JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-first Session
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REPORT
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With regard to standard setting the Commission:

a) adopted maximum residue limits (MRLs) for different pesticides in various foods and feeds;
b) adopted maximum levels (MLs) for methylmercury in certain fish species and for cadmium in chocolate;
c) adopted MRLs for veterinary drugs used in food-producing animals, an amendment to the Procedural Manual in regard to risk analysis principles for residues of veterinary drugs in foods, and the Risk Management Recommendation for Gentian Violet;
d) adopted revisions of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products: Guidance for histamine control;
e) adopted the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non-dioxin-like PCB contamination in food and feed;
f) adopted the food-additive provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives, the revised food-additive sections of a number of Codex Standards, the revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives and the Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives;
g) adopted the revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, Date Marking;
h) adopted standards for aubergines and quinoa; and
i) approved new work, proposals for the discontinuation of work and for the revocation of existing Codex texts

With regard to Codex work management and budgetary and financial matters the Commission:

j) highlighted the importance of science and the observance of Codex procedures and consensus in the Codex decision-making process and endorsed the proposal by CCEXEC75 that the Secretariat coordinate the preparation of a report on the use of relevant aspects of the provisions of the Procedural Manual;
k) agreed that it was important to maintain a wide range of options and flexibility when deciding on working methods for the development of Codex texts and that decisions on the approach should be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of work;
l) agreed to request the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) to formulate procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence based on and consistent with relevant existing guidance in Procedural Manual;
m) affirmed that existing Codex procedures included sufficient flexibility to fast-track the development of standards, while noting that a more systematic but not necessarily periodic review of Codex standards could increase their relevance and requested CCEXEC to advise the Commission further on this matter;
n) reiterated its support for the ongoing Codex work on Antimicrobial Resistance highlighting its contribution to global efforts to tackling this issue; and
o) acknowledged the reports on expenditure in the past and current biennia and noted the budget proposal for 2020-2021, encouraged the Secretariat to continue its close monitoring of expenditure and expressed its appreciation for contributions from host countries and in-kind contributions to the Secretariat from Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

With regard to FAO/WHO scientific advice and policy-related issues relevant to the work of Codex the Commission:

p) recognized FAO and WHO efforts to accelerate delivery and ensure continuous improvement of scientific advice and recommended that FAO and WHO provide adequate sustainable funding for the joint FAO/WHO scientific advice programme;
q) noted the information provided by FAO and WHO on policy-related issues, capacity development activities to support member countries, and the Codex Trust Fund; and
r) encouraged members to advocate at the national level to support the establishment of a world food safety day by the United Nations General Assembly.

With regard to election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons the Commission:

s) Re-elected, as Chairperson, Mr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr. (Brazil) and, as Vice-Chairpersons, Mr Purwiyatno Hariyadi (Indonesia), Ms Mariam Eid (Lebanon) and Mr Steve Wearne (United Kingdom).
INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) convened its Forty-first Session, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in Rome, Italy, from 2 to 6 July 2018. The Session was opened by the Chairperson of the Commission, Mr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr. (Brazil), assisted by Vice-Chairpersons, Mr Purwiyatno Hariyadi (Indonesia), Ms Mariam Eid (Lebanon) and Mr Steve Wearne (United Kingdom), and attended by delegates from 121 Member countries and one Member Organization, and observers of 84 intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including United Nations entities. A list of participants is contained in Appendix I.

Opening addresses¹

2. The Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources of FAO, Ms Maria Helena Semedo, and the Deputy Director-General for Programmes of the World Health Organization (WHO), Ms Soumya Swaminathan, welcomed participants and addressed the Commission. The Commission heard further addresses by the Under-Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs of the United States of America, Mr Ted McKinney, and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Ms Olga Algayerova.

Division of competence²

3. The Commission noted the division of competence between the European Union (EU) and its Member States in accordance with Rule II, paragraph 5, of the CAC Rules of Procedure, as presented in conference room document 1 (CRD1).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)³

4. The Commission adopted the provisional agenda with the addition under item 21, “Any other business”, of:

(i) Endocrine-disrupting substances in foods (proposed by India); and

(ii) Organization of the Commission agenda (proposed by Cuba).

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE 74th and 75th SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Agenda item 2)⁴

5. Pursuant to Rule V, paragraph 7, of the CAC Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson drew the attention of the Commission to the reports of the seventy-fourth and seventy-fifth sessions of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC), observing that the Commission would consider their recommendations under the relevant agenda items.

CCEXEC74

6. The Commission took note of the discussions and conclusions contained in the report of CCEXEC74.

CCEXEC75

7. The Commission took note of the discussions and conclusions contained in the report of CCEXEC75.

Proposed draft maximum residue limits (MRLs) for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle)

8. The Commission noted the discussion and conclusions of CCEXEC75 regarding its Critical Review of the consideration by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) at its twenty-fourth session of Proposed draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle) (see REP18/EXEC2 Rev.1, paras. 30-40).

9. Members, in expressing their views:

(i) reiterated the importance of science as the cornerstone of Codex, stressing that it was fundamental to Codex’s credibility and role as reference under the WTO framework;

(ii) noted that to block the development of Codex texts on grounds extraneous to scientific advice and the Codex mandate prevented the many countries lacking the capacity to develop their own standards from fully benefiting from undisputed FAO/WHO risk assessment and monitoring foods for residues;

¹ Video recordings available at: http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/CAC41/webcast/en/
² Division of Competence between the European Union and its Member States (CRD1)
³ CX/CAC 18/41/1
⁴ REP18/EXEC1; REP18/EXEC2 Rev.1: Comments of Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Philippines (CRD12)
(iii) recalled that, procedurally, Members were free to make reservations or not to apply a Codex text;

(iv) stressed the need to ensure adherence to the Procedural Manual at all times and stated that CAC should issue guidance to the chairpersons of subsidiary bodies in this regard;

(v) stressed that careful consideration should be given to the weighting of factors beyond science in Codex decision-making procedures, as already provided for in the Procedural Manual, subject to certain agreed criteria contained in the Procedural Manual;

(vi) noted that existing procedures were already clear and should be followed;

(vii) noted that CAC and its subsidiary bodies should only consider factors other than science that were within the mandate of Codex as articulated in the Procedural Manual;

(viii) underscored that consensus was a core value of Codex;

(ix) noted that, in accordance with the Procedural Manual, it was legitimate for Codex as risk manager to take into consideration factors beyond risk assessment;

(x) recalled the joint FAO/WHO legal opinion, contained in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the report of CCEXEC75, that CCRVDF24 had breached no Codex rules;

(xi) noted the statement within the joint FAO/WHO legal opinion that recent developments had altered the original nature and status of Codex standards;

(xii) proposed a review of the “Statements of principle concerning the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account” (Statements of principle), as described in the final paragraph of the legal opinion; and

(xiii) noted that, in the light of the joint FAO/WHO legal opinion and repeal of the acceptance procedure, the Codex Secretariat should prepare a report on the history and implications of paragraph 4 of the Statements of principle.

