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Application for consultation to determinate the status of a novel food, pursuant to Article 4(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods.

Recipient Member State: SPANISH AGENCY FOR FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION (AESAN)

Name and description of the novel food concerned:

The food for which the opinion is requested is: **Oil obtained from Tuber (roots) of *Cyperus esculentus* from hydroponic culture**

Tigernut is an edible tuber from the herbaceous plant *Cyperus esculentus*. The plant *Cyperus esculentus* grows to a height of around 40-50 centimetres and boasts a rhizome root system, on which terminal tubers (chufa) ultimately form. These are ellipsoid, subglobular or ovoid in shape, can grow to between 3 and 15 mm in diameter, turn greyish-brown when ripe and are odourless and tasteless when dry.

The oil in question is obtained from tigernut grown using hydroponic farming, a method of plant production that uses mineral solutions rather than agricultural soil, and which is not traditionally used to grow chufa. The roots are fed a balanced nutrient solution dissolved in water with some chemical elements that are essential for plant development.

The product is intended to be consumed as such

Status –Novel in foods.

Novel food category (where applicable): food consisting of, isolated from or produced from plants or their parts, except when the food has a history of safe food use within the Union and is consisting of, isolated from or produced from a plant or a variety of the same species obtained by:

- Traditional propagating practices which have been used for food production within the Union before 15 May 1997 ;Article 3 (2)(a)(iv)

Reasons Statement:

The documentation submitted did not provide any evidence that the food in question was used for human consumption to a significant degree within the Union before 15 May 1997 (significant consumption).

Also, after consulting other Member States, none of these have confirmed a history of consumption prior to May 15, 1997, nor for the oil obtained from tigernut grown using hydroponic farming, nor the oil from tigernut obtained with traditional culture.

Conclusion:

The oil obtained from tuber (roots) of *Cyperus esculentus* from hydroponic culture as oil from tigernuts obtained from traditional methods falls within the scope of Regulation (UE) 2015/2283 on Novel foods.



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