

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

Finland, the Finnish Food Authority

Name and description of the novel food

The request concerns germinated hemp seed (*Cannabis sativa* L.) intended to be used as such, hulled or ground in foods in a manner similar to that used for ungerminated hemp seed.

The germinated hemp seed is produced by a process called germination, which is identical to malting of cereals. First the seeds are soaked (1. phase: steeping, duration: few hours) and then germinated at controlled temperature of approximately 20 °C (2. phase: germination, duration: 36-48 hours). The germination process is interrupted by gradually increasing the temperature from the incubation temperature (approximately 20 °C) to the end temperature (approximately 90-120 °C) (3. phase: kilning - cessation of germination and drying). In the last phase the dried germinated seed material is removed from root and dust and finally packed (4. phase: de-rooting and storing). The food in question, germinated hemp seed, does not contain sprouts, shoots or other green matter. Germinated seeds with sprouts, shoots or cress fall outside the scope of this consultation request.

Status

Not novel.

Food category

not applicable

Reasons statement

According to the novel food catalogue of the European Commission hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) seeds are not novel. Hemp seeds are processed by malting, which is a traditional production process used for cereals. Germinated hemp seeds are thus the result of traditional malting process of non-novel hemp seeds. Even though the history of consumption of germinated hemp seed could not be demonstrated, using a traditional production process to a non-novel food does not produce a novel food if it does not give rise to significant changes in the composition or structure of that food, affecting its nutritional value, metabolism or level of undesirable substances. According to the data provided malting of hemp seeds does not give rise to such significant changes.

Conclusion

Germinated hemp seeds are not novel foods. A more descriptive name for the food is recommended: germinated hemp seed produced by malting.