

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 8, 9

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS

3rd Session

Chennai, India, 6 - 10 February 2017

SAMPLING PLANS FOR CUMIN AND THYME AND FURTHER WORK ON GROUPING OF SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS

(Comments of Ghana, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Malaysia and IOSTA)

GHANA

Sampling plans

Ghana supports the proposed Sampling Plan 1 in the table in Appendix I

Rationale: Because it will be easier to implement

MALAYSIA

a) General Standard Template for CCSCH

Malaysia agrees with the proposed draft general standard template for CCSCH as in Appendix of CX/SCH 17/3/9.

b) ANNEX 1: List of Spices and Culinary Herbs, Arranged by Generic Names

Malaysia is of the view that leaf of kaffir lime is usually use for culinary purposes while for lemon grass; stem is used instead of leaf. Therefore, Malaysia would like to propose the following changes to the Annex 1:

ANNEX I : List of Spices and Culinary Herbs, Arranged by Generic Names			
Sl. No.	Generic Product	Scientific Name	Plant Part Used
58	Kaffir Lime	Citrus hystrix DC.	Fruit / <u>Leaf</u>
63	Lemon Grass	Cymbopogon citratus (DC.) Stapf	<u>Leaf</u> Stem

In addition, Malaysia would like to seek clarification pertaining to the usage of seed of dried mango (Sl. No 68) for culinary purposes.

NIGERIA

Draft Sampling Plans for Spices (Cumin And Thyme)

Nigeria supports the development of the draft sampling plans for Cumin and Dried Thyme as it is relevant for the application of standards for Cumin and Thyme.

Further Work on Grouping of Spices and Culinary Herbs

Nigeria supports the further work on Grouping of Spices and Culinary Herbs and commends the other members of the EWG that worked on it.

THAILAND

We would like to support to use the same approach taken by CCPFV on the sampling plans in the draft standard for cumin and thyme and it should be elaborated by CCMAS.

IOSTA

The International Organization of Spice Trade Associations (IOSTA) was established in 2000 to represent the interests of the international spice trade before international bodies. Members include the American Spice Trade Association, Canadian Spice Association, European Spice Association (representing its members comprised of various country associations), All India Spice Exporters Forum, and the All Nippon Spice Association. As an organization looking to address issues as they arise, IOSTA welcomes participation from other organizations in ongoing discussions and collaborations. Participation has included the International Pepper Community, the Vietnam Pepper Association, and the World Spice Organisation among others. The Mission of IOSTA is stated as: IOSTA brings together spice associations from around the world to address common issues and seek sensible solutions to ensure the sustainability of the spice industry.

The International Organization of Spice Trade Associations (IOSTA) would like to voice its support for the report of the electronic working group on “Grouping of Spices and Culinary Herbs” (CX/SCH 17/3/9). The alternate strategy that has been proposed for the grouping of spices and culinary herbs for the establishment of a simple general standard is similar in many ways to what is currently used by the trade. IOSTA believes a standard document can be used to outline key factors applicable to all spices and then tables can be used to detail the key chemical and physical properties. The European Spice Association (ESA), a member of IOSTA) developed Quality Minima Standards using a similar approach and that document is attached for reference.

IOSTA does request one change to the draft template that has been developed, and that is the deletion of Sub-section 3.2.3 Classification. While minimum quality standards are appropriate for Codex to set, IOSTA believes that classifications or grades should be determined by the trade and established as trading standards and thus it is not appropriate for Codex to establish.