

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
17th Session

Panama City, 15-19 April 2024

European Union comments on

Agenda Item 16:

Request for comments on the recommendation for the development of a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods.

(CX/CF 24/17/16 and CL 2024/26-CF)

Mixed Competence
Member States Vote

The European Union (EU) and its Member States (EUMS) welcome and appreciate the work of the United States of America on the discussion paper on the development of a code of practice (CoP) for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods.

The EUMS consider that sufficient information on cadmium sources and mitigation measures is available, to recommend the development of a CoP for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods.

As for certain commodities specific mitigation measures should be recommended, the EUMS agree to add annexes to the CoP with commodity-specific recommendations. In view of the fact that the CoP for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans was extensively discussed and was adopted in the meanwhile, in order to avoid a duplication of work, the EUMS propose not to adapt the CoP for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans as an annex, but rather to make in the annexes a reference to this CoP.

The EUMS agree on the approach outlined in Appendix III. The main text of the CoP should recommend general measures, that are applicable to a wide range of commodities and, where needed, some examples of such commodities can be given. Only in the case of recommended mitigation measures that are very specific and/or very detailed for a certain commodity, these could be included in an Annex in a commodity specific CoP. For example:

- Paragraph 25: ~~‘When growing rice~~ **For products grown under wet conditions (for example rice)**, controlling flooding cycles to increase time spent in flooded conditions, can limit cadmium absorption into plants, as cadmium is less bio-available under flooded, anaerobic conditions.’ Possible more detailed recommendations (e.g. details on the development stages of rice, for which flooding conditions might have the most effective impact on the cadmium concentrations in rice) could be included in an additional CoP for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in rice in an Annex.

- Paragraph 26: ~~‘Recommendations identified in the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in cocoa beans (CXC 81-2022) to reduce cadmium levels during cocoa growing include~~ **The** use of cover crops to improve soil organic matter and to protect from soil erosion, **and the** removal of pruned ~~cocoa limbs~~ **materials** from the ground, ~~and mucilage draining of cocoa during fermentation~~ **can reduce the cadmium concentration in certain crops (for example in cacao beans cfr. CXC 81 2022).**’

Furthermore, the EUMS would like to suggest the following change:

- Paragraph 26: ‘A recommendation on mucilage draining for cocoa beans seems to fit better under the chapter ‘Food ingredients and processing’. A reference to the CoP on for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans could be added.

The EUMS agree to forward the project document to CCEXEC and the CAC for approval as new work.

The EUMS are of the opinion that it is more appropriate to use the proposed Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Foods as provided in Appendix III of CX/CF 24/17/16 as starting document for the discussion in the EWG following approval by CAC of this new work, instead of issuing a circular letter for comments immediately after CCCF17, before the work in the EWG on the further development of the CoP has started.