

# Consultation request for the determination of the novel food status ARTICLE 4 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283

Consultation request to determine the novel food status of *Capsicum chinense*

**Recipient Member State:** the Czech Republic, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Safety Department

**Date:** 18/05/2023

## **Name and description of the novel food:**

*Capsicum chinense*, or Chinese pepper, is the name of a species of peppers that are classified in the genus *Capsicum*. *Capsicum chinense* peppers are grown like ordinary peppers, dried and crushed into a powder which is not processed or blended in any way. The most famous varieties of peppers are probably Habanero, Scotch Bonnet, Bhut Jolokia, Carolina Reaper, Trinidad Moruga Scorpion. The different varieties differ in taste and spiciness. Due to their hotter character, these peppers are used in a large number of products in the European Union, especially in hotter chilli sauces and dishes and as a spice.

## **Novel food status:**

Not novel food

## **Novel food category:**

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## **Reason statements:**

*Capsicum chinense* is mentioned in Czech Decree (No. 398/2016 Coll. on requirements for spices, edible salt, dehydrated products, seasonings, cold sauces, dressings and mustard). It was included into its previous version in 1997 based on a traditional consumption (specifically Decree No. 331/1997, Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture on foodstuffs and tobacco products). *Capsicum chinense* has a proven history of significant consumption before 15 May 1997 in the EU.