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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. AMS-ST-15-0021]

Notice of Request for Revision of a Currently Approved Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request approval from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of and revision to the currently approved information collection "Application for Plant Variety Protection Certification and Objective Description of Variety."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 17, 2015. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be included in the record and will be made available to the public. Please be advised that the identity of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will be made public on the Internet via <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Additional Information or Comments: Contact Bernadette Thomas, Information Technology Specialist, Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO), Science and Technology, AMS, Room 4512-S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250 Telephone (202) 720-1168 and Fax (202) 260-8976.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulations Governing the Application for Plant Variety Protection Certificate and Reporting Requirements under the Plant Variety Protection Act.

OMB Number: 0581-0055.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2015.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) (7 U.S.C. 2321 *et seq.*) was established "To encourage the development of novel varieties of sexually reproduced plants and make them available to the public, providing protection available to those who breed, develop, or discover them, and thereby promote progress in agriculture in the public interest."

The PVPA is a voluntary user funded program which grants intellectual property rights protection to breeders of new, distinct, uniform, and stable seed reproduced and tuber propagated plant varieties. To obtain these rights the applicant must provide information which shows the variety is eligible for protection and that it is indeed new, distinct, uniform, and stable as the law requires. Application forms, descriptive forms, and ownership forms are furnished to applicants to identify the information which is required to be furnished by the applicant in order to legally issue a certificate of protection (ownership). The certificate is based on claims of the breeder and cannot be issued on the basis of reports in publications not submitted by the applicant. Regulations implementing the PVPA appear at 7 CFR part 92.

Currently approved forms ST-470, Application for Plant Variety Protection Certificate, ST-470 A, Origin and Breeding History, ST-470 B, Statement of Distinctness, Form ST-470 series, Objective Description of Variety (Exhibit C), Form ST-470-E, Basis of Applicant's Ownership, are the basis by which the determination, by experts at PVPO, is made as to whether a new, distinct, uniform, and stable seed reproduced or tuber-propagated variety in fact exists and is entitled to protection.

The ST 470 application form combines Exhibits A, B, and E into one form. The information received on applications, with certain exceptions, is required by law to remain confidential until the certificate is issued (7 U.S.C. 2426).

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the PVPA, to provide applicants with certificates of protection, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the program.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.87 hours per response.

Respondents: Businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, and Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 86.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 39.81.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,974.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Bernadette Thomas, Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO), Science and Technology, AMS, Room 4512-S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 12, 2015.

Rex A. Barnes,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-14878 Filed 6-16-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2015-0014]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), are holding a public meeting on August 6, 2015. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions that will be discussed at the 19th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). The Session will be held in Mexico [the specific location in Mexico will be determined], October 5–9, 2015. The Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety and the Agricultural Marketing Service recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 19th Session of CCFFV and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2015, from 2:00–5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Jamie L. Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 107–A, Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 19th Session of CCFFV will be accessible via the Internet at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/>.

The U.S. Delegate of the 19th Session of the CCFFV invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: dorian.lafond@usda.gov.

Call In Number

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 19th Session of the CCFFV, by conference call, please use the call in number and participant code listed below:

Call in Number: 1–888–844–9904.

The participant code will be posted on the Web page below: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/ffsis/topics/international-affairs/us-codex-alimentarius/public-meetings>.

Registration

Attendees may register to attend the public meeting by emailing kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov by August 4, 2015. Early registration is encouraged because it will expedite entry into the building. The meeting will be held in a Federal building. Attendees should also bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through security screening systems. Attendees who are

not able to attend the meeting in person, but who wish to participate, may do so by phone.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

About the 19th Session of CCFFV: Dorian LaFond, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruits and Vegetables Division, Stop 0235-Room 2086, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Phone: (202) 690–4944, Fax: (202) 720–0016, email: dorian.lafond@usda.gov.

