



Classification of the blossoms of *Musa x paradisiaca* L. ('banana blossoms', 'banana heart') as a novel food

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The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) has received an application for the classification and authorisation of the blossoms of *Musa x paradisiaca* L. (also known as 'banana blossoms', 'banana heart') from Thailand as a novel traditional food.

The plant *Musa x paradisiaca* L. is native to Thailand or rather is grown there. It belongs to the order *Zingiberales* in the family *Musaceae*. After removal of the outer husk, the blossoms are used for human consumption and in this form are also known as 'banana heart'.

The FSVO examined the submitted documents and established the novel food status of the blossoms of *Musa x paradisiaca* L. ('banana blossoms', 'banana heart').

The blossoms of *Musa x paradisiaca* L. ('banana blossoms', 'banana heart') were not used for human consumption to a significant degree in either Switzerland or an EU Member State before 15 May 1997 and therefore fall under the definition of a novel food under Article 15 paragraph 1 of the Ordinance on Foodstuffs and Utility Articles (FUAO; SR 817.02) and in particular within the category

"Foodstuffs consisting of, isolated from or produced from plants or their parts" (Art. 15 para. 1 let. d FUAO).

The blossoms of *Musa x paradisiaca* L. ('banana blossoms', 'banana heart') are therefore subject to the authorisation requirement for novel foods under Article 17 FUAO.

