

**MEETING OF AFRICAN CODEX EXPERTS TO DISCUSS CODEX ISSUES IN THE CODEX
COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS OF INTEREST TO AFRICA
ACCRA, GHANA
27-29 JANUARY 2011**

CCCF	21-25 March 2011			
AGENDA ITEM NO.	TITLE	AFRICA POSITION	RATIONALE	SPEAKER
5	Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Melamine in Food (Liquid infant formula) (at step 3) (N13-2009)	Africa does not support the proposed ML of 0.5mg/kg for liquid infant formula. We suggest an ML of 0.125mg/kg or any other level that represents concentration of melamine in appropriately constituted infant powder complying with the ML of Codex, 1mg/kg.	Para 59 and 61 of the document, CX/CF 10/4/4, <i>Proposed Draft Maximum Levels for Food and Feed</i> , describes and demonstrates the need for an ML lower than 1mg/kg for liquid infant formula. The ML of 0.125mg/kg takes into account the dilution factor of 7-8 times when appropriately reconstituting an infant powder complying with the ML of 1mg/kg. Infant formula should not be packaged in melamine based packaging materials because children are vulnerable to effects of melamine. Thus the question of melamine contamination from packaging materials should not arise.	South Africa assisted by Tanzania
6	Proposed draft maximum levels for deoxynivalenol in cereals and cereal-based food	We support the proposed MLs of 2 mg/kg in raw wheat, maize and barley, destined to human consumption after sorting or other physical treatment or for use as an ingredient in foodstuffs	Our experience and available literature show that it is practically difficult to reduce the contamination in raw maize or wheat to a level lower than 2mg/kg. The ML can be achieved with application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).	
		We also support the 1mg/kg for all products derived from wheat, barley and/or corn, including those intended for direct human consumption, except infant food	This limit of 1mg/kg is achievable because, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) eg sorting and milling can further reduce the contamination in ingredients of these products. It should be noted that we cannot suggest a lower ML which would be more protective to the consumers because such a limit is not practically possible to achieve. Based on maize consumption patterns in Africa (up to 500g/person/day) a simple	

			<p>deterministic exposure assessment shows that the ML that would be protective to consumers should be set below 0.12mg/kg. Since the contamination in wheat is similar to that of maize, a more protective limit for countries including Canada where wheat is the main source of DON is also below 0,12mg. However considering the limitations of achieving the lower limit, Canada proposed an ML of 1mg/kg. Additionally, most countries that have set limits for DON in wheat, maize or cereals in general are enforcing an ML of 1mg/kg.</p>	
		<p>But we do not support the ML of 0.5mg/kg proposed for cereal-based infant food. Instead we recommend an ML of 0.3mg/kg.</p>	<p>A more stringent ML is required for infants because their body weight is low and immune system is at developmental stages. If manufacturers use cereals such rice, barley, finger millet in the manufacture of infant formula, the level of 0.3mg/kg should be achievable. The EU and the Ukraine have established and are enforcing an ML of 0.2 mg/kg for processed cereal-based foods and baby foods for infants and young children</p>	
9(a)	<p>Discussion Paper on Mycotoxins in Sorghum</p>	<p>We do not support the recommendation for the development of a specific annex to the <i>Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxins contamination in Cereals</i> because as too little relevant data are available. Similarly, we do not support the recommendation for a JECFA evaluation as far too little information is currently available. Further studies should be supported to generate more data that could impact on the</p>	<p>Sub-Saharan Africa is the highest producer and domestic consumer of sorghum. Levels of fungal and mycotoxin contamination have generally been considered low. Consequently, little data has been generated on fungal species and levels and mycotoxin contamination levels in sorghum. Frequently, contamination data are linked to single studies in a country and a substantial data base of information does not exist.</p>	<p>Have a pre-meeting with Sudan to inform them our views.</p>

		development of a sorghum appendix to the General Code of Practice.		
9(d)	Discussion Paper on Ochratoxin A in Cocoa	We do not support the recommendation for the development of a Code of Practice at this stage because there is insufficient information from major cocoa producing countries in Africa	<p>This Agenda item which was suspended due to lack of data was reconsidered at the 4th Session of CCCF based on information that Brazil would provide new data. After careful consideration of the Discussion paper prepared by the electronic working group, we are of the opinion that there is still the need for additional data to be generated especially from the major cocoa producing countries.</p> <p>It may be noted that Countries in Africa produce almost 70% of the worlds' cocoa and data originating from Africa is considered essential for the development of a Code of Practice. Some studies have been initiated and others are on-going from which crucial baseline data will be obtained.</p> <p>In the light of these submissions, it is proposed that the discussion on OTA be further suspended till more extensive data is available.</p>	Cote d'Ivoire assisted by Nigeria and Cameroon
9b	Discussion paper on arsenic in rice	The paper is not yet uploaded. We support any work that is directed at reducing levels of arsenic in rice	Rice is increasingly becoming a staple for communities in Africa.	