10. Different views were also expressed regarding the correct forum, whether CCEXEC, the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) or both, for further debate on this matter.

11. Observers expressed several views, including that there were scientific reasons to hold back the standard, Codex needed to update its procedures to avoid being left behind, better address sustainable and culturally appropriate foods and innovative products, ensure scientific credibility, avoid perceived conflicts of interest, favour independently funded science and use consistent terminology. Consistency across committees based on sound science and clear procedures was key to the credibility of Codex.

Conclusion

12. Reiterating the value of Codex as the preeminent international rules-based food standards-setting body, and underscoring its commitment to both science and consensus, the Commission endorsed the approach proposed by CCEXEC75 in paragraph 38-40 of its report, emphasized the value of holding regional coordination meetings to inform the process, and stressed that the reports prepared on the matter should be shared with the broader membership, not only CCEXEC. The Commission:

(i) highlighted the importance of science, the observance of Codex procedures and consensus in the Codex decision-making process;

(ii) endorsed the importance of the work proposed by CCEXEC75 to be considered at CCEXEC77;

(iii) requested that the Codex Secretariat make the reports to inform CCEXEC77’s work available to all Members sufficiently in advance to enable regional coordinators to solicit views from their respective regions; and

(iv) took note of the comments made during the discussion and requested that the Codex Secretariat take them into account in preparing the reports on the matter for CCEXEC77.

Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)

13. The Commission:

(i) noted that through the work of the TFAMR Codex contributed to global efforts to counter present and future threats to the health of consumers posed by the emergence and amplification of antimicrobial resistance;

(ii) reiterated the overwhelming support, as expressed at CAC40, for the project documents on a revised code of practice and guidelines for integrated surveillance; and

(iii) supported the Chairperson of TFAMR in making further timely progress towards these objectives.
**AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL (Agenda item 3)**

*Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods*

14. In response to a request to refer the proposed amendment to CCGP and defer a decision until CAC42, the Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) clarified that the proposed deletion would not modify the intent of the work or the safety evaluation for residues of veterinary drugs in foods, but serve instead to clarify how CCRVDF could approach its proposed work to develop extrapolation of MRLs as a risk-management decision. The Codex Secretariat confirmed that, procedurally, there was no need to refer the matter to CCGP, and noted that, until such an amendment as proposed was made, MRLs for minor species already requested by developing countries would not be available.

**Conclusion**

15. The Commission:

(i) adopted the amendment as proposed by CCRVDF, noting the reservation of the Dominican Republic; and

(ii) noted that Costa Rica would join the EU as co-chair of the electronic working group (EWG) of CCRVDF on extrapolation, thereby facilitating greater participation of Spanish-speaking countries.

**FINAL ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS AT STEPS 8, 5/8 AND 5A (Agenda item 4)**

16. The Commission adopted the draft and proposed draft standards and related texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies at Step 8 (including those submitted at Step 5/8 with a recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7), as well as other standards and related texts submitted for adoption as endorsed by the relevant general subject committees, taking into account the Critical Review of CCEXEC75 (Appendices III-IV).

17. In addition to editorial corrections, the Commission noted the following comments and decisions.

**Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)**

*Draft standard for aubergines*

18. The Commission noted the Critical Review undertaken at CCEXEC75 and the following views expressed by Members:

(i) the inclusion of one percent tolerance for decay in “Extra” class was realistic, reflected existing industry and trade practices for fresh fruits and vegetables due to their perishable nature, and could prevent the rejection or downgrading of entire lots, thereby avoiding food waste;

(ii) if produce did not comply with “Extra” class, it could still meet the requirements of classes I and II; and

(iii) a general solution or clearer principle would be required before any new standard could be adopted.

19. Editorial amendments to simplify the standard were proposed to the provisions on minimum and maturity requirements and sizing.

**Conclusion**

20. The Commission:

(i) adopted the draft standard for aubergines at Step 8, noting the reservations of Colombia, EU and its Member States, Norway, Switzerland and Thailand on allowing a tolerance for decay in “Extra” class; and

(ii) endorsed the conclusions of CCEXEC75 and the note that “provisions for decay in “Extra” class were optional and, depending on the nature of the produce, may not be applicable or necessary”.

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5 CX/CAC 18/41/2; CX/CAC 18/41/2 Add.1; Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Indonesia (CRD21); Comments of Ecuador (CRD34).

6 CX/CAC 18/41/3; CX/CAC 18/41/3 Add.1; CX/CAC 18/41/3-Add 2; Comments of Sierra Leone, Senegal, Gambia, Peru, Mexico, Philippines, EU, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Liberia, Ghana (CRD2rev); Comments of Morocco (CRD14); Comments of Nicaragua (CRD16); Comments of El Salvador (CRD17); Comments of Peru (CRD18rev); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Cameroon (CRD20); Comments of Indonesia (CRD21); Comments of the Russian Federation (CRD28).

7 REP18/EXEC2 Rev.1

8 REP18/FFV, para. 19, Appendix II

9 REP18/EXEC2 Rev.1, paras. 6-43
Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

Revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CX 1-1985): Date Marking

21. The Commission noted the view expressed by one delegation, though not opposed to the adoption of the revised text, that the definition of “best before date” and “best quality before date” required further consideration to reduce the risk of confusing consumers.

22. A Member proposed a rewording of footnote 2 in the section 4.7 on date-marking to provide more flexibility at the national level when establishing a list of exceptions from date-marking.

23. The Russian Federation reiterated its reservation raised at CCFL44, in particular regarding section 4.7 (vii).

24. The CCFL chairperson explained that:
   (i) following extensive discussion on the date-marking revision, CCFL had reached consensus, except for the reservation of the Russian Federation;
   (ii) the terms “best before date” and “best quality before date” were supported by CCFL, “best before date” was already contained in the date-marking section of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CX1-1985), and the proposed revision would clarify their definition; and
   (iii) section 4.7 (vii) provided flexibility to national authorities in determining exemptions suitable for their countries.

Conclusion

25. The Commission:
   (i) adopted the draft revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Date Marking, noting the reservation of the Russian Federation; and
   (ii) noted that all editorial and translation issues would be addressed prior to publication.

Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Revision of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CXC 52-2003): Guidance for histamine control

26. The Commission noted that: CCFH49 had reached agreement on the list of susceptible fish families presenting the greatest potential for developing hazardous levels of histamine; and the corresponding list contained in the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products, section 13.1.2, would be aligned with it, with the insertion, before the list, of “e.g.”, which had been inadvertently omitted.

27. The delegation of Morocco reiterated that it would support adoption provided that: the list of fish families remained open for the addition of others demonstrated by risk analysis to cause histamine intoxication; and the format of footnote 6 was made consistent with regard to reference to the report of the FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on the Public Health of Histamine and Other Biogenic Amines from Fish and Fishery Products.

Conclusion

28. The Commission:
   (i) adopted the revision as amended (see para. 26), noting the reservation of Morocco; and
   (ii) noted that the guidance would be published upon completion of the CCFH work under way on histamine in the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products.

Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

MLs for cadmium in chocolate

29. The Commission noted the reservation of Peru for the reasons explained in CX/CAC 18/41/4 on the adoption of the maximum levels (MLs) for cadmium in (i) chocolate containing or declaring ≥ 50% to < 70% total cocoa solids on a dry-matter basis and (ii) chocolate containing or declaring ≥ 70% total cocoa solids on a dry-matter basis.

30. Peru further noted that the MLs were too restrictive and would have negative socioeconomic implications for cocoa growers, especially smallholder farmers. Such MLs could also be misused by application to the raw commodity as opposed to the finished product, which would disrupt trade. Highlighting the mandate for Codex standards to be based on science, Peru enquired whether JECFA could re-evaluate the provisional tolerable monthly intake (PTMI) due to its provisional nature and in the light of new scientific evidence, and noted that the application of a code of practice could assist countries in reducing cadmium contamination in cocoa beans.
31. The JECFA Secretariat explained that “provisional” was standard terminology and did not imply the value had temporary status, and noted that the PTMI, since it had been recently reviewed, based on a large, worldwide dataset covering several years, was unlikely to be influenced by any new data that may have become available since the last evaluation.

**Conclusion**

32. The Commission adopted the proposed MLs, noting the reservation expressed by Peru and that they applied to the final product (chocolate) as opposed to the raw material (cocoa beans) since the name of the product was “chocolate” and the relevant note stated that the MLs applied to the whole commodity as prepared for wholesale or retail distribution.

**Maximum levels for methylmercury for alfonsoino, marlin, shark and tuna**

33. The Commission noted the following reservations on the adoption of the MLs.

34. The EU, supported by Norway and Switzerland, expressed its reservation regarding all the MLs for the reasons contained in CX/CAC 18/41/4.

35. Colombia and Cuba also reserved their position on the final adoption of all the MLs, supporting instead adoption at Step 5 and further consideration in CCCF. Cuba further noted that, according to their national regulation, the proposed MLs would not sufficiently protect the health of the Cuban population.

36. Senegal expressed reservations on the final adoption of the MLs for alfonsoino, marlin and shark for the reasons contained in CX/CAC 18/41/4.

37. Ecuador expressed a reservation on the setting of one single ML for methylmercury for all tuna species on the grounds that data used in establishing the ML did not take into account certain eastern Pacific tuna species with higher methylmercury concentrations. The note limiting the use for further processing of tuna that was non-compliant with the proposed ML was unnecessarily trade restrictive, may lead to food waste and may not take into account the risks and benefits of fish consumption as a source of Omega-3 fatty acids and other nutrients. If adopted, the ML should be revised after three years based on available data with a view to establishing a more globally representative ML.

38. The CCCF Chairperson recalled that MLs for methylmercury in fish species had been on the CCCF agenda for several sessions, and CCCF had discussed the proposed MLs, which were based on the best data available from various regions covering several years. She continued that returning the proposed ML to CCCF for another call for new data was unlikely to affect the proposed values significantly. The CCCF Chairperson reiterated that proposed MLs represented the best compromise to achieve the task set by the Commission with the data available, especially given the importance of the proposed MLs for public health and trade facilitation.

**Conclusion**

39. The Commission adopted the proposed MLs, noting the reservations expressed by Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, EU, Norway, Senegal and Switzerland, and agreed that CCCF could consider revising the ML for tuna in the light of additional data after three years.

**Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)**

40. The Commission noted the recommendations of CCEXC7511.

41. One Member expressed concern regarding the CCFA50 justification for the inclusion of Rebaudioside A from multiple gene donors expressed in Yarrowia lipolytica (INS 960b(i)) in the GSFA and requested procedural clarification in this regard.

42. Another Member, recalling that the issue had been discussed previously and relevant procedure followed, noted that the addition of individual food additives sharing the same group acceptable daily intake (ADI) was covered in the Procedural Manual and would not result in increased exposure.

43. In response to a question, the JECFA Secretariat clarified that steviol glycosides from different sources had been assessed at several meetings and the latest safety assessment, completed in 2016, confirmed an ADI of 0–4 mg/kg bw, expressed as steviol.

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10 REP18/FA, Appendix V
11 REP18/EXEC2 Rev. 1, paras. 6 and 26
Emphasizing the importance of product labelling to differentiate natural steviol glycosides from other types of steviol glycoside, Paraguay recommended requesting that CCFA explain the existing nomenclature for different types of steviol glycosides. However, it was noted that: CCFA50 had considered the matter and clarified that the GSFA was not intended for labelling purposes; and the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989) included explanatory notes on the assignment of INS numbers.

Conclusion

The Commission adopted the draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA at Steps 8 and 5/8 and endorsed the recommendations of CCEXEC75 to:

(i) insert Note XS302 associated with the provisions for INS 473, INS 473a and INS 474 in functional class 12.6.4;

(ii) request that CCFA clarify the operational procedure for the addition/removal of individual food additives under the same group heading should such issues be raised in CCFA.

The Commission noted the reservation of Paraguay regarding the revised nomenclature for steviol glycosides.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Maximum residue limits for pesticides in food and feed

The Commission adopted the MRLs, noting the reservation of the EU, supported by Norway and Switzerland, on a number of pesticide/commodity combinations for the reasons provided in CX/CAC 18/41/4.

Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)

Risk Management Recommendation for Gentian Violet

The Commission noted that, while not opposed to adoption, the following countries expressed reservations regarding the final sentence of the Risk Management Recommendation (RMR), which they believed was overly prescriptive and went beyond the scope of CCRVDF and Codex: Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines and United States of America. They noted that the existing language could be understood as limiting the capacity of national authorities to use other risk-management measures they may deem more appropriate. CCRVDF’s interpretation of the text of the RMR, if read separately from it, could not assist Members in implementation.

Delegations supporting adoption noted that the wording “can be accomplished” in the RMR text gave national competent authorities sufficient flexibility to determine risk-management measures most appropriate to their needs.

