

## Novel food: Chia seed

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### EU updates specifications for partially defatted chia seed (*Salvia hispanica*) powders

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2023/2214](#) of 23 October 2023 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2470 as regards the conditions of use and the specifications of the novel foods partially defatted chia seed (*Salvia hispanica*) powders

### Update

The EU has updated the conditions of use and specifications for partially defatted chia seed (*Salvia hispanica*) powders, which have been authorised as a novel food since 2020. These powders can be sold only by the authorisation holder, Functional Products Trading Arica S.A./BENEXIA, until November 2028.

### Impacted products

cakes, pastries, processed fruits, vegetables, bread, pasta products, food supplements, protein products

### What is changing?

In 2020, the EU approved the use of chia seeds in various beverages, confectionery, and food supplements (Regulation (EU) [2020/500](#)). The company Functional Products Trading Arica S.A./BENEXIA has received approval to expand the use of chia seed powders in a broader range of foods: cakes and pastries, processed fruit and vegetables (including vegetable-based dishes), bread and rolls, pasta-based products, and protein products.

### Why?

The new uses of chia seeds were approved following an evaluation of their safety by [EFSA \(2023\)](#).

## Timeline

For a period of 5 years (starting on 13 November 2023), only Functional Products Trading Arica S.A./BENEXIA may sell chia seed powder for the specific uses approved in this Regulation.

## What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Only Functional Products Trading Arica S.A./BENEXIA is authorised to market chia seed powder in the specified food categories within the EU for 5 years from 13 November 2023, unless that company permits it, or if another company obtains a novel food authorisation for these uses the basis of its own scientific data (without using the protected data of Functional Products Trading Arica S.A./BENEXIA).

## Background

This Regulation updates the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) [2017/2470](#) which lists authorised novel foods (see the [Union list of novel foods](#)).

## Resources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2017/2470](#) establishing the Union list of novel foods

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2020/500](#) authorising the placing on the market of partially defatted chia seed (*Salvia hispanica*) powders as novel foods

EFSA (2023) [Safety of the extension of use of partially defatted chia seed powder with a high fibre content as a novel food](#). EFSA Journal, 21(4): 7904.

## Sources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2023/2214](#) as regards the conditions of use and the specifications of the novel foods partially defatted chia seed (*Salvia hispanica*) powders

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