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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الاغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA

Twenty-second Session

Naivasha, Kenya, 25-27 May 2016

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TEA TRADE AND
QUALITY**



**Twenty Second Session
of
FAO/IGG ON TEA**



**WORKING GROUP ON
“TEA TRADE & QUALITY”**

Naiyasha, Kenya, 25 – 27 May 2016

**Premala Srikantha
Director (Promotion)
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD**

WORKING GROUP

ON

“TEA TRADE & QUALITY”

CHAIR

– SRI LANKA



CO – CHAIRS

– INDIA, KENYA, CHINA

&

INDONESIA



PROGRESSION

- ❖ Initial proposal mooted at the 15th Session in Colombo, Sri Lanka - 2003.
- ❖ Proposal ratified at the 16th Session in Bali, Indonesia- 2005.
- ❖ Agenda paper submitted at the 17th Session in Nairobi, Kenya - 2006.
- ❖ Formation of Working Group proposed at the 18th Session in Hangzhou, China - 2008.
- ❖ Sri Lanka appointed as Chair & India, Kenya, China as well as Indonesia selected as co- chairs in Rome, Italy - 2009.

Continuation.....

PROGRESSION

- ❖ Progress reported by Sri Lanka at the 19th Session in New Delhi, India - 2010.
- ❖ Road Map proposed by Sri Lanka at the Working Group Sessions in Mombasa, Kenya -2011.
- ❖ Actions & Resolutions adopted at 20th Session in Colombo January 2012.
- ❖ Actions & Resolutions adopted at the Inter-sessional meeting in Washington DC, USA in September 2012 where Argentina and UK were co-opted to the Committee.
- ❖ Actions & Resolutions adopted at the Inter-sessional meeting in Rome, Italy 5th to 6th May 2014.
- ❖ Actions & Resolutions adopted at the 21st Session in Bandung, Indonesia 5 – 7 November 2014
- ❖ Actions & Resolutions adopted at the Inter-sessional meeting in Milan, Italy 15 to 16 October 2015

STATUS OF ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO 3720 MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARD

Country	Status	Local Body
Sri Lanka	Fully Implemented	ISO 3720 / SLS 135/ 1979
India	Fully Implemented	ISO 3720/ PFA/ FSSAI
Kenya	Fully Implemented	ISO 3720 / KSS65 - 2009
Vietnam	Fully Implemented	ISO 3720/ Vietnamese Standard
Bangladesh	Fully Implemented	ISO 3720/ BDSS
Rwanda	Fully Implemented	ISO 3720
Argentina	Fully Implemented	CAA slight variation to ISO 3720 (Crude fiber: 20% in CAA against 16,5%. Water extract: 28% in CAA against 32%)
Tanzania	Implementation on-going	ISO 3720/ TZS 352
Uganda	Implementation on-going	ISO 3720 / US 292:2002
Malawi	Implemented	ISO 3720

Continuation....

STATUS OF ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO 3720 MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARD

Country	Status	Local Body
China	Partially Implemented 2011	ISO3720 GB/T 13738.1-2008 Black Tea-Part 1 Broken Black Tea GB/T 13738.2-2008 Black Tea-Part 2 Congou Black Tea (Water extract & total ash are not equivalently compliant with ISO 3720*1986) GB/T 13738.3-2008 Black Tea-Part 3 Souchong Black Tea (Water extract & total ash content are lower than ISO 3720)

** Part 1 & 2 are currently being revised by the National Technical Committee 339 on Tea of Standardization Administration China (SAC/TC339).

Continuation....

STATUS OF ADOPTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO 3720 MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARD

Country	Status
Japan	In the process of collecting data. Low black tea production and most of the black tea produced comply with ISO 3720
Indonesia	Awaiting Response
Burundi	Awaiting Response
Nigeria	Awaiting Response
Nepal	Awaiting Response
Zimbabwe	Awaiting Response



ACTION PLANS & RESOLUTIONS

- ❖ Introduction of a self-regulating code of conduct to continue compliance of ISO 3720 minimum quality standard.
- ❖ Collation of all existing literature on additional quality benefits on tea if conforming to ISO 3720 or above.
- ❖ Formulation of a road-map to undertake further research on ISO 3720 compliant vis-a-vis non-compliant teas on the connectivity to quality and food safety parameters (establish a business model for higher safety levels).
- ❖ A closer synergy between the Working Group on Tea Trade and Quality and ISO for a combined collation of information and data.
- ❖ Proposal to arrange a workshop among ISO 3720 compliant and non-compliant member countries.



Continuation....