The JECFA Secretariat clarified that the text was intended to provide national authorities with risk-management options and noted that, since an RMR containing this text had already been adopted for malachite green, a compound similar in use and toxicity, it would be inconsistent to change the wording.

The Commission adopted the RMR as proposed by CCRVDF, noting that the text allowed Member countries to choose appropriate risk-management approaches to prevent residues of gentian violet in foods as clarified by CCRVDF2412; and further noted the reservations expressed by Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines and United States of America.

CCPR and CCRVDF

Coordination of work on edible animal tissues

The Commission endorsed13 the recommendation of CCEXEC75 in relation to coordination of work between the CCPR and CCRVDF on the definition of edible animal tissues.

Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL)

Standard for quinoa14

Members expressed their continued support for the development of the standard, noting that quinoa was an important and nutritious staple offering health benefit to consumers.

12 REP18/RVDF, para. 33
13 REP18/EXEC2 Rev. 1, paras. 27-28
14 CL 2018/25-CPL Annex II
54. Those supporting adoption of the draft standard at Step 8 commended the transparent and inclusive consultations facilitated by the EWG and noted that the draft standard was well aligned with existing international trade practices.

55. Those opposing adoption noted that no consensus had been reached on provisions for moisture content and grain size, and those on testing methods for the determination of saponins required further development. Standard development being ahead of schedule overall, sufficient time remained to continue work on those technical parameters.

**Conclusion**

56. The Commission agreed to:
   
   (i) adopt, subject to the endorsement of the labelling provisions by CCFL45, the draft standard for quinoa at Step 8, with the exception of the provisions for moisture content and grain size, which were returned to Step 6; and

   (ii) establish an EWG, chaired by Costa Rica, and co-chaired by Chile and the United States of America, working in English and Spanish, to continue the work on the provisions for moisture content and grain size.

57. The Commission further noted the lack of a method for determination of saponins in the standard and encouraged Members to identify a validated method of analysis for this parameter to allow for the full implementation of the standard.

**ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS AT STEP 5 (Agenda item 5)**

58. The Commission adopted and advanced to Step 6 the proposed draft standards and related texts submitted by its subsidiary bodies at Step 5, noting that technical comments should be resubmitted at Step 6 for consideration by the relevant committees, taking into account the Critical Review of CCEXEC75 (Appendix IV).

**Committee on Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)**

59. Norway, although supporting adoption at Step 5, raised a concern regarding the level of vitamin A in Part B of the Standard: since children aged between 12 and 36 months received vitamin A from a progressively diversified diet in addition to that contained in follow-up formula, a maximum of 180 µg (retinol equivalents per 100 kcal) may be too high and could lead to intake exceeding the upper tolerable level.

60. Several delegations spoke in support of adoption of the standard at Step 5.

61. An observer opposed adoption at Step 5 before agreement on the preamble and labelling sections; expressed the views that the commodity was not necessary and may pose a risk to the health of young children, undermine breastfeeding and fuel the obesity crisis, especially in the light of the aggressive marketing of such products; and noted that in their view further consideration should be given to the scientific basis of and inconsistent language in the Standard.

**Conclusion**

62. The Commission:

   (i) adopted the “essential composition requirements for older infants and young children”; and

   (ii) noted that all technical comments should be resubmitted for consideration by CCNFSDU.

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15 CX/CAC 18/41/5; CX/CAC 18/41/5 Add.1; CX/CAC 18/41/6; Comments of the European Union (CRD13); Comments of El Salvador (CRD17); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Cameroon (CRD20); Comments of Indonesia (CRD21); Comments of Panama (CRD24); Comments of Mali (CRD25); Comments of the Russian Federation (CRD28); Comments of the Sudan (CRD29); Comments of Nigeria (CRD30); Comments of Uruguay (CRD31); Comments of Uganda (CRD32); Comments of Ecuador (CRD34)
63. The Commission took note of comments that some provisions in the Code of Practice (COP) were based on inappropriate experimental measures while others were not practical, increased production costs and incurred excessive waste water with potential environmental impacts. Risk-management measures to reduce contamination with these chemicals should be science-based, proven to be effective at large scale, and widely applicable.

**Conclusion**

64. The Commission agreed to adopt the COP at Step 5.

**REVOCATION OF CODEX TEXTS (Agenda item 6)**

65. The Commission revoked the texts in CX/CAC 18/41/7 (Appendix V).

**PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK (Agenda item 7)**

66. The Commission approved the development of new standards and related texts, taking into account the Critical Review of CCEXEC75 (Appendix VI).

**Additional comments and decisions**

**CCFH**

67. The Commission considered the approval of the new work, noting the conclusions of CCEXEC75.

68. The representative of WHO reiterated the concerns expressed in CCFH and at CCEXEC75 regarding the purpose and scope of the proposed new work, underscoring that insufficient consideration had been given to existing tools and guidance, including: the FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN), which had already developed guidance relating to outbreak response; and the International Health Regulations (IHR), a legally binding instrument for WHO Member States that used a horizontal, one-hazard approach (i.e. applied the same protocols for different types of hazard); and ongoing FAO and WHO work on whole genome sequencing and related guidance.

69. Recalling the shared responsibility of the Commission, Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO to evaluate new work proposals in the context of existing endeavours, the representative urged that greater consideration be devoted to articulating the added value of the proposed work. While the critical review function had been entrusted to CCEXEC precisely to ensure Codex work remained focused and efficient, when thorough review by CCEXEC was not possible, project documents could be returned to the originating technical committee. The representative stressed that the Commission’s decision regarding new work proposals should not be influenced by a technical committee having begun work prior to receiving the Commission’s formal approval.

70. The representative of FAO echoed WHO’s concerns and emphasized that FAO would actively participate should the new work be approved to ensure it was appropriate and added value to existing guidance.

71. There was broad support for the new work among Members. Those in favour welcomed its aim of complementing existing Codex, FAO and/or WHO guidance and noted that a consolidated document would promote a more coordinated approach to handling food safety crises/incidents. The proposal had been discussed at length in CCFH and the project document revised. FAO and WHO were encouraged to participate in the work. The representative of WHO responded that work had already begun and that WHO was actively engaged and provided extensive comments.

72. Two delegations did not support the proposal, noting that the scope required further clarification to avoid duplication of work or overstepping the Codex mandate.

