

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
14th Session**

Virtual session, 3-7 and 13 May 2021

Agenda Item 14

**Hydrogen cyanide and mycotoxin contamination in cassava
and cassava-based products (CX/CF 21/14/12)**

*European Union Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work done on discussion paper on hydrocyanic acid and mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products by the Electronic Working Group chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana.

COMMENTS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN CX/CF 21/14/12 – paragraphs 17-19

In reply to the recommendations in CX/CF 21/14/12, paragraphs 17-19, the EU has following comments:

17. To develop a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products with focus on aflatoxins and ochratoxin A as presented in Appendix I

The EU is in favour of developing a Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins contamination in cassava and cassava-based products with focus on aflatoxins and ochratoxin A and can therefore agree with the proposal for new work and the project document in Appendix I to CX/CF 21/14/12.

Two minor comments (of which one editorial) on point c under Specific criteria under heading 4, it is proposed to replace

- “is driving eradication of aflatoxins from the continent” by “is driving eradication of adverse human health effects by aflatoxins from the continent” or “is driving minimisation of aflatoxins from the continent.”. It is not possible to eradicate the presence of aflatoxins completely but it is possible to eradicate the adverse human health effects as the consequence of the presence of very high levels of aflatoxins in food.

- “However, there is no currently an international document ...” by “However, there is currently no international document ...”

18. To re-establish the EWG to develop the CoP and to use as the basis for discussion the data/information provided in Appendices I and II of this document

The EU is in favour of re-establishing the EWG to develop this CoP and to use the information provided in Appendix II as basis for discussion.

19. To discontinue work on levels of HCN in cassava and cassava-based products and to await availability of further data and information to re-asses the need and feasibility to establish MLs for cassava and cassava-based products

The EU can agree to discontinue work on maximum levels of HCN in cassava and cassava-based products.