

4th SESSION OF CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS
(Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 21-25 January 2019)



The session was attended by 26 Member countries, one Member organization and one Observer organization.

The committee had a total of [11 agenda](#) under consideration including new work proposal on cardamom and turmeric.

Decisions on the important agenda items concerning to India, are as follows:-

- **Agenda item 3.1: Proposed Draft Standard for dried Oregano (prepared by Turkey)**

The proposed draft standard was modified and acceptable limits for various parameters were finalized. Major discussion was done wrt inclusion of both the species “Oregano spp.” and “Lippia spp” in the product definition of the standard.

Committee agreed to keep general name “Oregano” in the product definition and specific scientific names in the table under the same section. The committee agreed to forward the proposed draft Standard to the Commission for adoption at Step 5 and requested extension of timeline for its completion until CCSCH5. Committee also agreed to re-establish an EWG, chaired by Turkey, to review Sections on Product definition, Labelling, and the outstanding issues.

- **Agenda item 4.1: Proposed draft Standard for dried or dehydrated ginger (prepared by Nigeria)**

The committee considered the proposed draft standard section by section, aligned its provisions with the draft CCSCH layout template and relevant sections of existing CCSCH Standards.

Among other points, the Committee discussed values in the table pertaining to chemical properties, and noted that the proposed levels of calcium oxide and sulphur dioxide and their use as bleaching agents required further consideration. India made an intervention that these are used as mere processing aids and supported inclusion of these in the standard.

In this respect, committee agreed to request the Codex Committee on Food Additives to clarify how processing aids could be addressed under the Section 4 “Food additives” in accordance with relevant provisions in the Codex Procedural Manual.

With some other points requiring more discussion, Committee agreed to forward the amended proposed draft standard to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5 and re-establish an EWG, chaired by Nigeria to consider the outstanding issues taking into account the discussions of CCSCH4 and comments received at Step 6.

- **Agenda item 4.2: Proposed draft Standard for dried Garlic (prepared by India)**

The committee considered the proposed draft standard section by section.

The committee after detailed discussion agreed on all values in the proposed draft standard. As all outstanding issues were resolved, committee agreed to forward the proposed draft standard for dried or dehydrated garlic to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5/8.

- **Agenda item 5.1: Proposed Draft Standard for Dried Chilli peppers and Paprika (prepared by India)**

The Committee considered the proposed draft standard section by section and proposed amendments for consistency with other CCSCH texts.

There was a lack of clarity among some members as to what is the difference between “chilli pepper” and “paprika”. To this, the committee clarified that chilli pepper and paprika were generic terms, the difference between the two products being the level of pungency, which is reflected in Table on chemical properties, and further clarified that, while the scope of the standard did not cover blends of different spices, it did cover mixtures of varieties within the Capsicum species. Furthermore, it was agreed that the level of pungency may be indicated on the label in line with trade practice.

There was a lack of consensus regarding the applicable values for many of the specifications for the chemical and physical properties to be included in the draft standard.

As committee could not reach on consensus on the physical and chemical properties of dried Chilli peppers and Paprika, it was decided to retain this text at step 2/3 and decided to establish an EWG, chaired by India to redraft the document for circulation for comments at Step 3.

- **Agenda item 6.1: Proposed draft Standard for dried Basil (prepared by Egypt)**

The Committee considered the draft standard section by section, made editorial corrections and amendments for clarity and consistency.

For consistency with existing CCSCH Standards, the Committee updated the Section “Product definition” and added two new trade names within square brackets, field basil (*Salvia occidentalis Sw*) and sacred basil (*Pimpinella anisoidis V. Brig*), to the Table given thereunder.

Due to some outstanding issues wrt physical properties in the standard, the committee agreed to forward the proposed draft Standard to the Commission for adoption at Step 5 and to re-establish an EWG, chaired by Egypt to consider the outstanding issues taking into account the discussions CCSCH4 and comments received at Step 6.

- **Agenda item 7.1: Proposed draft Standard for Dried Nutmeg (prepared by Indonesia)**

The Committee discussed the draft standard section by section.

In table on Chemical characteristics, some delegations along with India considered that parameter “calcium content” expressed as “calcium oxide on dry basis (%) by weight (max)” and applicable only to the styles “whole” and “broken” should be included. India also suggested that this substance was used as processing aid for bleaching and to aid the reduction of microbiological contamination. The Committee noted this parameter required further discussion since some members expressed concern about its use and classification.

The Committee, noting that a number of outstanding issues required further consideration, agreed to return the proposed draft standard for dried nutmeg to Step 2 for redrafting, taking into account the comments made at and/or submitted to CCSCH4, then circulation for comments at Step 3; and to re-establish an EWG, chaired by Indonesia to proceed with the task of redrafting proposed draft standard for nutmeg.

- **Agenda item 8.1: Proposed draft Standard for Dried Cloves (prepared by Nigeria)**

The Committee agreed to consider the draft standard section by section, made editorial corrections and amendments for clarity and consistency.

In Section on Styles/Forms, committee agreed to define “whole/intact” (dried unopened flower buds of *Syzygium aromaticum* (L.) Merrill & Perry) and “ground/powdered” (products obtained by grinding cloves without any addition), and deleted “cracked/crushed”.

In table on chemical characteristics for dried floral parts (Cloves), the committee agreed to the proposed values for various parameters except for volatile oils and crude fibre in whole cloves.

In annex II, Physical characteristics for dried floral parts (Cloves), the committee deleted the requirement and footnote regarding “economic adulteration” noting the fact that it is difficult to analyze the extent, and agreed to consider those values on which consensus had not been reached further at CCSCH5.

The committee therefore agreed to forward the proposed draft Standard to the CAC42 for adoption at Step 5 and to re-establish an EWG, chaired by Nigeria to consider the outstanding issues taking into account the discussions CCSCH4 and comments received at Step 6.

- **Agenda item 8.2: Proposed draft Standard for Dried Saffron (prepared by Iran and India)**

The Committee considered the proposed draft standard section by section, made amendments for consistency and alignment with other CCSCH texts.

In Table on Chemical characteristics, committee agreed on all the values except the values for “Water soluble extract cold on dry matter (% max)”, on which members could not reach consensus.

The committee agreed on all the values listed in Table on Physical characteristics for dried floral parts.

The delegation of the USA expressed concern that the tendency of having zero tolerance for defects in saffron and other SCH in powdered form would increase product rejections and was not consistent with existing international trade practices. This view was supported by some other delegations.

The delegation of the EU and its Member States underlined that, due to the high value of saffron, it would be appropriate to include classes with respect to the three markers set out in Table I Annex I.

The committee agreed to forward the proposed draft Standard to the CAC42 for adoption at Step 5 and to re-establish an EWG, chaired by the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider the outstanding issues taking into account the discussions in CCSCH4 and comments received at Step 6.

- **Agenda item 9: New work proposals**

Two new work proposals were submitted on cardamom and dried and dehydrated turmeric by India. Iran also submitted a new work proposal on cardamom separately.

However, on account of its already heavy workload, the Committee declined to submit the two new work proposals to CAC for approval. The Committee recalled that, even without adopting the two new work proposals, there were seven active items on its agenda for the next session.
