



International Nut and Dried Fruit Council Foundation
www.nutfruit.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Pino Calcagni
Chairman
Scientific & Government Affairs Committee
Phone: (+39) 0818 659 310
giuseppe.calcagni@besanagroup.com

CODEX COMMISSION WILL FACILITATE TRADE IN ALMONDS, HAZELNUTS AND PISTACHIOS

The Codex Commission ratified new maximum aflatoxin levels and sampling plans

There has been a growing concern that strict international aflatoxin limits present a trade obstacle, with no additional public health benefit. For a number of years, the INC has implemented a comprehensive strategy to provide both producers and importers with a better understanding on the incidence of aflatoxins and its management. INC actions have included promoting research on aflatoxin occurrence, encouraging use of good agricultural / good manufacturing practices (GAPs/GMPs), developing sampling methodologies engaging industry members and government officials, and data collection and analysis. The INC has also contributed to the development of international Codes of Practice and standards by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF).

After extensive consultations and evaluation of international risk assessments, the 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 30 June - 4 July 2008, adopted the following sampling plans and maximum aflatoxin levels in almonds, pistachios and hazelnuts which had been recommended by the 2nd Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (The Hague, March 31 – April 4, 2008):

- **10 ppb total aflatoxin for these nuts intended for direct consumption based on 2x10 kg samples (each sample testing ≤ 10 ppb total);**
- **15 ppb total aflatoxin for these nuts intended for further processing, based on a 1x20 kg sample.**

As Official Non-Government Observers, the INC was represented in both sessions by Pino Calcagni, Chairman of the INC Scientific and Government Affairs Committee, and Julie Adams, Vice-Chairman.

The effectiveness of the nut industry and its scientific engagement with key Member State governments and international bodies was a significant contributor to the successful conclusion of these discussions. The result will ensure consumers receive healthy, safe food while facilitating the trade in almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios.