

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-sixth Session

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27 November - 2 December 2023

### NEW FOOD SOURCES AND PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

(Comments of Saudi Arabia)

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to thank the Codex Commission for their efforts made in relation to the new food sources and production systems (NFPS).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Saudi Food and Drug Authority, launched at the beginning of this year its [Fourth Strategic Plan \(2023-2027\)](#), which highlighted several strategic objectives that contribute to the future of food and achieving food security, including (Developing the Legislation and Monitoring of New Biotechnology Products) and (Supporting Research and Innovation). Accordingly, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports the establishment of a unified international regulatory framework for new food sources and production systems to ensure their safety and facilitate their trade on the national, regional and international level.

From this standpoint, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proposes the following steps to move forward in this work:

- Develop a clear and unified definition for the term “new food” and the specified NFPS topics. An EWG can be established to develop such definitions.
- Identify and divide the products that have a history of consumption in some countries from those new products that do not obtain a history of consumption, and accordingly request country members to provide the available information on these food sources, the regulatory framework and the history of consumption.
- Request all Codex Committees to review and determine whether any Codex standards, guidelines, or codes of practice under their purview need to be amended to meet these NFPS. In addition, to explore the opportunities and the need to update the general or horizontal standards within the framework of Codex committees, including labeling requirements, quality issues, nutrition related concerns, and MRLs in the case of edible insects, provided that a report is sent from each committee containing its conclusions, including the obvious gaps and the recommendations for overcoming them and whether new work needs to be developed or a task force for NFPS needs to be established.