About the Public Meeting: Kenneth Lowery, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue, Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: (202) 690–4042, Fax: (202) 720–3157, email: Kenneth.Lowery@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The CCFFV is responsible for elaborating worldwide standards and codes of practice as may be appropriate for fresh fruits and vegetables and for consulting with other international organizations in the standards development process to avoid duplication.

The Committee is hosted by Mexico.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 19th Session of CCFFV will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters referred by the Codex and other Codex Committees
- Matters referred by other international organizations on the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables
- Proposed Draft Standard for Okra
- Proposed Draft Standard for Ware Potatoes
- Proposed Draft Standard for Garlic
- Proposed Draft Standard for Aubergines
- Proposed Draft Standard for Kiwifruit
- Minimum maturity requirements for table grapes
- Proposals for new work for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables
- Proposed layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat prior to the Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see **ADDRESSES**).

Public Meeting

At the August 6, 2015, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 19th Session of CCFFV, Dorian LaFond (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 19th Session of CCFFV.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the FSIS Web page located at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>.

FSIS also will make copies of this publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an email subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>. Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

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How To File a Complaint of Discrimination

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which may be accessed online at http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf, or write a letter signed by you or your authorized representative.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410.

Fax: (202) 690-7442.

Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC on June 11, 2015.

Mary Frances Lowe,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 2015-14840 Filed 6-16-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2015-0013]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), are holding a public meeting on August 19, 2015. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions that will be discussed at the 2nd Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). The Session will be held in Goa, India, September 14-18, 2015. The Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety recognizes the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 2nd Session of CCSCH and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2015 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 107-A, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Documents related to the 2nd Session of CCSCH will be accessible via the Internet at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/>.

The U.S. Delegate of the 2nd Session of the CCSCH invites U.S. interested parties to send their comments electronically to the following email address: Dorian.Lafond@ams.usda.gov.

Call-In Number

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 2nd Session of the CCSCH by conference call, please use the call-in number and participant code listed below:

Call-in Number: 1-888-844-9904.

The participant code will be posted on the Web page below: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/us-codex-alimentarius/public-meetings>.

Registration

Attendees may register to attend the public meeting by emailing kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov by August 17, 2015. Early registration is encouraged because it will expedite entry into the building. The meeting will be held in a Federal building. Attendees should also bring photo identification and plan for adequate time to pass through security screening systems. Attendees who are not able to attend the meeting in person, but who wish to participate, may do so by phone.

For Further Information About the 2nd Session of CCSCH Contact: Dorian LaFond, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruits and Vegetables Division, Stop 0235-Room 2086, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Phone: (202) 690-4944, Fax: (202) 720-0016, email: dorian.lafond@usda.gov.

For Further Information about the Public Meeting Contact: Kenneth Lowery, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: (202) 690-4042, Fax: (202) 720-3157, email: Kenneth.Lowery@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of

practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure that fair practices are used in trade.

The CCSCH is responsible for elaborating worldwide standards for spices and culinary herbs in their dried and dehydrated state in whole, ground, and cracked or crushed form. The CCSCH consults as necessary with other international organizations in the standards development process to avoid duplication.

The CCSCH is hosted by India.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 2nd Session of CCSCH will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters Referred by the Codex and other Codex Committees and Task Forces.
 - Activities of International Organizations relevant to the work of CCSCH.
 - Proposed Draft Standard for Black, White, and Green Pepper.
 - Proposed Draft Standard for Cumin.
 - Proposed Draft Standard for Oregano.
 - Proposed Draft Standard for Thyme.
 - Discussion paper on grouping of spices and culinary herbs.
 - Proposal for new work.
 - Other Business and Future Work.
- Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat before the Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see **ADDRESSES**).

Public Meeting

At the August 19, 2015, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed. Attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegates for the 2nd Session of CCSCH, (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 2nd Session of CCSCH.

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the FSIS Web page located at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>.

Additional Public Notification

FSIS also will make copies of this publication available through the FSIS