

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 sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*).

Sunflower shoots refer to young shoots of sunflower, 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. Sunflower shoots are about 5-10 cm in length when brought on the market. Sunflower shoots are brought to market as fresh produce with the growing medium or as pre-packed foods cut off from the growing medium.

Status

Not novel

Food category

Not applicable

Reasons statement

Competent authorities of the EU Member States and the European Commission were consulted.

According to the information provided, sunflower shoots are commonly grown in Finland and elsewhere in Europe for subsistence farming in private households. The sunflower shoots have also been used in speciality restaurants for vegan foods.

Conclusion

Sunflower shoots are not novel.