

Application for consultation to determinate 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:

Austria

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
(BMSGPK)

Information referred to in Article 7 of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/456:

1. Name and description of the food concerned

"Flour from buckwheat seedlings with a high spermidine content"

(Buckwheat = *Fagopyrum esculentum* MOENCH)

Commercially grown buckwheat seedlings with higher spermidine levels due to growth in a spermidine rich nutrient solution.

2. Novel food status

Food in question is **novel for all food uses including food supplements.**

3. Appropriate Novel Food Category in accordance with Article 3(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283:

Article 3(2)(a)(vii) „food resulting from a production process not used for food production within the Union before 15 May 1997, which gives rise to significant changes in the composition or structure of a food, affecting its nutritional value, metabolism or level of undesirable substances"

4. Reasons

History of consumption (HOC):

While buckwheat seeds and flour of buckwheat seedlings have a significant HOC prior to the 15 May 1997, we are not aware of a significant HOC of Buckwheat seedlings purposefully grown in enriched spermidine nutrient solutions.

The buckwheat seeds are germinated using a nutrient solution containing spermidine.

Spermidine acts as a biostimulant in this germination process. The buckwheat seeds absorb spermidine into the seedlings during germination and the resulting buckwheat seedlings contain a very high spermidine content compared to normally grown buckwheat seedlings.

We consider flour of buckwheat seedlings with high spermidine content as novel by virtue of the altered production process giving rise to possible significant changes to the composition of the buckwheat seedlings, affecting their nutritional value.

The consumption of buckwheat seedling flour with a high spermidine content is not known before 1997, since spermidine and spermidine containing salts like spermidine trihydrochloride were not used industrially as a fertilizer or as a biostimulant in the germination process.

The documentation submitted did not provide any evidence that the food in question was used for human consumption to a significant degree within the Union before 15 May 1997, nor was any information indicating significant consumption of the product in the EU forthcoming when the responsible authorities of other EU Member States were consulted.