

29th Meeting of the Codex Contact Points in the Arab Region

PREPARATION FOR THE 47TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC47)

Summary of Outcomes *7th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs* *(CCSCH7)*

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Introduction

The 7th meeting of the CCSCH was hosted and chaired by the Government of India, in Kochi, Kerala, India (29 January - 2 February 2024)



Dr M.R. Sudharshan is the current chairman of the committee

CCSCH7

- The first physical meeting after a gap of five years.
- The physical meeting in Kerala also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the CCSCH, which was established in 2013.

CCSCH7

- 30 member countries and one member organization and one observer organization attended the five-day meeting.
- 3 Arab countries (Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia).

CCSCH is mandated to elaborate worldwide, science based quality standards for spices and culinary herbs, in accordance with codex principles of consumer protection and fair-trade practices.

Innovative approach to developing standards by grouping the many spices and culinary herbs into six categories facilitating the development of standards.

11 standards for spices and culinary herbs during its past six session

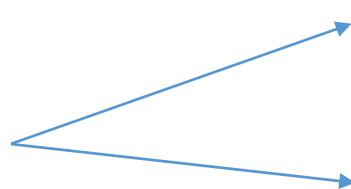


Three Standards Adopted at Step 8 or 5/8

The Committee agreed to forward to CAC47 for final adoption three texts



(At Step 8)



Draft standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – **small cardamom**



Draft standard for spices in the form of dried or dehydrated fruits and berries:



Allspice



Juniper berry



Star anise



(At Step 5/8)



Draft standard for dried or dehydrated roots, rhizomes and bulbs – **turmeric**



One Standard Adopted at Step 5

Forward to CAC47 for adoption at step 5 draft standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – **vanilla**



Would be subject to one more round of scrutiny (step 6/7).



Establish an EWG, chaired by the United States for America and co-chaired by Madagascar, Mexico and India, to consider the unresolved issues, taking into account the comments submitted at Step 6 as well as discussions in CCSCH7.

The unresolved issues : the alternate term for vanilla-caviar; provisions for food additives; labelling requirements for country of harvest; and which option to be used for the table on chemical characteristics.



Possibility of organizing a virtual working group meeting prior to CCSCH8 to facilitate extensive communication on the outstanding issues in view of the complexity of this topic.

New Work (Step 2/3)

To start new work on four different spices or culinary herbs and submit these new work proposals for approval by CAC47.



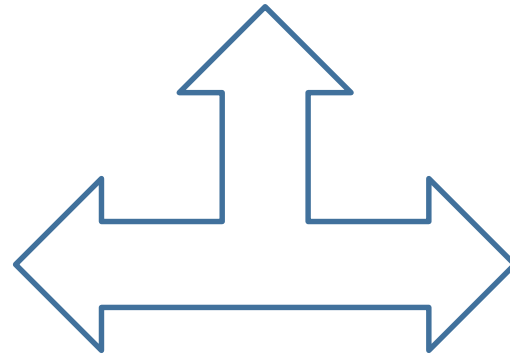
Sweet marjoram
(proposed by Egypt)

Draft standard: EWG
(Egypt)



Cinnamon
(proposed by Brazil)

Draft standard: EWG
Brazil, Indonesia,
Iran and Mexico



The committee will work on draft standards for these four spices in its forthcoming sessions.

Large cardamom
(proposed by Bhutan
and Nepal),

Draft standard: EWG
(Bhutan, Nepal and India)



Coriander
(proposed by India)

Draft standard: EWG
(India and Iran)



Other Considerations

CCFL
CCMAS → For Endorsement
Information

- i) labelling provisions for country of origin and country of harvest in the standard for dried floral parts – saffron
- ii) methods of analysis in different SCH standards
- iii) draft standard for spices in the form of dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – small cardamom
- iv) draft standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – allspice, juniper berry and star anise
- v) draft standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – vanilla
- vi) draft standard for dried or dehydrated roots, rhizomes and bulbs - turmeric

USA → For Action

volunteered to prepare a discussion paper on trade data availability for spices and culinary herbs to address the difficulty in obtaining sufficient disaggregated trade data for SCH to support new work proposals in this area (CCSCH8).

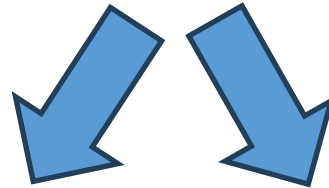
Members → Action
Information

Submission of proposals for new work

Other Considerations

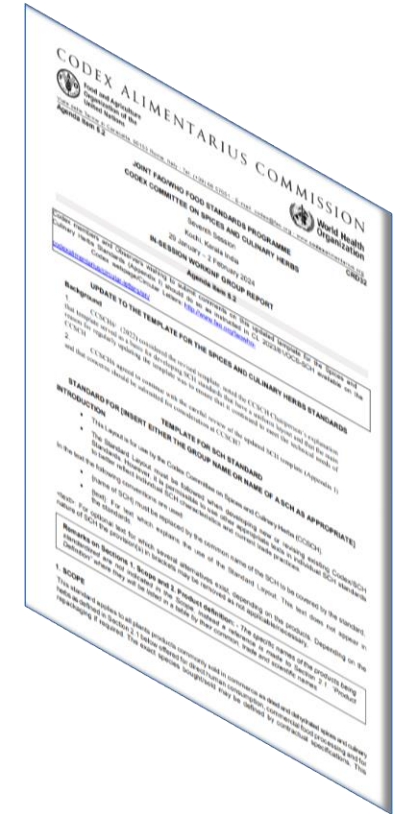
UPDATE TO THE TEMPLATE FOR THE SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS (SCH) STANDARDS

CCSCH7 agreed to:



Encourage active participation of Members and Observers in all discussions of the template for SCH standards and urged timely provision of comments.

Publish the updated template prepared by the United States for America as a CRD (CRD32) and deferred its consideration to CCSCH8.



Contribution of Arab Countries

Agenda item 2: matters arising from the CAC and its subsidiary bodies (Labeling: Country of Origin and Country of Harvest)

Agenda item 3.11: draft standard for dried small cardamom comments in reply to cl 2023/02/ocs-sch

Agenda item 3.2: Draft standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries: part a - requirements for allspice, juniper berry, star anise

Agenda item 3.3: draft standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries: part b – requirements for vanilla

Agenda item 4: proposed draft standard for turmeric

Agenda item 5.1: Project document proposal for new work on codex standard for sweet marjoram

Agenda item 5.1: proposals for new work (replies to cl 2022/3-sch)

Agenda Item 5.21: update to the template for sch standards comments in reply to cl 2023/81/ocs-sch

➔ Comments from **Morocco** (CRD9)

➔ Comments from **Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates**

➔ Comments from **Morocco** (star CRD11) and **Egypt and Saudi Arabia** in reply to CL

➔ Comments from **Morocco** (CRD12) and **Egypt and Saudi Arabia** in reply to CL

➔ Comments from **Morocco** (CRD13) and **Egypt and Saudi Arabia** in reply to CL

➔ **Egypt** proposal (CRD31)

➔ Comments from **Morocco** (CRD 14) supports proposals for new work: for marjoram and coriander

➔ Comments from **Egypt** (CRD12)

