

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES**

**CHIA SEED (*Salvia hispanica* L) FROM BETTER BODY FOODS**

**Issue**

At the April meeting the ACNFP considered Betterbody's request for the opinion of the UK Competent Authority (CA) on whether their chia seeds should be considered substantially equivalent to those already on the EU market. The Committee is asked to consider the response from Betterbody Foods and whether this addresses the questions raised at the last meeting. Members are also asked to consider the text of a draft initial opinion on this application.

**Background**

1. Betterbody Foods is requesting an opinion from the UK on equivalence of its chia seed, grown in South America, compared with The Chia Company's chia seed which is grown in Australia, which received EU authorisation to be incorporated into an extended range of foods in January 2013 (Commission Decision 2013/50/EU).
2. The Committee reviewed this application at the April meeting (ACNFP/128/6) and considered based on the data presented that the Betterbody product was likely to be substantially equivalent to the Chia Company's seed. However, additional information about the production process particularly regarding the Vitamin A content of their chia seeds was requested to complete the assessment (**Annex A**).
3. The applicant's response to these questions is attached at **Annex B**. The applicant has provided additional information in relation to Vitamin A content provided in **Annex C**.

4. After taking on board any comments from the, the draft opinion will be published via the Agency's web-site for the usual 10-day public consultation. The Committee will be invited to consider any public comments and finalise the opinion., The final opinion will be sent to the applicant to forward to the European Commission.

### **Committee Action Required**

- The Committee is asked whether the response from the applicant is sufficient to complete the risk assessment. If not, the Committee is asked to indicate what additional information would be required.
- If content, the Committee is asked to consider the text of the draft opinion (attached at **Annex D** and suggest any amendments required.

**Secretariat**

**June 2017**

### **Annex attached:**

**Annex A:** Letter to applicant seeking additional information

**Annex B:** Applicant's response

**Annex C:** Vitamin A analysis report

**Annex D:** Draft Initial Opinion (PROTECT - DRAFT)