

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

E

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

CX 4/35.2		CL 2016/20-CF July 2016
TO:	Codex Contact Points Interested International Organizations	
FROM:	Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy E-mail: codex@fao.org	
SUBJECT:	Request for information on management practices for the prevention and reduction of arsenic contamination in rice	
DEADLINE:	31 October 2016	
COMMENTS:	To: Codex Contact Point of Japan Office for Resources, Policy Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Tokyo, Japan E-mail: JPPSDCCCF@maff.go.jp ; codex@mext.go.jp	Copy to: Secretariat Codex Alimentarius Commission Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme FAO E-mail: codex@fao.org

BACKGROUND

1. The 8th Session of the Committee on Contaminants in Foods (2014) noted wide support for the development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of arsenic contamination in rice as supportive for the implementation of the maximum levels for inorganic arsenic in rice (husked and polished).¹
2. According to the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995) contaminants levels in food and feed shall be as low as reasonably through best practice such as good agricultural practices (GAPs) and good manufacturing practices (GMPs) following an appropriate risk assessment. The COP will compile measures to prevent and reduce arsenic concentration in rice supported by scientific evidence. Such measures will include: source directed measures; agricultural measures; processing and cooking measures; and monitoring.²
3. The 9th Session of CCCF (2015) noted that all field studies regardless of their scale were important and should be conducted to identify measures that were feasible and effective for local or regional conditions. The Committee also agreed that the scope of the COP should be limited to source directed measures and agricultural measures to prevent and reduce arsenic contamination in rice.³
4. The 10th Session of CCCF (2016) considered the COP and agreed to continue work on the finalisation of the COP through an Electronic Working Group to be chaired by Japan and co-chaired by Spain taking into account all decisions previously taken by the Committee, written comments submitted at this session and the adequacy of all current and new information submitted in response to the a Circular Letter, for consideration by CCCF11 (2017) with the understanding that the COP could be reviewed in future when more information and data became available.

¹ [REP14/CF](#), paras 93 - 96

² [REP14/CF](#), Appendix VIII

³ [REP15/CF](#), paras 70 - 74

5. The Committee further agreed that the information required through the CL should be as flexible as possible and should allow countries to provide information and data on any of the points raised in the CL; that it should be emphasized that the management measures submitted must have been proven effective; and should also allow submission of information on ongoing studies, their scope and when the results would become available.⁴

Request for Information

6. Information is therefore hereby requested on management practices readily available that are proven to be feasible and effective for application for local and/or regional conditions to prevent and reduce arsenic contamination in rice and are limited to source directed measures and agricultural measures as listed below.
- Information on measures proven to be effective for prevention and/or reduction of arsenic in rice in the field/paddy (agriculture stage), such as the following:

	Note for submission of information/data
➤ Summary of <i>proven</i> measure	Describe a summary (key principles and technologies) of measure proven to be effective in prevention and/or reduction of arsenic in paddy/field rice in the real agricultural conditions.
➤ Detailed description of the measure	Detailed description of the above.
➤ Location of implementation/study	Describe the location of implementation/study by providing address.
➤ Study years	Describe the starting year and ending year.
➤ Plot size of implementation/study where samples were taken	Describe the plot size, preferably in a form of length (m) x width (m). If information is available on the water flow, please provide.
➤ Variety of rice	Describe the variety of rice together with its subspecies (<i>indica</i> , <i>japonica</i> or <i>javanica</i>). Information on subspecies only is OK.
➤ Planting time	Describe the date (day, month, and year) of planting.
➤ When samples (rice at harvest time) were taken in respect of the implementation of measure (e.g., one year before, and 3 years after)	Describe the timing of sampling in relation to the implementation of measures as shown in the left column. Rice samples should be taken at the time of harvest.
➤ Number of samples taken	Describe the number of samples taken from the paddy/field.
➤ Concentrations of arsenic in samples (total arsenic; if available, inorganic arsenic) before and after the implementation of measures	Describe the analytical results of total arsenic in mg/kg. If available, describe the concentration of inorganic arsenic in mg/kg of the same sample. Indicate the sampling timing and whether the samples are husked rice (brown rice) or polished rice (milled rice, white rice).
➤ Levels in soil and water if available	If available, describe the total and/or arsenic (in mg/kg) in the soil of paddy/field where the sample rice was taken; and in water in the paddy or used for irrigation.

Information on any working measures at other stages and any other relevant information is welcome.

⁴ [REP16/CF](#), paras 91 – 100

7. Based on information received, the EWG will further develop the COP for consideration and possible finalization by CCCF11 (2017).
8. Codex members and observers are encouraged to submit available data / information as indicated in paragraph 6 to the Chair of the EWG in order to make progress in the development of the COP at CCCF11. It is noted that finalization of the COP will aid reduction of arsenic contamination in rice and will facilitate implementation and compliance with the MLs for inorganic arsenic in husked rice and polished rice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.