



**ISDI COMMENTS ON THE
DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORK TO
ESTABLISH A STANDARD FOR PROCESSED CEREAL-BASED FOODS
FOR UNDERWEIGHT INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN
CX/NFSDU 09/31/6 (Not available at 22 October 2009)**

The International Special Dietary Foods Industries (ISDI) represents at Codex Alimentarius the manufacturers of special dietary foods and has been actively involved in the development of relevant Codex standards and guidelines. ISDI is especially interested in contributing to work that is related to nutrition products for infants and young children. Within this context, ISDI expresses its interest in participating in the ongoing efforts to review the nutritional requirements of underweight infants and young children and those with protein malnutrition and to apply the findings to relevant Codex standards. ISDI supports any initiatives aimed at correcting malnutrition in infants and young children.

During the 30th session of CCNFSDU (see Alinorm 09/32/26 par. 151), it was agreed that an electronic working group led by India would prepare a proposal to be discussed at the 31st session. Although this proposal is currently not available for review, ISDI would like to provide general comments as summarised and explained below.

SUMMARY

1. Given its interest in securing the health of all infants and young children, ISDI supports discussions on the need to develop a standard for cereal-based foods intended for underweight and malnourished infants and young children in developing countries.
2. Recommendations resulting from technical meetings that have taken place at the initiative of WHO (2008 and thereafter) on the management of moderate malnutrition should be taken into account during these discussions. These informed discussions will be integral to the decision of whether there is a need for a new standard, or whether the findings can be better applied to a revision of existing standard(s). These recommendations are also integral to discussions regarding setting or revising existing food composition guidelines.
3. ISDI is committed to collaborate in developing appropriate recommendations and foods that address the needs of this population.

EXPLANATION OF THE COMMENTS

During the 30th session of CCNFSDU in Cape Town in 2008, the discussion paper on the proposal of India for new work to establish a standard for processed cereal-based foods for underweight infants and young children (see CX/NFSDU 08/30/10 and CRD 14) was discussed (see Alinorm 09/32/26, par. 135-151).

During this discussion the representative of WHO informed the Committee on the following.

A Joint WHO/UNICEF/WFP/UNHCR technical meeting on the management of moderate malnutrition in children under 5 years of age was held in Geneva (30 September – 3 October 2008) with the overall aim to answer questions on the type of diets to be recommended to feed moderately malnourished children. The report of this Joint technical meeting was released in early 2009 containing recommendations on the formulation, effectiveness, and efficacy of diets and food supplements to be given to moderately malnourished children. The WHO/FAO Representative informed the Committee during the Cape Town meeting (see Alinorm 09/32/26, par. 144) that WHO had been asked to form an expert advisory group in collaboration with other agencies (i.e., UNICEF, WFP and Codex Alimentarius) to develop specifications for food supplements for moderately malnourished children based on recommendations formulated during this meeting.

The following statement was also approved during this Joint technical meeting¹:

Moderate malnutrition is a pathological process that requires special dietary treatment. There is a need to develop specific recommendations for adequate dietary intakes of energy and all nutrients for different categories of children with moderate malnutrition (stunted and wasted).

ISDI welcomes the formation of an expert advisory group within a collaborative framework involving experts from different agencies, including UNICEF, WFP and Codex Alimentarius and supports the intent of the above statement. These recommendations for adequate dietary intakes of energy and nutrients for different categories of children with moderate malnutrition, as well as guidance for the composition of specialized products, will be of assistance in the development of a proposal to the CCNFSDU.

Given its interest in securing the health of all infants and young children, ISDI supports the continued discussion on the proposal for new work on a Codex standard for processed cereal based foods for underweight infants and young children, and is committed to collaborate in these discussions.

¹ Copied from the report of the Joint technical meeting “Proceedings of the WHO, UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR Consultation on the dietary management of moderate malnutrition in under-5 children.”