

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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**Agenda Item 2**

**CF12/CRD06**

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

12<sup>th</sup> Session  
Utrecht, The Netherlands, 12 - 16 March 2018

### MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

*Comment submitted by EU, India and Kenya*

#### EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to comment on the CAC40 request to consider including quinoa in the MLs for lead and cadmium in cereals in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995).

The EUMS are of the opinion that in order for CCCF to be able to take an informed decision regarding the extension of the existing maximum levels for cadmium and lead in cereal grains to quinoa, it would be appropriate to elaborate a discussion paper with an assessment of the world wide occurrence data. Therefore, at this stage, the EUMS cannot support the extension of the MLs for cadmium and lead in cereals to quinoa.

#### INDIA

##### Standard for quinoa

**Specific Comments:** India does not support the inclusion of quinoa in the MLs for lead and cadmium in cereals in GSCTFF (CXS 193-1995). However, India proposes that a fresh occurrence data needs to be generated for lead and cadmium in quinoa before establishing any MLs for it.

**Rationale:** Quinoa is a pseudocereal and the conditions for growing it is different from other cereals. It is known that cereal crops are necessarily grasses, a composite term which refers to monocot plants under the family Poaceae or Gramineae. However, the pseudocereals or pseudograins are not grasses. They include members of the families Amaranthaceae (amaranths), Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot) and Polygoniaceae (smartweed). Hence, it would be appropriate to consider quinoa separately and an ML for lead & Cadmium in this commodity should essentially be based on the data specific to it.

##### The 73rd Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC73)

##### Ongoing work

**Specific Comments:** As regards proposed draft maximum level for aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts, India being the Chair of EWG, proposes that if the Committee agreed on the recommended ML for total aflatoxins (AFT) in RTE peanuts then it may be forwarded to the CAC 41 (2018) for adoption at step 5/8.

In the context of the ongoing work on proposed draft maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans, India proposes that if the Committee agreed on the EWG recommended MLs for AFT and ochratoxin A (OTA) then it may be forwarded to the CAC 41 (2018) for adoption at step 5/8 to address immediate trade concerns on a short term basis. Further, work/review of established MLs may be completed within a period of 5years based on the occurrence data obtained after the implementation of Code of Practice for prevention and reduction of mycotoxins in spices.

#### KENYA

##### Matters for action - Standard for quinoa

**ISSUE:** 7. Noting the existing MLs for lead and cadmium in cereals in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995) explicitly excluded quinoa, CAC40 requested that CCCF consider including quinoa in the MLs for lead and cadmium in cereals in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995).

**COMMENT:** We support the development of harmonized standards for quinoa, in particular the extension of MLs for lead and cadmium in cereals to quinoa.

**RATIONALE:** **This product** falls under cereals which already has Codex existing standard. The inclusion will facilitate trade and protect consumer health.

**ISSUE: 14.** CCEXEC73 agreed to request CCCF to provide a reasonable deadline for the completion of the ongoing work.

**COMMENT**

**JECFA to advice on the reasonable deadline for the completion of the ongoing work. They are the one who can do workload analysis.**