ACTION PLANS & RESOLUTIONS

- ❖ Initiate a pragmatic program to prevail upon the governments of consumer countries, tea trade and consumers of importing countries to encourage buying teas complying with ISO 3720 parameters or above in view of better quality and safety.
- ❖ Identifying donor funding/technical assistance for countries requiring support in the implementation of ISO 3720 minimum quality standard.
- ❖ The Working Group recognizes the establishment of a minimum quality standard for green tea and the significant growth in the production and demand for green tea globally and therefore proposes to recommend the introduction of a self-regulating code of conduct conforming to ISO 11287 minimum quality standard for green tea manufacturing.



Continuation....

ACTION PLANS & RESOLUTIONS

- ❖ The Group discussed the need for defining a uniformed global sustainability standard governing the tea value chain.
- ❖ The Group suggested to add a “Promotion” element as tea education, promotional events and even Tea competitions are getting more and more popular and are incorporated in communication strategies to educate and promote tea.
- ❖ Proposes to have an International Tea Day. The procedures and modalities would have to be worked out. The consumer member countries strongly supported the proposal, and the Focal Point for Communication (Canada) would coordinate this initiative with the Secretariat.

Introduction of a Self-regulating Code of Conduct to Continue Compliance of ISO 3720 Minimum Quality Standard

Sri Lanka	Mechanism is fully active from factory gate to point of export governed by Tea Control Act.
Argentina	Governed by Argentine Food Code (CAA) and in compliance with ISO 3720 but differing in crude fiber (20% against 16.5%) and lack of definition for total polyphenols.(exceeds 9% of total polyphenols, water extract 28% against 32%)
India	In order to strictly maintain food safety and quality, a self regulating code of conduct is already in place following ISO 3720 and Tea Board of India's Acts and Regulations (Distribution and Export Control Order, 2005, Tea Marketing Control Order, 2005).
Kenya	Reviewed its Tea Quality Standard KS: 65:2009 to conform to ISO 3720 & also in the process of reviewing the Code of Practice for Tea Industry to incorporate changes in Sustainability, Safety and Quality requirements 2128:2015
Malawi	Fully compliant with ISO requirements with regular monitoring
Japan	Low Black Tea production, and most of black tea is consumed in domestic market. There is no self-regulating code.
China	Governed by GB/T 13738.1-2008,GB/T 13738.2-2008 & GB/T 13738.3-2012
Way forward	Non-complaint member countries will share data on their standards with the other member countries and with the ISO technical committee

Collation of all existing literature on additional quality benefits on tea if conforming to ISO 3720 or above

Sri Lanka	Research already done and submitted to members
Argentina	Collation not done yet
India	Information on different quality parameters on tea are published in annual scientific report and scientific journals. e.g Polyphenolic compounds and antioxidant activity of CTC black tea of North East India (2013); Finger print of Darjeeling Black tea : understanding of region specific quantitative analysis non-volatile biochemical constituents.
Kenya	Publications available on line: Owuor Philip Scholars citation Tea & Quality
Japan	There is no literature available
Malawi	Research conducted and presented on health benefits of tea. Literature available on TRFCA news letter. Suggests sharing of scientific information among producer countries.
China	Some research has been carried out but all the papers were written in Chinese language.
Way forward:	Literatures have been received from India and Sri Lanka. Responses from other members are lukewarm. Collated scientific literatures from member countries will be categorized and compiled.

Formulation of a Road-Map to undertake further research on ISO 3720 compliant vis-a-vis non-compliant teas on the connectivity to quality and food safety parameters (establish a business model for higher safety levels).

Sri Lanka	Recommends establishing a scientific task force.
Argentina	Training programs are conducted aiming at compliance with ISO 3720 and GMP, food safety, environment care & social responsibility
India	Proposes further research on Theaflavin (TF) and Thearubigins (TR) e.g Correlation studies of Theaflavin contents and its fractions, Glycosides of flavonols like quercetin kaemferol and myrecetin etc. in order to study the astringency in different geographical/agro climatic regions. Study on L theanin and its possible correlation with health beneficial properties of tea. These studies may be undertaken as an international coordinated project involving participating countries/research institutes.
Kenya	All Tea Research Institutions and Universities will be requested to submit reports on the topic.
Japan	ISO3720 would be only a requirement to regulate minimum quality standard for black tea.
Malawi	Recommends scientific literature on positive quality attributes of ISO 3720 to be packaged and disseminated to all tea consuming countries for consumer awareness.
Way forward	Recommends use of the quality parameters related to health beneficial characteristics as a marketing tool.

