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## ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 53<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 | Virtual Meeting

**Further work of Interest for the Arab Region**

### **AGENDA ITEM 17**

*Modification of the portion of commodities to which Codex MRLs apply and which is analyzed: Group 14 (Assorted fruits – Inedible peel).*

#### **Objectives**

This document offers a review and analysis of the agenda items planned for discussion at the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the **Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)**, scheduled to take place virtually July 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This document is intended for possible use by the Codex communities of practice, promoted by [GForSS](#) and [PARERA](#), as part of their contribution to enhancing awareness and supporting effective participation in international food standard setting meetings (Codex meetings) by representatives from members and observers.

The analysis provided in this document offers a factual review of agenda items, their background and a discussion of some considerations. This analysis is indicative in nature and does not represent an official position of the organizations mentioned above ([PARERA](#) and [GForSS](#)), their membership or their management. It provides a synthesis and analysis of the work currently under discussion by the CCPR, which may be useful for delegations from Arab countries to prepare their positions taking into account the needs and specificity of the region and the potential impact of the proposed food standards.

This analysis is prepared as part of the **Codex Initiative for the Arab Region: Arab Codex Initiative**, implemented by [PARERA](#) and [GForSS](#), hosted and coordinated by the [Arab Industrial Development, Standardization and Mining Organization \(AIDSMO\)](#) and funded by the US Codex Office, US Department of Agriculture.

**The aim of this document is to give more information about additional work and activities currently**

*\*It is important to note that experts – members of the Arab Expert Working Group – do not represent the organizations and / or jurisdictions to which they are affiliated. The selection and participation in the Arab Expert Working Group proceedings is based on each expert's own credentials and experience, which should not be misconstrued as the country's / delegation's / organization's position to which they belong.*

## Agenda Item 17: Modification of the portion of commodities to which Codex MRLs apply and which is analyzed: Group 14 (Assorted fruits – Inedible peel).

### Document

CX/PR 22/53/19 and CXG 41-1993

### Background

The “Guidelines on Portion of Commodities to which Codex MRLs apply and which is analyzed”, is a part of the eight standards and guidelines established by CCPR. The last update of this document was discussed at CCPR42 (2010) and the Committee agreed at this session to retain these Guidelines as a single document and to revise this decision upon completion of the revision of the Classification of Food and Feed.

The discussion of the modification of the portion of commodities to which Codex MRLs apply and which is analyzed: Group 14 (Assorted fruits – Inedible peel: avocados, bananas, guavas, kiwi fruit, mangoes, papayas, passion fruit, and pineapples.), was introduced in the agenda of CCPR52 through item 16, but the committee decided to report the discussion related to this item to the next session CCPR53 for lack of time. Ecuador prepared a discussion paper in order to introduce the question about the necessity of modifications of the standard regarding the Group 14 (which are listed as assorted fruits with inedible peel) and sent the document to delegates in order to be discussed at CCPR53.

### At the CCPR53,

CCPR is invited to consider the elements, views and recommendations mentioned in the discussion paper prepared by Ecuador related to the modification of the standard “Guidelines on Portion of Commodities to which Codex MRLs apply and which is analyzed” regarding the Group 14 (Assorted fruits – Inedible peel), notably:

- i. To examine the relevance of starting a new work for the modification of the Guideline Portion of commodities to which Codex MRLs apply and which is analyzed (CXG 41-1993), specifically Group 14 assorted fruits with inedible skin, for modifying "Whole commodity unless qualified" by "Product with peel removed" and the establishment of an electronic working group (EWG) for this matter.
- ii. To send to JMPR a request for pesticide residue analysis data, performed on whole product and the product without its peel for Group 14 “fruits”.

### Analysis

According to the Guidelines, Codex MRLs (CXLs) are in most cases stated as in terms of a specific whole raw agricultural commodity as it moves in international trade. In some instances, a qualification is included that describes the part of the raw agricultural commodity to which the MRL applies; in other instances, such qualifications are not provided.

To harmonize the procedure of analytical sampling, CCPR has established guidelines to describe the portion of the raw agricultural commodity to which the MRL applies, and which is to be prepared as the analytical sample for the determination of pesticide residues described for the 33 groups listed in the Guidelines.

According to the guidelines, the portion of commodity of Group 14 to which the Codex MRL applies (and which is analyzed) is presented as follows:

- ❖ Whole commodity unless qualified.
- ❖ Pineapples: after removal of crown.
- ❖ Avocado and mangoes: whole commodity after removal of stone but calculated on whole fruit.



## ❖ Bananas: after removal of crown tissues and stalks

The modification proposed in the discussion paper related to the “portion of commodities to which maximum residue limits apply and which is analyzed for group 14, is about the relevance to include in the guidelines specification that the part to be analyzed for pesticide residues does not include the skin or peel.

It was argued by the following explanations:

- ❖ There is no specific selection for the products of the group 14 (avocados, passion fruit, bananas, pineapple, kiwi fruit, mangoes, papayas, guavas), in which corresponds to the part of the gross agricultural product to which the MRL applies and which must be prepared as an Analytical Sample for the determination of pesticide residues;
- ❖ The habits of consumption of Group 14, should be taken into account when trying to carry out the analysis of pesticide residues in each region that consume these commodities, since the skin is removed;
- ❖ The current CXLs related to “Group 14 Assorted fruits - Inedible Peel”, has been established based on the edible part; by not considering the analysis of the products without the peel, the MRLs established for them could be exceeded, reaching the conclusion that the food is not suitable for consumption, and thus would lead to obstacles and / or unfair practices in the international trade,
- ❖ Most of the production of the commodities under Group 14 occurs in relatively less developed countries, with a strong export vocation; the application of pesticide analysis in these conditions may have a negative impact on the economies of such countries.

To demonstrate the relevance of the production and international trade of Group 14 products, an analysis of statistics of production, export and import areas using sources such as FAOSTAT and various trade statistics portals was reported in the discussion paper.

#### *Impacts on the Arab Region*

Group 14, are mostly produced in tropical or sub-tropical regions. However, these products are produced in Arab countries (Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, etc.) for products like Avocado, Banana, etc.

Africa with Asia, contain the largest production area for inedible peel fruits. For bananas, Asia and Africa have the largest cultivated area followed by Latin America and the Caribbean. Asia and Africa also lead the production of pineapple, papaya, and mango. Latin America and the Caribbean is the region that produces avocados the most.

The analysis of the products with the peel will lead to the misrepresentation that the food is not suitable for consumption, whereas, the habits of consumption of these commodities (including in the Arab region) foresees the removal of the skin. Pesticide residue levels in the edible part of the product are most likely to fulfil compliance with the set MRLs (which were established based on this edible part).

Proceeding with this clarification of applicability of the MRLs for Group 14, will reduce situations on non-compliance and offer more alignment between the MRL was set and the associated compliance verification protocols.

#### *Conclusion and Considerations*

It is recommended that Arab Codex delegations support the proposal made in the discussion paper with regards to restricting the applicability of pesticide MRLs to the edible portion (without the peel) for Group 14 foods.

This change will support the trade interests of countries of the region as producers and exporters of these commodities.

