COMMITTEE PAPER FOR DISCUSSION **ACNFP/136/01**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

APPROACH FOR OPENNESS IN THE ACNFP'S ASSESSMENT OF TRADITIONAL FOOD NOTIFICATIONS.

Issue

Members previously considered an example traditional food notification summary that had been developed by the Secretariat to form the basis for advice to the Food Standards Agency on these dossiers.

Taking views of the Committee into consideration the Secretariat have developed draft summaries for the three applications reviewed by the Committee to date. The Committee's input is requested so that these can be refined, cleared and published on the ACNFP website as a record of the Committee's evaluation of these notifications.

Background

1. The UK as a Member State has the opportunity under the Novel Foods Regulation (2015/2283 EU) to respond within a four-month period to notifications for traditional foods from third countries. Submission of reasoned safety objections by any one Member State would result in a further application being required of the applicant to address the concerns raised. If no safety objections are raised the food is authorised and added to the Union List of novel foods.

2. The advice of the ACNFP is routinely sought on traditional food notifications to inform the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as the competent authority for novel foods in the UK in developing the UK position on the notification.

3. At the June 2018 meeting with the ACNFP the Secretariat explored how to put into place a system for making public and consulting on the proposed advice from the ACNFP to the FSA on traditional foods notifications. This was to maintain the Committee's principle for openness and transparency and to provide an opportunity to highlight new information for consideration by the Food Standards Agency in responding to the notification.

4. In line with the Committee's views the Committee agreed that following the Committee's discussion of a traditional food notification the Secretariat would prepare a short summary of the advice of the Committee. The draft would then be cleared with the Committee by correspondence and signed off by Chair's action, prior to issuing the draft for a 10-day consultation. The consultation would invite comment on additional issues that the Committee should be aware of as well as any information or reflections that stakeholders could provide to address the

three pillars of the novel food assessment of safety, ensuring consumers are not mislead or put at a nutritional disadvantage. The responses to the consultation would inform the final advice from the Committee to the FSA.

5. To date the ACNFP has provided advice to the FSA on three traditional food dossiers prior to this process being in place. For completeness the Secretariat have produced summaries for each of the previously discussed traditional food notifications. Namely; Haskaps (Lonicera Caerula L) (**Annex A**), Fonio (Digitaria exilis) (**Annex B**) and sorghum syrup (**Annex C**). The drafts prepared, take into account previous points raised by the committee on the style and approach to documenting their views of the traditional food applications received.

Committee Action Required

- To comment on whether the draft summaries (Annexes A-C), produced for previous traditional food notifications, reflect the Committees previous comments on these dossiers and the advice provided to the FSA risk managers.

Secretariat
April 2019

Annex A *- Haskap (Lonicera caerula* L) *summary revised in light of Committee comments*
Annex B *- Summary of Sorghum Syrup*
Annex C *- Summary of Fonio (Digitaria exilis)*