A closer synergy between the Working Group on Tea Trade and Quality and ISO for a combined collation of information and data.

Sri Lanka	Supportive of the proposal and has established close coordination and sharing of scientific information and takes part in data generation
Argentina	Already works closely with IRAM Tea Sub-Committee, representative of the ISO
India	Established close coordination and sharing of scientific information with ISO to optimize the effects through synergy. India is interested to take part in this data generation and sharing study along with other tea research institutes and tea producing countries.
Kenya	Supportive of the proposal Regularly participates at the ISO tea quality meetings
Malawi	Supports the initiative and recommends sharing of such information
Japan	Currently collecting data to differentiate Matcha as one of the specialty teas.
China	Established close ties with National Technical Committee 339 on Tea Standardization Administration of China (SAC/TC339) that represent China at ISO Meeting
May forward	Already communicated and response is awaited from ISO Technical Committee. ISO representative has been invited to attend FAO/IGG session on Tea

Proposal to arrange a workshop among ISO 3720 compliant and non-compliant member countries

Sri Lanka	Supportive of the proposal & suitable forum to be decided in consultation with ISO committee
Argentina	Agree and further propose participation from both producer & buyer countries to share information.
India	India is interested to take part in the proposed workshop.
Kenya	Agreeable with the proposal. Members to actively participate in regular ISO meetings
Malawi	Recommends to pursue this workshop through ISO members. Source of funding is also important.
Japan	Would consider the opinion from the Chairman of ISO
China	Supports the proposal
Way forward	It was proposed to arrange the workshop during the main session in Kenya in consultation with ISO and FAO. Secretariat is communicating with ISO to arrange the workshop

Initiate a pragmatic program to encourage tea trade and consumers of importing countries to demand tea complying with ISO 3720 parameters or above in view of better quality and safety.

Sri Lanka	Agrees that decision of consumer countries to fall in line is of paramount importance for this to succeed.
Argentina	Suggests drafting an informative document for importing and consuming countries defining standards on quality for Black Tea.
India	This program can be initiated along with the awareness program between both the producers and consumer countries to maintain minimum quality standards of tea from marketing point of view and in order to meet the need/requirement of consumers.
Kenya	Public Private Partnership rather than a legal enforcement. Consumer awareness programs are more effective & proposes to engage consumer associations in a partnership with Tea for Health on ISO 3720
Malawi	Propose measures to be taken by producing / exporting countries to ensure that all teas exported conform to ISO 3720.
Japan	USA and Canada stated that ISO 3720 is only a minimum standards and proposes that importing countries should consider other quality parameters also.
China	Agrees with other teas except “Congou black tea and ‘Souchong black tea’

Identifying donor funding/technical assistance for countries requiring support in the implementation of ISO 3720 minimum quality standard

Sri Lanka	Supports the proposal & highlights the need to identify the countries which really requires such assistance.
Argentina	No progress has been made on this issue.
India	FAO may explore the possibility of funding of technical assistance for the countries requiring support for implementation of ISO 3720 minimum quality standards.
Kenya	With financial support is willing to support African Countries through training to achieve ISO 3720, as these countries mostly export through Mombasa Auction.
Japan	No comments
Malawi	Supports the initiative and recognizes Zimbabwe and Mozambique as countries that require such assistance.
Way forward	To consult FAO /CFC on funding sources

The Working Group recognizes the establishment of a minimum quality standard for green tea and the significant growth in the production and demand for green tea globally and therefore proposes to recommend the introduction of a self-regulating code of conduct conforming to ISO 11287 minimum quality standard for green tea manufacturing.

Sri Lanka Agreeable with the proposal & suggest that major Green Tea producing countries take the lead role.

Argentina Produces in small quantity but adheres to CAA which is similar to ISO 11287. However, there is no mandatory national standard IRAM 20670:2014 corresponding to the ISO 11287:2011

India The proposal for introduction of self regulating code conforming to ISO 11287/2011, minimum quality standards for green tea manufacturing is important to be harmonized with all tea producing countries for green tea There is a need to generate data on different bio chemical parameters of green tea. All interested tea producing countries/research institutes may be advised to take part in this activity through an internationally coordinated project mode. This will help to develop the standards and harmonize the same between countries.

Kenya Supports the proposal and wishes to be included in this exercise

The Working Group recognizes the establishment of a minimum quality standard for green tea and the significant growth in the production and demand for green tea globally and therefore proposes to recommend the introduction of a self-regulating code of conduct conforming to ISO 11287 minimum quality standard for green tea manufacturing.