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16 CX/CAC 18/41/7; Comments of Sierra Leone, Ghana, Liberia (CRD6); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Cameroon (CRD20); Comments of the African Union (CRD24); Comments of Mali (CRD25); Comments of the Russian Federation (CRD28); Comments of Ecuador (CRD34)

17 CX/CAC 18/41/8; CX/CAC 18/41/8 Add.1; Comments of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Philippines, Liberia, Ghana (CRD5); Comments of Nicaragua (CRD16); Comments of El Salvador (CRD17); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Cameroon (CRD20); Comments of Indonesia (CRD21); Comments of African union (CRD24); Comments of Mali (CRD25); Comments of the Russian Federation (CRD28); Comments of the Sudan (CRD29); Comments of Nigeria (CRD30); Comments of Uganda (CRD32); Comments of Ecuador (CRD34)
73. Norway, as a Member of CCEXEC, noted that the project document presented in CX/CAC 18/41/8, Annex IV, had been considered in preparation for the Critical Review discussion and that CCEXEC had thoroughly considered the proposal.

**Conclusion**

74. The Commission approved the new work.

**DISCONTINUATION OF WORK (Agenda item 8)**

75. The Commission approved discontinuation of the work on items presented in CX/CAC 18/41/9 (Appendix VII).

**AMENDMENTS TO CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda item 9)**

76. The Commission adopted the amendments to the standards and texts in CX/CAC 18/41/10 and CX/CAC 18/41/10 Add.1 (Appendix VIII).


77. The Commission noted that several matters were presented for information only or discussed elsewhere under the relevant agenda item.

**CCFA**

- **Management of CCFA work**

78. The United States of America commended CCFA’s recent achievements, especially its efforts to reach a solution to the longstanding issue of Note 161 (on the use of sweeteners and colours), welcoming the EWG, co-chaired by the United States of America and the EU, established on the matter, and encouraging Members to participate therein. These views were supported by the EU and by China as CCFA Chair.

79. One Member noted that lack of consensus on the use of sweeteners was having a negative impact of global trade and consumer protection, and proposed that regional specificities be taken into account in the ongoing consultations on Note 161.

- **Codex Committee on Sugars (CCS)**

- **Standard for non-centrifuged dehydrated sugar cane juice**

80. The Commission considered the recommendation of CCEXEC75 to discontinue the work and noted the following views.

81. Columbia as CCS Chair highlighted the progress made since CAC40 (i.e. on title, scope, definitions, physical and chemical characteristics, and methods of analysis and sampling) and proposed that the Commission extend the timeline by one year to enable further progress.

82. Delegations in favour of continuing the work underscored the importance of the standard to developing countries, noted that agreement on most issues had been reached by correspondence and those remaining, including product safety, could be resolved at a physical meeting. A query on the CAC criteria or guidance as the basis for discontinuation of work was raised.

83. Delegations in favour of discontinuation, as recommended by CCEXEC75, noted the absence of consensus in CCS on fundamental aspects (e.g. name, scope and identity) despite the significant resources invested over several years.

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18 CX/CAC 18/41/9; Comments of Sierra Leone and Ghana (CRD7); El Salvador (CRD17); the Dominican Republic (CRD19); Cameroon (CRD20); Indonesia (CRD21); African Union (CRD24)
19 CX/CAC 18/41/10; Comments of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana (CRD8); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Cameroon (CRD20); Comments of Indonesia (CRD21); Comments of African Union (CRD24); Comments of Mali (CRD25); Comments of Ecuador (CRD24)
20 CX/CAC 18/41/11; CX/CAC 18/41/11 Add.1; CX/CAC 18/41/11 Add.2; Comments of India (CRD9); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Republic of Korea (CRD27)
The Codex Secretariat recalled that: the work had been approved in 2011; CAC36 (2013) had adopted the draft standard at Step 5, noting the need to address the product name/scope and quality (chemical characteristics, etc.); the target year for completion had been extended several times; and CCEXEC75 had noted the lack of progress on outstanding issues. It was clarified that matters relating to product safety should be referred to relevant committees for consideration. It was proposed that, since Members had expressed continuing interest in the work, consideration be given to holding a physical meeting devoted to resolving outstanding issues only.

The Chairperson noted the potential value in holding a physical meeting but stressed that all relevant implications, including interpretation and translation, be taken into account. Members noted options for facilitating the holding of a physical meeting, including co-hosting and convening it immediately preceding the 2019 meeting of CCFFV.

**Conclusion**

The Commission agreed to extend the work by correspondence by one year, reporting back to CAC42, and noted the possibility that a physical meeting be held.

**Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)**

87. The Commission considered the report on work priorities prepared by the United States of America as CCPFV Chair and noted the following:

(i) the work plan included an interim step, scheduled for December 2018, to review progress in EWGs and determine whether a physical meeting should be held; and

(ii) the proposal of Thailand that the EWG on dried fruits develop, in accordance with the project document, general provisions for dried fruits and specific annexes incorporating existing Codex Standards for raisins, apricots and dates, and new annexes for dried tropical fruits, such as persimmons and longans.

**Conclusion**

88. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the CCPFV Chairperson to:

(i) establish the seven EWGs to prepare the proposed drafts for comments and consideration by CCPFV; and

(ii) hold a physical meeting of the Committee at an appropriate time.

**Other matters**

89. The representative of the FAO reported that, since CAC39 had postponed a decision on discontinuation, no Member had raised the matter in the relevant FAO fisheries bodies (i.e. the Committee on Fisheries, Subcommittee on Aquaculture or Subcommittee on Fish Trade), nor was it on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Committee on Fisheries, to be held July 2018, indicating the subject was not a priority for FAO Member countries. Recalling the information provided at CAC39 that several organic aquaculture standards were in use, she reiterated that preliminary work would therefore be required to reach international consensus on the definition of organic aquaculture.

90. Thailand, noting the great importance of this work to developing countries and supporting its continuation, proposed an intersessional physical working group (PWG) be convened to focus on it, while acknowledging the challenge of identifying the appropriate Codex committee to take the lead.

91. Delegations supporting the recommendation of CCEXEC75 pointed out the need for agreement on fundamental aspects before the work could proceed.

**Conclusion**

92. The Commission, pursuant to its discussion and the recommendation of CCEXEC75, agreed to discontinue the work and noted it could reconsider such work in future should there be sufficient interest on the part of Members.

93. The Commission noted that the food-additive provisions in the draft Regional Standard for Doogh had not been endorsed by CCFA50.
94. The Islamic Republic of Iran as Coordinator for the Near East Region, recalling that the draft Regional Standard had been adopted at CAC40, emphasized its importance to the region and, with reference to the practice for quinoa, proposed it be published.

**Conclusion**

95. The Commission agreed to publish the Regional Standard for Doogh, noting its provisions on food additives would be subject to further development.

