

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

Dried mycelium powder of *Rhizopus oligosporus*

Rhizopus oligosporus is a fungus and belongs to the family *Mucoraceae*. It has traditionally been used in the production of and been consumed as part of *Tempeh*. Different from the production process of *Tempeh*, dried mycelium powder of *Rhizopus oligosporus* is produced by submerged liquid fermentation. The fermentation of *Rhizopus oligosporus* mycelium takes place in liquid cultivation media in bioreactor. After cultivation *Rhizopus oligosporus* biomass is inactivated, harvested, washed, freeze-dried, and finally stored as dry powder. The dried mycelium powder of *Rhizopus oligosporus* is intended to be used as an ingredient in several food categories such as in vegetable and cereal based products, for example in vegetable patties, snack bars and bakery products.

Status

Not novel.

Food category

Not applicable

Reasons statement

The mycelium of *Rhizopus oligosporus* has been widely consumed in the EU already before 15 May 1997 as part of *Tempeh*, a traditional food from Indonesian origin.

To confirm that the production process (submerged liquid fermentation) with this particular species does not give rise to significant changes, the data provided showed that the fermentation of *Rhizopus oligosporus* does not produce undesirable substances (mycotoxins rhizoxin or rhizonins) in the end product. The nutritional composition of dried mycelium powder of *Rhizopus oligosporus* was shown to be slightly different from the *Rhizopus oligosporus* mycelium in *Tempeh*: an increase in insoluble fiber content was demonstrated. However, this increase is not considered as a significant change, as insoluble fiber is a natural compound found also in the mycelium in *Tempeh*.

Conclusion

Dried mycelium powder of *Rhizopus oligosporus* is not novel food.