China	Chair of the working group of ISO 11287/2011 Minimum Quality Standard for green tea in compliance with 11287/2011“GB/T 14456.1 Green Tea- Part 1 :essential requirements” & currently being revised by the National Technical Committee 339 on Tea of Standardization Administration of China (SAC/TC339)
Malawi	Suggests further scientific research authenticate these claims and the results will assist in deciding the way forward.
Japan	ISO technical committee conducted 348 sample analysis for definition of green tea by using ISO methods and confirmed that 99% teas meet the ratio requirements. Agreeable to the proposal and generally conforms to ISO 11287
May forward	ISO Technical Committee confirms that they are in the process of collecting data for Green Tea and in the process of harmonizing quality standards

The Group discussed the need for defining a uniformed global sustainability standard governing the tea value chain.

Sri Lanka	Supports the proposal as currently strictly follows Good Agricultural practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Food safety regulations. Certain standards are being adopted in relation to moisture, yeast & mould etc. in addition to full implementation of ISO 3720. Requires consultation with consumer countries.
Argentina	In general there is agreement on the need to strengthen other quality parameters such as moisture, yeast & mould, Coliform etc. This has to be done in consultation with consumer countries.
India	Implementation of ISO 3720 will certainly help to define and maintain uniform global sustainability standard governing the tea value chain. Working on the sustainability issues of tea industry following Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) including HACCP and Food Safety Management System which have been accredited by both national and international regulatory bodies.
Kenya	Supports the proposal as a sustainable tea industry is beneficial to all. Kenya is willing to serve in the committee. Alternatively the Climate Change WG can include the item in the agenda.
Malawi	Proposes that the additional parameters should come from the consumer countries and it is suggested these parameters should assist in promoting the health benefits of tea.
Way forward	Emphasizes the implementation of ISO 3720 first and proposes to include other parameters related to food safety in consultation with consumer countries.

The Group suggested to add a “Promotion” element as tea education, promotional events and even Tea competition are getting more and more popular and are incorporated in communication strategies to educate and promote tea.

Sri Lanka
Planning a campaign including competitions to encourage grassroots level stakeholders; tea pluckers, workers etc. Conduct various promotional activities to encourage tea drinking culture among the younger generation. Planning to host ‘Colombo Tea Convention and Ceylon Tea Expo 2017, the international forum that includes trade exhibition, seminars, tea convention etc. to coincide with 150 year anniversary of the Sri Lanka Tea Industry.

Argentina
Institutes are established to educate on various topics relating to tea manufacturing, analysis, tea ceremonies, tea tasting sessions , gourmet teas and culinary proposals at restaurants etc.

India
Health beneficial properties of tea along with bio chemical parameters related to quality can be considered jointly to promote tea internationally. Regular promotional activities and generic campaign can be organized globally involving interested tea producing and consumer countries.

The Group suggested to add a “Promotion” element as tea education, promotional events and even Tea competition are getting more and more popular and are incorporated in communication strategies to educate and promote tea.

Kenya	Currently holds annual Tea Classes Competition, Climate Change Innovation Awards and Tea Packers Competition, Tea Recipe Competition as promotional events.
Malawi	Emphasizes the need to promote tea more competitively against other beverages and suggests sponsoring sporting activities , establishing Tea Day and various promotional activities in colleges and schools.
China	8 -12 Training courses on Tea Taster/Tea art specialist by China Tea Society, International China Tea Competition
Japan	Regular training program for Japanese Tea Instructors organized by Japanese Tea Instructors Association. Nihon-cha (Japanese tea) instructor system is in existence since 1999. Conducting Tea competitions to evaluate the quality of tea and the value of tea commodity such as packaging, “Nihoncha AWARD” etc.
Way forward	Member countries agree to focus on health aspects of tea and to conduct regular promotional activities and suggest FAO funding for generic campaign globally

Proposes to have an International Tea Day. The procedures and modalities would have to be worked out. The consumer member countries strongly supported the proposal, and the Focal Point for Communication (Canada) would coordinate this initiative with the Secretariat.

India	An initiative was taken by India to collect information from different sources including the history of tea in general, global statistics, tea industry in India, tea and its health beneficial properties etc. along with the justification for declaring an international tea day.
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Sri Lanka	Agrees to this proposal
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Argentina	Agrees to this proposal
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Japan	Agrees to this proposal
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Kenya	Agrees to this proposal
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Malawi	Agrees to this proposal
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May forward	The statement will be submitted through FAO representative office to FAO Secretariat.
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**Sri Lanka's
GIFT TO THE WORLD**



THANK YOU.

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