

28<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Food Standards Australia New Zealand  
PO Box 10559  
The Terrace WELLINGTON 6143  
NEW ZEALAND

Dear Sir / Madam,

**SUBMISSION**  
**A1129 -Monk Fruit Extract as a Food Additive**

PepsiCo Australia & New Zealand encompasses four business units

- The Smith's Snackfood Company - Smith's Chips, Doritos Corn Chips, Twisties, Sunbites Grain Waves, Red Rock Deli, Nobby's Nuts, Parker's Pretzels, Cool Pak popcorn and Sakata Rice Snacks
- The Quaker Oats Company - mill oats for use throughout the Asian region
- PepsiCo Beverages - Pepsi, Mountain Dew, 7UP and Gatorade brands
- Bluebird Foods - Bluebird savoury snacks

We would like to provide the following comments in relation to application A1129 by Saraya Co., Ltd. (Saraya) to permit the use of monk fruit extract as a food additive to perform the technological purpose of an intense sweetener.

We support the approval of monk fruit extract as an intense sweetener. Monk fruit provides a natural alternative to other intense sweeteners currently available. We, however, would like to see the list of permitted categories expanded. There is an excellent opportunity for the use of monk fruit in a wide range of beverages for sugar replacement including standard carbonated soft drinks, still drinks such as iced teas and fruit drinks.

As stated in the Call for Submissions, "Based on the reviewed toxicological data, it is concluded that in the absence of any identifiable hazard, an acceptable daily intake (ADI) 'not specified' is appropriate for monk fruit extract. A dietary exposure assessment is therefore not required." As an ADI is not specified and there are no safety issues, we see no issue in expanding the categories of permitted use.

Monk fruit has a long history of use – it is a traditional food in China and the extract has a long history of use in Japan. Furthermore, monk fruit extract has been available in the USA for a number of years and was recently approved in Canada.

In the USA, China and Japan monk fruit is available as a general food additive available to be added to most foods and supplements. PepsiCo Australia & New Zealand therefore requests FSANZ to consider the expansion of the permitted food categories for Monk Fruit Extract as a food additive. Expanding the categories permitted will provide greater benefit to both consumers and industry. Industry will be able to formulate a wider range of products containing lower sugar with natural additives thus giving consumers a wider choice of lower kilojoule products – something consumers are looking for.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Your sincerely,



Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Manager  
PepsiCo Australia and New Zealand