



# **The EU NFR**

## **A barrier to European markets for non-traditional foods**



## If you are approaching European markets

- Thinking about European markets biodiversity could be exploited to
  - generate income in the home country
  - give a bigger range of options for consumers in the EU
- **But the burden of the NFR (EC 258/97) has to be kept in mind**



# The issue

- Food that has not been imported to a significant extent prior to 1997 to Europe belongs to the category "Novel" and extensive documentation has to be provided to enter the country
- Need to apply for the specific product
- Tedious, ambiguous and bureaucratic process that discourages pioneering companies to invest in "novel" traditional products



# What is being done

- WG analyzed the implications of this regulation on trade between LDC and the EU of novel foods
- Recommendations were made to the NFR Working group at European parliament



# The recommendations

- Recognize traditional foods as separate Novel Food Category
- Simplify the safety evaluation of exotic traditional foods (qualified presumption of safety)
- Recognize indigenous knowledge
  - Toxicity or clinical studies only where indicated
  - Approvals should be general and limited to applicant
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# What can we do

- Raise this issue to the WTO committee representatives to gain higher impact and stronger voice to lobby for an amendment of the NFR
- Avoid unsubstantiated health claims
- Initiated food safety dossiers when developing a “novel” crop for the EU market



# More information

- GFU's web-portal has dedicated a page to the issue

<http://www.underutilized-species.org/eu.asp>



# Thanks

[www.underutilized-species.org](http://www.underutilized-species.org)