work on the establishment of MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel.

Rationale: CCCF12 (2018) agreed that, consistent with the approach taken for the establishment of MLs for Lead, the methylmercury ML proposal that would be agreed upon would be those based on the next higher ML resulting in a trade rejection rate lower than 5%. Having established criteria for development of ML, based on ALARA principle and considering the trade volumes of this species on the international market, it is important to prioritize establishment of the ML in the species.

Proposal for new work on development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products (REP21/CF, paragraph 169, Appendix VII, Annex II of CX/CAC 21/44/4)

Nigeria support the proposal for new work on the development of code of practices (CoP) for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins in cassava and cassava based products.

Rationale: The discussion papers considered by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) have described the fast growing global profile of cassava, a root crop commodity commonly used as food, raw material for human foods, animal feeds, pharmaceutical and confectionary industries. The obvious significance in export trade, especially in regional trade such as amongst members of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) is worthy to note. The health impact of

aflatoxins and OTA in cassava and cassava-based products was considered by CCCF13 (2019) (CX/CF 19/13/14). Summary of data from a WTO/FAO/WHO supported regional total diet study involving four sub-Sahara African countries amongst others, showed that aflatoxins and OTA contamination in cassava is of public health concern.

AGENDA ITEM 4.4: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems - CX/CAC 21/44/6

Part 1

Draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes REP21/FICS Para. 37, Appendix II (At Step 8)

Nigeria supports the adoption of the draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary third party assurance programmes at step 8.

Rationale: The guidelines provide the necessary framework and criteria for assessing the integrity and credibility of the governance structures of vTPA programmes and the reliability of information/data generated by such programmes.

Proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates (Revised Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates) REP21/FICS, para 64 Appendix III (At Step 5/8)

Nigeria supports the adoption of the proposed draft guidance at step 5/8.

Rational: The document provides useful and relevant guidance to competent authorities on the implementation and use of paperless exchange of official certificates

AGENDA ITEM 4.5: Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods - CX/CAC 21/44/7

Part 1

Maximum residue limit for flumethrin (honey) REP21/RVDF Paragraph 39, Appendix II (At Step 8)

Nigeria supports the adoption of MRL of “unnecessary” for flumethrin in Honey.

Rationale: This is based on the very low risk posed by this compound in honey and also based on the very low residues found.

Maximum residue limits for diflubenzuron (salmon - muscle plus skin in natural proportion) CCRVDF REP21/RVDF Paragraph 43, Appendix II (At Step 5/8)

Nigeria supports adoption of the MRL for diflubenzuron in salmon of 10 µg/kg in muscle plus skin in natural proportion to CAC44 (2021) for adoption at Step 5/8.

Rationale: The drug has low acute oral toxicity on account of JECFA 88.

Maximum residue limits for halquinol (in swine - muscle, skin plus fat, liver and kidney) REP21/RVDF Paragraph 50, Appendix II 5/8 (At Step 5/8)

Nigeria supports adoption of the MRL for halquinol (in Swine-mucle, skin plus fat, liver and kidney) at step 5/8 at CAC44.

Rationale: This compound is used significantly in swine and poultry in the Asian and South American countries. Products of poultry and swine are greatly traded between Africa and these countries. It is therefore prudent to have an MRL established to protect public health and enable countries within the African region to have a reference MRL when evaluating these animal products.

Amendment to the Glossary of Terms and Definitions (CXA 5-1993): Definition of edible offal REP21/RVDF Paragraph 116 (i), Appendix IV

Nigeria supports adoption of the proposed definition for edible offal as "Those parts of an animal, apart from the skeletal muscle, fat and attached skin that are considered fit for human consumption". Nigeria further support inclusion of this definition in the Glossary of Terms and Definitions (CXA 5-1993) for adoption at CAC44.

Rationale: The adoption of the definition will facilitate ease of identification of offal tissues for elaboration of MRL and establishment of single MRLs for compound with dual uses (as veterinary drugs and as pesticides).

Part 2

Maximum residue limits for ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle) REP21/RVDF Paragraph 59, Appendix II

Nigeria supports adoption of the MRL for Ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle) to step 5 by the CAC44.

Rationale: Ivermectin is widely used in African countries. against external and internal parasites of livestock and humans. Codex in 2017 adopted MRL for ivermectin in cattle (muscle 30 µg/kg, liver 800 µg/kg, Kidney 100 µg/kg and fat 400 µg/kg). The proposed MRL for ivermectin in Sheep, pig and Goat are substantially lower (muscle 10 µg/kg, Liver 15 µg/kg, kidney 15 µg/kg and fat 20 µg/kg) than the Codex adopted 2017 MRL for cattle. The adoption of the MRL at step 5 will allow for submission of additional data to JECFA for consideration and also allow for another round of comments and consideration by the committee.

AGENDA ITEM 4.7: Codex Committee on Food Additives - CX/CAC 21/44/9

Part 2

Priority List of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA

Nigeria supports the adoption of the priority list as submitted by CCFA52 and urge JECFA to consider a high priority for re-evaluation of Titanium Dioxide (INS 171).

Rationale: Considering the wide use of INS 171 in food processing and the safety concerns raised by EU based on EFSA evaluation, the re-evaluation of the additive should be a matter of high priority as it has the potential of disrupting international trade of products where the additives is used.

AGENDA ITEM 4.8: Codex Committee on Food Labelling - CX/CAC 21/44/10

Part 1

Draft General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods; and consequential amendment to the Procedural

Nigeria supports the adoption of the general standards at step 8 as well as the adoption of the consequential changes.

Proposed draft Guidelines on front-of-pack nutrition labelling and inclusion as an Annex to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CXG 2-1985); and consequential amendment to Section 5 of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (CXG 2-1985);

Nigeria supports the adoption of the FoPNL at step 5/8.

Rationale: There is increase in Non-Communicable Diseases among the population especially within Africa and most developing countries. To reverse these trends, consumers' education on healthy eating and lifestyle is critical and this labeling will go along away in supporting consumer education.

AGENDA ITEM 4.9: Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance - CX/CAC 21/44/11

Nigeria supports the adoption of the revised code of practice to minimize and contain foodborne

Antimicrobial resistance (at step 8) and the guidelines on integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne antimicrobial resistance (at step 5/8).

Rationale: These are balanced documents that are science-based, required to provide guidance for the implementation of antimicrobial resistance surveillance and are quite flexible for use by member countries, hence will not hinder trade.