

European Union Comments

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

48th Session

Chongqing P.R., China, 25 – 30 April 2016

AGENDA ITEMS 8 (f)

Proposed draft revision of the Classification of Food and Feed:

Selected vegetables commodity groups

Group 024: Seeds for beverages and sweets

(CX/PR 16/48/11)

European Union Competence

European Union Vote

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group led by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands for the preparation of the proposed draft revision of the Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds, in particular for the crop group 024 – Seeds for beverages and sweets.

The EU classification of the plants used for the production of beverages and sweets differs quite substantially from both the actual Codex classification and from the recommended classification in document CX/PR 16/48/11.

While in the Codex classification system only the seeds used for the production of beverages and sweets are considered, the EU classification considers a wider range of plants used for the production of beverages and sweets.

The EU is open to discuss the different options in more detail and would like to suggest that the electronic working group further examines whether a wider range of plants used for the production of beverages and sweets should be considered before taking a final decision. In these considerations an evaluation according to the seven criteria set out in Appendix III to document CX/PR/16/48/11 is needed.

In evaluating these options, the EU believes that listing commodities in several groups should be avoided as this will create confusion. In making a choice, the main purpose of use of a commodity should be considered. Therefore the EU would prefer to keep sunflower and canola seeds in the group of oilseeds (current classification) and not to move them to group 024 as was proposed by New Zealand.

The EU could however support the request from India to introduce the commodity *basil seeds* in the group 024, as it is used to produce a refreshing beverage and it is not listed in any other CODEX group.