



The HEALTHGRAIN definition of whole grain (WG) is getting a growing support in the European Union. The current state of affairs is outlined below. See also https://www.healthgrain.org/activities/whole_grain

The Board of the AIBI (Int'l Association of Plant Bakeries) after my explanations in their meeting (Feb. 21st), agreed to support the HEALTHGRAIN Definition of Whole Grain (HGDWG). They sent a Comment to the European Commission (TRIS, DG-GROW) stating that the proposed WG definition in the Dutch Notification of a new Flour-Bread decree, should be replaced by the HGDWG. (document attached).

When appropriate, AIBI considers to stimulate EU parliament members to ask questions.

FDF, the UK Food and Drink Federation (ICC member AHDB [Agric.&Horticulture Development Board] informed them) expressed its support for HGDWG and encouraged me to involve FoodDrinkEurope. FDF expressed interest in being involved in:

- updating HGDWG for WG as raw material (with conditions for malted and sprouted grains).
- setting definitions for WG Foods (starting point: the forthcoming Healthgrain Forum publication).

FoodDrinkEurope (FDE). Mr. Dirk Jacobs (Deputy Director General, Director Consumer Information, Diet and Health) and Caterine Gubbiotti (secretariat INCO) informed me (Feb. 21st) that FDE is interested in promoting one WG definition in Europe as part of their activities for facilitating and stimulating production of healthier foods. Envisaged step:

- Circulating the HGDWG among national Food & Drink Industry Federations to get their support.

Austria. Since Feb. 6th the obligation was skipped for labelling products as 'recombined wholegrain' when the recombination of refined flour, bran and germ to wholegrain flour is done by the producer of the end products. This was done since this way of recombination is considered, like the recombination by flour mills, as common practice.

Italy. Dr Marina Carcea (of ICC member CREA, formerly INRAN) presented end of February the HGDWG definition amongst the documents which are discussed at the Italian Parliament level on whole grain issues.

Other European industry associations are considering to support this initiative for coming to one definition of wholegrain in Europe. These include:

- CAOBISCO Association of Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industries of the European Union,
- CEEREAL - European Breakfast Cereal Association,
- CEBP - European Confederation of national Bakery and Confectionery Organisations (artisan bakeries),
- Others, e.g. the European organization of pasta producers.

A number of them may, like AIBI, reply to the Notification of the new Dutch Flour-Bread decree, and recommend to use the HGDWG. Note: the deadline for replying has been postponed to June 6th. <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/tris/en/index.cfm/search/?trisaction=search.detail&year=2016&num=630&mLang=EN>.

Since updating and extension of international definitions tends to be complex and time consuming, the Healthgrain Forum (HGF) is now focussing on getting wide approval of the HGDWG – also as EU definition. After completion of this first step HGF will initiate discussions for extension and updating of this definition.

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