

THE THIRD ARAB CODEX COLLOQUIUM

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Review of Outputs of Arab EWG on MLs for Total Aflatoxins in Ready-to-Eat Peanuts

Eng. Hanan Fouad Hamed

CCP- Egyptian Codex Unit & Manager of Food Standards Dept. , EDS , Egypt

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Background

- ❑ **In 2015**, the CCCF9 Committee has begun discussing a ML for aflatoxin in peanuts intended for direct consumption, a ML 15 mg / kg has been proposed.
- ❑ **In 2018**, the CCCF12 committee approved a ML 10 mg/ kg at Step 4, which was postponed for 3 years to collect more data.
- ❑ **In 2022**, ML 10 mg/ kg was re-proposed, and some countries for example (Egypt and EU...) had reservations, so the work was postponed for a more comprehensive analysis of the data.

From the discussions and opinions differed among the Arab countries



Codex Arab Initiative Action

- ❑ **Step 1 : On 13 /09 /2023** , Arab Codex Initiative has been held zoom meeting for Arab countries and it was recommended to establish an EWG “A study based on the principles of risk analysis to determine the maximum limits for aflatoxins in peanuts ready for direct consumption” , as chair Arab Republic of Egypt and co chair Sudan and members from Arab Codex Initiative.
- ❑ **Step 2 : On 2 October 2023** , CCP- Egyptian Codex has been shared the work plan for this EWG to the members (Sudan -The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - United Arab Emirates - Sultanate of Oman - State of Qatar - Kingdom of Morocco - Kingdom of Yemen) and CCP- Egyptian Codex demanded from EWG members to send data (**Deadline 15 November 2023**)



The Scope of Work of the EWG:

Coordination to prepare a unified Arab position (regional position) on the ML for total aflatoxins in peanuts ready for direct consumption, in light of a study based on data and the principles of risk analysis, to reach an international standard for the ML for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts in Arab countries, which will be prepared by this group.



- ❑ **Step 3: Before 15 November 2023 (Deadline)**, CCP- Egyptian Codex and Sudan received data from Egypt (NFSA), Sudan, Sultanate of Oman, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- ❑ **Step 4: On 18 December 2023**, CCP- Egyptian Codex and Sudan sent the collection data to Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Dr. Amine Kassouf (GFoRSS Experts) to start to analyze these data.
- ❑ **Step 5: On 19 February 2024**, GFoRSS (Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Dr. Amine Kassouf and Dr. Andre Khoury) held a zoom meeting with CCP- Egyptian Codex and CCP- Sudan to discuss these data and the future steps and the meeting concluded that Dr. Andre Khoury would study and analyze this dataset, and report back to the EWG.
- ❑ **Step 6: On 18 March 2024**, Dr. Andre Khoury shared a Report on “Aflatoxin Contamination in Exported Peanuts”.

□ **CCCF17 (15-19 April 2024) agreed to:**

- (i) apply the existing definition for RTE treenuts in CXS 193 to RTE peanuts;
- (ii) establish an EWG chaired by India and co-chaired by USA, working in English, to develop the ML for AFT in RTE peanuts and the associated sampling plan for comments and consideration by CCCF18;



Upcoming steps

- Completing the work and focusing on the currently available data that were received from countries to reach a regional ML for total aflatoxins in peanuts, especially after the CCCF17 agreed to adopt the definition of ready-to-eat peanuts.
- Prepare data to be shared through GEMS/Food database when the call for data is issued by JECFA Secretariat - with a crucial necessity to specify peanuts as RTE or FFP.

