

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS (CCSCH)
INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUP (eWG)
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CODEX STANDARD FOR “BASIL”
UNDER THE CATEGORY OF “DRIED LEAVES”**

Dear Codex Members and Observers:

The 3rd Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH3), held in Chennai India (February, 2017) agreed to establish an electronic working group (eWG) hosted by Egypt and co-hosted by Sudan, working in English, to start new work for the development of commodity standards for **Basil** based on the concept of group standards under the category of “**Dried leaves**” (**REP17/SCH**, para 82 a & b).

Egypt and Sudan kindly invite all interested Codex members and observers to assist in this task, to please submit the following information not later than **June 25, 2017**, to the Secretariat of Egyptian Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs helws_a@hotmail.com (Chair of the eWG) and to the Secretariat of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs of Sudan moafsqu@yahoo.com (Co-chair of the eWG)

- Participant's name;
- Official title/position;
- Name of country;
- Organization;
- Contact details / Email address.

Codex members and observers wishing to participate in this eWG shall send their nominations as indicated above through or with a copy to the Codex Contact Point of the member country or recognized observer organization. Working group members will be expected to develop and provide their countries' response to the questions related to the objectives of this work. The questions will be made available once the eWG members are identified.

As part of a pilot program the eWG will be run over a bulletin board. With this system we hope to achieve a better flow of information, greater security and increased transparency. The bulletin board will require you to login. You will be provided with the link once participant credentials have been verified.

Below is the proposed working schedule:

| Lead Countries | Proposed timeline |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Issuance of kick-off message | 25 th May 2017 |
| Deadline for Registration of Working Group participants | 25 th June 2017 |
| Circulation of the working document | 30 th September 2017 |
| Deadline for submission of comments on the first draft | 15 th November 2017 |
| Circulation of the second draft of the working document | 1 st February 2018 |
| Deadline for submission of comments on the second draft | 15 March 2018 |
| Submission of the eWG Report to the Codex Secretariat | May 2018 |

Sincerely Yours,

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| <p>Ahmed M. ELHELW Secretariat of Egyptian Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs Helws_a@hotmail.com +201224083536 Ministry of Trade and Industry Egyptian Organization For Standardization and Quality (EOS) 16,Tadreeb El-Modarrebeen St. AlAmeriya, Cairo, Egypt Tel. : +202 228 455 22/22845524 Fax : +202 228 455 04 E-mail: eos@idsc.net.eg Web: www.eos.org.eg</p> | <p>Dr. Asia Elhassan Head of the technical committee Tel: +249912160474 asiaelhassan@gmail.com</p> |
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