



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 10

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

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PROPOSED DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR KAVA AS A BEVERAGE WHEN MIXED WITH COLD WATER

Replies to CL 2019/76/OCS-NASWP

Comments of Canada, Iraq, IUFOST, USA

Background

This document compiles comments received through the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS) in response to CL 2019/76/OCS-NASWP issued in July 2019. Under the OCS, comments are compiled in the following order: general comments are listed first, followed by comments on specific sections.

Explanatory notes on the appendix

The comments submitted through the OCS are hereby attached as Annex I and are presented in table format.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR KAVA AS A BEVERAGE WHEN MIXED WITH COLD WATER

Comments at Step 3 (Replies to CL 2019/76/OCS-NASWP)

GENERAL COMMENTS	
Comment	Member/Observer and Rationale where applicable
Agree with draft standard	Iraq
Since kava has been shown to have food safety problems, no further work on this draft standard should go forward until a JECFA review has been done on the product and its components.	IUFOST
SPECIFIC COMMENTS	
2.1 Fresh Kava Products	
Fresh kava products are prepared using peeled rhizomes, peeled basal stems and/or roots and are fresh frozen at $\leq -10^{\circ}\text{C}$	Canada This is duplicative with information under 3.6. Suggest to delete here.
Fresh kava products are prepared using peeled rhizomes, peeled basal stems and/or roots and are fresh distributed and sold frozen at $< -10^{\circ}\text{C}$.	USA The United States suggests editing the text as follows based on the understanding from the third paragraph in section 3.6. Also, is there a need to specify the temperature in this section?
2.2 Dried Kava Products	
Dried kava products may be in the form of intact roots or peeled rhizomes, or peeled chips, or in powdered form and are maintained at 10 – 12% moisture in a sealed container.	Canada This is duplicative with information under 3.6. Suggest to delete here.
Dried Packaged dried kava products may be in the form of intact roots or peeled rhizomes, or peeled chips, or in powdered form and are maintained at 10 – 12% moisture in a sealed container.	USA With regard to the moisture content, this should match the values in Table 3.3. If 10% is the lower limit, Table 3.3 should reflect this value. With regard to the suggested deletion of "in a sealed container" is the text necessary given our proposal to add the word "packaged" at the beginning?
3.1 Raw materials	
Kava plants used as raw material for kava products shall be a Noble variety. The noble variety shall be confirmed using their morphological characteristics, DNA markers and/or, the kavalactone and flavokavain ratio of the plants. Kava of the wild, <i>Piper Wichmannii</i> and Two-day (Tudei) varieties are excluded.	USA With regard to the second sentence, is this necessary/achievable for producers?

3.2 Preparation	
The roots, and/or rhizomes are harvested and washed, and peeled when tissues have been exposed to sun-light. They may be sliced, dried or fresh, and . <u>Dried kava may also be ground into powder and other shelf-stable products.</u>	USA The United States proposes the deletion of "Shelf-stable" as that could mean other things (e.g., canned product).
3.3 Chemical and physical characteristics	
	USA The United States has the following points on this section. 1. Section 3.1 mentions "kavalactone and flavokavain ratio." What is the ratio? 2. Is the moisture content the max, min, or average/typical value? 3. For kavalactones, is there a value for basal stems? 4. Both tables ("fresh kava products" and "dried kava products") do not have physical characteristics listed, only chemical characteristics.
3.4 Quality criteria	
practically free from pests ² ;	Canada Suggest removing the footnotes, as it does not add clarity.
practically free from damage caused by pests ² ;	Canada Suggest removing the footnotes, as it does not add clarity.
[3.5 Nutrition]	
<i>Dried kava products</i>	USA The United States has the following questions regarding this section: 1. Are these average values? 2. Are there other components? The percentages in section 3.5 add up to 73%. The maximum moisture is 12% (see Section 3.3). Thus, the solids should be at least 88%.
3.6 Packaging and storage	
Fresh kava products shall be maintained fresh frozen at < -10°C. Dried kava products shall be maintained at 10 - 12% moisture in a sealed container.	Canada Can fresh kava only be stored frozen? Codex uses the term "quick frozen". Is there a reason the temperature is -10°C and not -18°C?
Fresh kava products shall be maintained fresh frozen at < -10°C. Dried kava products shall be maintained at 10 - 12% moisture in a sealed container.	USA Does this need to be repeated if already stated above?
3.7 Preparation of kava for use as a beverage	
If prepared from fresh <u>or quick frozen</u> kava, the ground or macerated kava is mixed with potable water and may be filtered prior to consumption.	Canada

4. FOOD ADDITIVES	
No additives are permitted in the products covered by this Standard, except for carry-over of food additives into foods as prescribed in Section 4.4.4 4 of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (CODEX STAN 192-1995).	Canada Section 4.4.1 seems to have changed, as such, Canada suggests to simply reference section 4 to ensure endurance of this text.
No additives are permitted in the products covered by this Standard, except for carry-over of food additives into foods as prescribed in Section 4.4.4 4 of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (CODEX STAN 192-1995).	USA The United States suggests just citing Section 4.
6. HYGIENE	
When tested by appropriate sampling and examination methods, the products:	USA Is this redundant to previous sections?
7.1 Name of the produce	
7.1 Name of the produceproduct	USA
The name of the food shall be "fresh kava" or "dried kava"together with	USA Perhaps give an option to add the form the product, e.g., "sliced" and "powdered."
7.2 Origin of the produce	
7.2 Origin of the produceproduct	USA
Country of origin ³ and, optionally, island or district where grown, or national, regional or local place name labelling should comply with Section 4.5 of the <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods</i> (CODEX STAN 1-1985). The <i>Principles for Traceability / Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System</i> (CXG 60-2006) shall be adhered to when tracing a product to its origin.	USA
7.3 Instructions for use	
	USA This section will need review and endorsement by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL).
7.4 Labelling of non-retail containers	
Information required in Sections 7.1 to 7.3 of this Standard and Section 4 of the <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods</i> (CODEX STAN 1-1985); and, if necessary, storage instructions, shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the producer, packer, exporter or distributor shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the producer, packer, exporter or distributor may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.	USA The United States suggests deletion from the text starting from "if necessary, storage instructions" until "the accompanying documents" at the end of the section are already included in the referenced Codex General Standard.

7.5 Optional Labelling	
Kava products may have a clear marking to indicate that they are not intended for medicinal purposes, including other labelling requirements stipulated by the laws of the importing and exporting countries and where kava products are distributed.	USA
8. METHODS OF SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS	
	USA The United States prefers validated methods, not ones stemming from a single publication.