**COMMITTEES WORKING BY CORRESPONDENCE AND PILOT FOR A COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS ADVANCEMENT (Agenda item 11)**

**Part I: Committees working by correspondence**

96. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item, recalling that CAC40 had requested that the Codex Secretariat prepare a document summarizing all options for taking decisions on new work for which no committee was presently holding physical meetings along with the advantages and disadvantages for each option. The Commission considered the recommendations presented in the document.

**Discussion**

97. Members discussing existing options for expediting work relating to which no committee presently held physical meetings, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each option, noting the importance of maintaining flexibility when deciding on working methods and that decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of work.

98. There was general support for the need for procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence based on existing guidance contained in the Procedural Manual to address issues in terms of procedures and management. The guidance could address questions such as how to build consensus, how to harmonize step procedures and when to revert to physical meetings.

99. The Commission also noted the following views:

   (i) CCGP would be the correct body for further consideration;
   (ii) CCEEXEC would be the correct body for further discussion since the issues went beyond procedure;
   (iii) best practice for standard-development by correspondence could be included in any future analysis;
   (iv) Codex resources should be used efficiently to improve the quality of work by correspondence;
   (v) committees working by correspondence should make every effort to reach consensus prior to holding a physical meeting;
   (vi) committees holding physical meetings and those working by correspondence should consistently apply the same set of rules;
   (vii) clarification was needed on whether internal EWG documents could be summarized and shared publicly by observers in order to consult with their constituents; and
   (viii) accelerating procedures may inadvertently reduce opportunities for public engagement.

100. The Codex Secretariat explained its understanding that the proposal was not for CCGP to develop new rules but to interpret the existing guidance articulated in the Procedural Manual and the FAO general rules on the conduct of plenary meetings. Should CCGP be so tasked, the Codex Secretariat would prepare a discussion paper to be circulated for comments before consideration at CCGP.

**Conclusion**

101. The Commission:

   (i) agreed that it was important to maintain a wide range of options and flexibility when deciding on working methods and that decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of work;
   (ii) noted there was no support for assigning this work to regional committees or for the establishment of a super committee; and

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21 CX/CAC 18/41/12; CX/CAC 18/41/12 Add.1; Comments of Egypt, Thailand, India and the Philippines (CRD10); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev).
agreed to request that CCGP formulate procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence based on and consistent with relevant existing guidance in the Procedural Manual and that the discussion paper prepared by the Codex Secretariat be circulated well in advance of CCGP.

**Part II: Pilot for a committee on standards advancement**

102. The Codex Secretariat recalled that CAC40 had welcomed the innovative proposal of a pilot committee on standards advancement (CCSA) and had requested that the Codex Secretariat prepare a more detailed proposal, containing the terms of reference, modalities of work and cost implications of such a committee.

**Discussion**

103. There were diverging views with regard to the proposed pilot CCSA.

104. Those not in favour expressed the following views:

   (i) a CCSA would duplicate the role played by CCEXEC in reviewing the progress of standards;
   (ii) existing Codex mechanisms already allowed sufficient flexibility for Members to work effectively;
   (iii) it would be difficult to ensure sufficient participation of experts, especially those from developing countries; and
   (iv) the cost implications of ensuring the inclusiveness and transparency of a new committee could be elevated.

105. Those in favour expressed the following views:

   (i) a CCSA could facilitate progress on standards that had been in development for a long time, for example in committees working by correspondence;
   (ii) CCSA could serve as an additional tool alongside the options identified in Part I;
   (iii) CCSA could solve the issues of consensus and low levels of participation, which were prevalent in committees working by correspondence;
   (iv) the use of such a mechanism could be cost effective in situations where a physical meeting was necessary; and
   (v) the Procedural Manual provided for the establishment of such a committee (Rule XI.1(a))

**Conclusion**

106. The Commission agreed to await the outcomes of the discussion at CCGP on guidance for working by correspondence before returning to the question of whether CCSA should be established.

**REGULAR REVIEW OF CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT: REPORT 2017-2018 (Agenda Item 12)**

107. The Codex Secretariat introduced the review of collaboration between CAC and other international standard-setting organizations, recalling its scope, methodology and conclusions.

108. The Chairperson informed the Commission that CCEXEC75 had been unable to discuss the review recommendations due to a lack of time, but underscored its importance in terms of supporting delivery of the existing Codex Strategic Plan and establishing priorities for the forthcoming Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

**Discussion**

109. Members appreciated the initiative of the Codex Secretariat to seek effective solutions to improve work management by examining the work of other international standard-setting organizations.

110. An observer called for good practice guidance regarding the lack of transparency in CCNFSDU where recording was forbidden and the private sector at times spoke for governments. In her view, guidance was needed on the appropriateness of Codex dealing with products such as ready-to-use therapeutic food not intended for general sale.

**Recommendation i**

111. The Commission affirmed that existing Codex procedures included sufficient flexibility to fast-track the development of standards, noting that delays arose due to a lack of consensus rather than procedural issues.

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22 CX/CAC 18/41/13; Comments of European Union, India (CRD11); Comments of Nicaragua (CRD16); Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev).
112. Acknowledging Members’ views, the Codex Secretariat stated that, while existing procedures did provide the flexibility to fast-track standards, they were perceived as rigid. There was scope to foster greater understanding among stakeholders in this regard in the context of the Codex communications work plan.

Conclusion

113. The Commission noted that the existing standard-setting procedure was adequate and flexible.

Recommendation ii

114. While the Chairperson noted that mechanisms for systematic review existed in some Codex committees, the Codex Secretariat stated that many standards could benefit from review.

115. One Member noted that other international standard-setters, such as the United States Pharmacopeia, had effective mechanisms for systematic review that could be instructive to Codex, another Member cautioned against introducing periodic review of Codex standards as this would entail too high a workload for Codex committees.

Conclusion

116. The Commission:
   (i) noted that more systematic but not necessarily periodic review of Codex standards could increase their relevance;
   (ii) recognized the variation in current practices related to standards review between Codex committees; and
   (iii) requested that CCEXEC advise the Commission further on this matter.

Recommendation iii

117. Members noted the importance of avoiding duplicate or contradictory standards, and expressed divergent views on the appropriate Committee, whether CCGP or CCEXEC, to consider the matter of referencing standards of other international organizations.

Conclusion

118. The Commission noted the CCEXEC75 conclusion that issues relating to references may merit further consideration and guidance by CCEXEC in the first instance.

Recommendation iv

119. Referring to recommendation (iv-f), the Codex Secretariat informed the Commission that it participated in relevant activities of other international organizations pursuant to its mandate under the CAC Statutes, which included such coordination, but that its capacity to do so depended on committee workloads.

