



ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 6th SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS

26th – 30th SEPTEMBER and 3rd OCTOBER 2022 - Virtual Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 6

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR DRIED ROOTS, RHIZOMES AND BULBS - TURMERIC (At Step 3)

Objectives

This document offers a review and analysis of the agenda items planned for discussion at the 6th session of the **Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs**, scheduled to take place virtually September 26th – 30th and 3rd October 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 CCSCH, which may be useful for delegations from Arab countries to prepare their positions considering 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.

**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.*

Documents

CX/SCH 22/6/8

CL 2022/30/OCS-SCH

Background

CCSCH5 (April 2021), agreed to submit for approval by CAC44 the proposals for new work for: Turmeric.

CCSCH5 agreed to establish an electronic working group (EWG) chaired by Iran and India, to elaborate the specific requirements for turmeric based on the concept of group standards i.e., category of “Dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs”.

Recommendations formulated by the EWG chaired by Iran and India

In its 6th session, CCSCH is therefore invited to:

Update the draft standard based on all comments received and continue work on it.

Analysis

The proposed draft standard was uploaded in May of 2022 and comments were received from India only.

Section ‘3.2.2 Chemical and physical characteristics’

One member requested to change the chemical characteristic colouring power to “Total curcuminoids in (%)” in ANNEX I -Table2. (Chemical Characteristics for Dried or Dehydrated Turmeric) and in ANNEX III - Table 4 Method of analysis. This suggestion was accepted.

Comments and Considerations

Until the time this document was developed, the deadline of the new circular letter (CL 2022/30/OCS-SCH) related to this agenda item was not reached (19/09/2022).

Considerations for the Arab Region

AIDSMO develops Unified Arab Standards and technical regulations through specialized Arab technical committees.

The Arab EWG followed a comparative approach regarding Turmeric Classification between the Codex standard with the Unified Arab Standard.

Classification (Codex standard): it’s optional. When dried Turmeric is traded as classified, the chemical and physical characteristics in Annexes I and II apply as the minimum requirements.

Classification (Arab standard):

Whole Turmeric is graded according to its presentation (rhizomes, fingers, or bulbs), its origin and its extraneous matter content.

- a) Class(A) 7 % (m/m) of pieces (rhizomes of length less than 15 mm and screenings or fragments);
- b) Class (B) 5 % (m/m) of bulbs.

Ground (powdered) Turmeric is graded according to its particle size into two types, as follows:

- a) Class(A) Coarse powder: 98% of the product shall pass through a sieve of aperture size 500 µm;
- b) Class(B) Fine powder: 98% of the product shall pass through a sieve of aperture size 300 µm.

Conclusion and recommendations

The Arab delegations may support the initiation of this work, given the potential benefit it may bring to this commodity, being possibly produced in the Arab region. As a result, Arab Codex delegations should also commit to be part of the EWG and actively contribute to its work.

