To: Interested Parties

By Email

23 May 2014

Dear Interested Parties

**Request for information from businesses: African green mango, and extracts (Irvingia gabonensis)**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the FSA’s advice on the status of African green mango (*Irvingia gabonensis*), in relation to European legislation on novel foods.

Following discussion with our counterparts in the other EU member states and some intelligence gathered in the UK, we are currently of the view that ingredients derived from *Irvingia gabonensis*, other than the seeds and simple water extracts of the seeds, are novel and are regulated under Council Regulation (EC) 258/97 on novel foods and food ingredients. We believe that the seeds are unlikely to be novel and fall outside the scope of the regulation and, by extension, simple water extracts (aqueous extracts) of the seed would also not be regarded as novel.

Under Regulation (EC) 258/97, novel foods and food ingredients may only be marketed if they have been evaluated and authorised under the procedures defined in the regulation. A novel food or ingredient is defined as one that was
not consumed to a significant degree in the European Community before 15 May 1997. *Irvingia gabonensis* in any form has not been authorised under this regulation but certain products (as above) are likely to be outside the scope of the regulation.

The Agency is not aware of any evidence for a history of consumption of *Irvingia gabonensis* fruit or fruit extracts or non-aqueous seed extracts anywhere in the EU before May 1997 and we are therefore minded to view them to be novel foods, which cannot be sold legally until it has been formally authorised. As such, any companies who wish to market foods containing these in the EU will need to apply for an authorisation under Regulation (EC) 258/97. Such an authorisation would require the submission of a dossier to one of the 28 EU Member States, demonstrating that the ingredient (a) does not present a risk to the consumer; (b) does not mislead the consumer; and (c) is not nutritionally disadvantageous compared with other foods that it might replace in the diet.

We intend, in due course, to make UK food enforcement bodies aware of the status of the various parts of *Irvingia gabonensis*, and the purpose of this letter is to make you aware of this intention and also to give the opportunity to provide any evidence that might demonstrate a significant history of consumption for *Irvingia gabonensis* (e.g. fruit and fruit extracts, non-aqueous seed extracts) in the EU before 15 May 1997.

Please submit any relevant information to the FSA Novel Foods Unit, novelfoods@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk, by Friday 13 June 2014 and include ‘African green mango consultation’ in the ‘Subject’ section of your email.
Guidance on the nature and extent of information that is typically required to demonstrate a significant history of consumption can be obtained from the European Commission website\(^1\).

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Manisha Upadhyay**

Novel Foods Unit

Food Safety Policy

\(^1\)http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biotechnology/novelfood/documents/substantial_equivalenc_en.pdf