120. Members queried the resource implications of the recommendation for the Codex Secretariat, noted the value of further discussion and expressed divergent views on the appropriate Committee, whether CCGP or CCEXEC, to take up the matter.

Conclusion

121. Noting the importance of the recommendation, the potential resource implications of its components and the need for prioritization, the Commission agreed to refer the recommendation for further discussion to CCEXEC.

CODEX BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS: REPORT 2016-2017 AND PROGRESS 2018-2019 (Agenda item 13.1)\textsuperscript{23}

122. The Codex Secretariat presented the budget report for 2016-2017 and noted that, in contrast to previous biennia, 99 percent of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme budget had been spent. He also stressed that the Codex system relied on additional contributions not part of the programme budget (e.g. the provision of scientific advice).

Conclusion

123. The Commission:
   (i) acknowledged the report on expenditure in the biennium 2016-2017 as well as the progress made under the work plan and budget for 2018-2019;

\textsuperscript{23} CX/CAC 18/41/14.
(ii) encouraged the Codex Secretariat to continue its close monitoring of expenditure under the new monitoring mechanisms put in place; and

(iii) expressed its appreciation for contributions from host countries and in-kind contributions to the Codex Secretariat from Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

CODEX BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS: PROPOSAL 2020-2021 (Agenda item 13.2)24

124. The Codex Secretariat introduced the document explaining that submission in 2018 of a budget proposal for 2020-2021 would facilitate the process of its approval in 2019 in the governing bodies of FAO and WHO. While the budget showed zero nominal growth compared to the biennium 2018-2019, the Codex Secretariat confirmed that it contained provisions for potential advocacy activities related to the launch of a world food safety day. Codex Secretariat activities yet to be finalized under the Strategic Plan 2020-2021 and therefore not reflected would have to be accounted for under the biennium 2022-2023.

125. The representative of WHO recalled that, in accordance with Article 9 of the CAC Statutes, the determination of the FAO and WHO proportions of the Codex budget was a joint decision for the Directors-General of FAO and WHO. While WHO was committed to maintaining its contribution to the Codex budget for 2020-2021, future WHO financial contributions to Codex would depend on the degree of support for food safety, nutrition and Codex matters expressed by Member States in the WHO Executive Board (EB) and the World Health Assembly (WHA). In this regard, the importance of ongoing communication and coordination between Codex delegates and EB/WHA delegates was highlighted, especially for countries where the responsibility for Codex matters was not held by the Ministry of Health.

Conclusion

126. The Commission noted the budget proposal for 2020-2021 as the first biennium under the new strategic plan.

FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE TO CODEX: ACTIVITIES, BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS
(Agenda item 14)25

127. The representatives of FAO and WHO summarized the scientific advice activities detailed in the document, recalling the recent release of the summary report of the 86th JECFA meeting and encouraging delegates to disseminate such materials widely.

128. The representative of FAO thanked the FAO Governing Bodies for the consistent regular programme budget funding to the scientific advice programme but noted the need for additional resources to update methodologies and begin addressing the backlog of requests for advice and increasing demand. She noted the issue of sustainable funding had not been resolved but extensive discussion continued in FAO to find a long-term solution and thanked Australia, Canada, China and France for their contributions to the FAO scientific advice programme.

129. The representative of WHO recalled that WHO relied primarily on voluntary contributions from Member States for scientific advice for food safety and nutrition. Efforts were under way in the current biennium to move beyond the status quo, address requests in a timelier manner and update risk-assessment methodology. She also thanked Australia, EU, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, United States of America and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for contributions. She noted that the FAO and WHO contributions to scientific advice amounted to approximately USD 12 million per biennium.

Discussion

130. Members expressed their appreciation to FAO and WHO for their work on scientific advice as well as to the experts around the world who contributed to it; stressed the importance of such advice to timely standard-setting by Codex; and thanked countries that had supported such work but noted that long-term sustainable funding for the provision of scientific advice to Codex remained a concern.

131. Acknowledging the ongoing efforts within FAO to address sustainable funding, Members noted that the long-term solution should come from the core budgets of FAO and WHO. In this regard, the representative of WHO reiterated the need for Codex delegates to advocate at the national level to encourage their representatives in the WHO governing bodies to highlight the importance of food safety and Codex work.

132. Responding to a query regarding the prioritization of requests for scientific advice, the representative of WHO noted that prioritization mechanisms existed in Codex committees and that the joint Secretariats of FAO and WHO agreed on priorities and timelines based on available resources.

24 CX/CAC 18/41/15
25 CX/CAC 18/41/16; Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev).
Conclusions:

133. The Commission:

(i) recognized FAO and WHO efforts to accelerate delivery and ensure continuous improvement of scientific advice;

(ii) noted that FAO and WHO had highlighted the importance of ensuring stable, multi-year, extra-budgetary contributions to support an enhanced FAO/WHO scientific advice programme, stressing the key facilitating role Codex delegates could play;

(iii) noted the need to develop a strategy to ensure short- and long-term solutions for sustainable funding, inviting countries so interested to develop a discussion paper for submission to the Commission; and

(iv) recommended that FAO and WHO provide adequate sustainable funding for the joint FAO/WHO scientific advice programme, noting that, in accordance with Rule X.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Directors-General of FAO and WHO were bound to bring this recommendation to the attention of their respective governing bodies for appropriate action.

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda item 15)26

134. The representative of FAO drew the Commission’s attention to FAO and WHO policy-related issues relevant to the work of Codex, highlighting the following matters.

(i) FAO and WHO would hold an International Food Safety Conference in 2019.

(ii) The Deputy Director-General of FAO had requested delegates’ support for the adoption of the draft resolution before the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-third session on a world food safety day.

(iii) The 159th Session of FAO Council, in June 2018, had stressed the need for sustainable funding for FAO’s work relating to scientific advice for food safety and Codex, and noted that no funds were available from FAO’s unspent balance for the current biennium but that the recommendations remained valid for future consideration should unspent balances become available. The Council also stressed the need for establishing a blind trust fund (BTF) for scientific advice and emphasized the importance of safeguarding the independence and impartiality of the joint FAO/WHO scientific advice programme.

(iv) Provided that FAO and WHO maintained existing levels of funding, additional funding mobilized through the BTF could substantially change the way FAO ran the scientific advice programme.

(v) The June 2018 meeting of the Committee on Food Security Open-ended Working Group to Develop Nutrition Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems had reiterated the need to avoid duplicating the work carried out by other bodies or contradictions with other policy instruments, including Codex.

(vi) The May 2018 FAO Global Soil Symposium had considered the issue of soil contamination and food safety.

(vii) The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture provided an opportunity for countries to incorporate actions on climate change adaptation to improve food safety within Intended Nationally Determined Contributions.

