

# Application for consultation to determine the status of a novel food pursuant to Article 4(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods.

## Recipient Member State

Finnish Food Authority

## Name and description of the food in question

The request concerns (young) shoots of oat (*Avena sativa*) (oatgrass).

Oatgrass refers to young shoots of oat, which are grown in a growing medium like other greenhouse salads. The growing time of shoots varies depending on the growing conditions, hence about 1-3 weeks. Oat shoots are about 5-20 cm in length when brought on the market. Oat shoots are brought to market as fresh produce with the growing medium or as pre-packed foods cut off from the growing medium.

## Status

Novel

## Food category

(iv) food consisting of, isolated from, or produced from plants or their parts.

## Reasons statement

The request did not contain any evidence that oatgrass was used for human consumption to a significant degree within the EU before 15 May 1997. There were only some literature references, where sprouting of different cereals, including oat, was advised, and encouraged. The competent authorities of the EU Member States and the European Commission were also consulted, but no information about significant history of consumption was found.

## Conclusion

Oat shoots (oatgrass) are novel.