(viii) In May 2018, the Directors-General of FAO, WHO and OIE had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to further strengthen tripartite collaboration and their leadership on the critical global issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

135. The representatives of WHO further noted:

(i) The WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13) had introduced a bottom-up approach to budget planning, and Codex delegates could seize the opportunity to promote food safety as a priority.

(ii) The FAO-OIE-WHO MoU would be complemented by the development of joint work plans on key issues such as antimicrobial resistance and included the possibility that the World Committee on Food Security (CFS) develop a voluntary guideline on the use of antimicrobials in food production, which may complement ongoing Codex work.

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26 CX/CAC 18/41/17, CX/CAC 18/41/17 Add.1, Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev); Comments of Panama (CRD23).
(iii) The GPW13 contained priority diet- and nutrition-related targets, in particular on sodium reduction and the elimination of industrially produced trans fatty acids (TFAs) from the global food supply. WHO has developed a framework on country roadmaps (REPLACE action package) to support countries in achieving the TFA elimination target.

(iv) Other relevant, new and ongoing activities included the work of the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group on the finalization of the guidelines on saturated fatty acids, TFAs, polyunsaturated fatty acids and carbohydrates as well as the new work on developing policy action guidelines.

(v) Implementation mechanisms under the Decade of Action on Nutrition included a number of global action networks, e.g. on sustainable food from the oceans and on nutrition labelling.

Discussion

136. Members appreciated the information shared by FAO and WHO and its relevance to global and national initiatives.

137. Members recognized the FAO and WHO work in providing guidance to promote healthy diets and address obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases, considering the problems facing various countries due to unhealthy diets high in sodium, sugars and fats, including trans fats. Members also noted the importance of the conclusions of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–2025.

138. One Member noted the health hazard posed, to children in particular, by the sale and use of alcohol.

139. Members referred to the importance of the initiative to establish a world food safety day and expressed interest in the ongoing work on the links between climate change and food safety.

Conclusion

140. The Commission:

(i) took note of the information presented;

(ii) encouraged Members to advocate at the national level to support the establishment of a world food safety day by the United Nations General Assembly; and

(iii) urged Members to engage with their representatives in the FAO and WHO governing bodies to advocate in favour of food safety and sustainable funding for scientific advice.

REPORT ON THE SIDE EVENT ON FAO AND WHO CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (Agenda Item 16)27

141. The representative of FAO summarized the key points highlighted in the side event.

142. Members expressed their appreciation to FAO and WHO, citing concrete examples of support: interventions had driven lasting change when augmented by strong commitment and an enabling policy environment at the national level; capacity-development initiatives at the regional level, especially the recent Codex workshops, had provided additional benefits in terms of enhanced participation. Priority areas for greater capacity development included: food import control risk profiling; the use of the food control system assessment tool; good hygienic practices for priority value chains; data generation on food consumption to support risk assessment as well as national decision-making; and technical laboratory capacities.

143. Delegates welcomed the new approach of covering this agenda item as a side event.

Conclusion

144. The Commission took note of the information provided.

FAO/WHO CODEX TRUST FUND 2017 ANNUAL REPORT (Agenda Item 17)28

145. The Codex Trust Fund Administrator summarized the information provided, highlighting that: countries successful in Round 2 were preparing summary project documents to serve as the roadmaps for project implementation; and applications for Round 3 would be accepted between 15 August and 30 November 2018; eligible countries were encouraged to work early on applications. Additional donors, higher contributions and annual or multi-year contributions were needed.

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27 CX/CAC 18/41/18; Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev)
28 CX/CAC 18/41/19; CX/CAC 18/41/19 Add.1: Report of Side Event on FAO and WHO Capacity Development Activities (CRD33); Report of the Codex Trust Fund 5th Advisory Group Meeting(CRD26); Report of the side event on Enhancing Engagement in Codex – Examples from Codex Trust Fund supported countries (CRD36)
146. Responding to a query from one observer, the representative of WHO confirmed that the Codex Trust Fund did not accept contributions from the private sector.

147. Beneficiaries expressed their appreciation to donors and their commitment to the implementation of their projects.

**Conclusion**

148. The Commission took note of the information provided.

**REPORT OF THE DISCUSSION PANELS WITH IGOs AND NGOs (Agenda item 18)**

149. The Commission welcomed the new approach to this item and noted the interest of the Members on the chosen topic of food integrity and authenticity. The Commission also noted the information provided by observer organizations.

**ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS (Agenda item 19)**

150. The Commission elected the following persons to hold office from the end of its present Session to the end of the next regular (42nd) Session of the Commission:

- **Chairperson:** Mr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr. (Brazil)
- **Vice-Chairpersons:** Mr Purwiyatno Hariyadi (Indonesia)
  Ms Mariam Eid (Lebanon)
  Mr Steve Wearne (United Kingdom)

**DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING THE CHAIRPERSONS OF CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda item 20)**

151. The Commission confirmed the designation of the Host Governments (Appendix IX) as listed in CX/CAC18/41/22 and agreed to delete the footnote stating that CCPFV worked by correspondence only.

152. The Commission thanked the following former Chairpersons for their dedicated work for Codex over many years: Mr Junshi Chen (CCFA), Ms Pia Noble (CCNFSDU), Mr Gregory Read (CCFICS) and Mr Michel Thibier (CCGP).

**OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 21)**

*Endocrine-disrupting substances in foods*

153. The Commission:

(i) noted the issue raised by India in CRD4 relating to pesticides as endocrine disruptors;

(ii) further noted that CCPR50 could not recommend new work as the issue was broad and went beyond the mandate of the Committee but noted that India could raise the concern directly as a Member of CAC; and

(iii) further noted that India had revised its proposal based on the discussion at CCPR50 and could resubmit the proposal to CCPR as the relevant technical body.

**Organization of the Commission agenda**

154. The delegation of Cuba expressed concern that excessive time had been allocated to side events diminishing the time available for plenary discussion.

155. The delegation further clarified and confirmed that its position related to the time available on the agenda for productive discussion relative to the time available for side events, and noted its right as a Member to express its opinion to the Commission. Debate could not be concluded due to a lack of time.

156. The Codex Secretariat clarified that 22 hours had been dedicated to plenary discussion, which was more time than at previous CAC sessions, and that side events had not reduced that time.

157. The delegation of the Dominican Republic could not express its views due to time constraints.

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29 CX/CAC 18/41/20, CRD35, INF1-11
30 CX/CAC 18/41/21; Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev)
31 CX/CAC 18/41/22; Comments of the Dominican Republic (CRD19rev)
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

CHAIRPERSON - PRÉSIDENT - PRESIDENTE

Mr Guilherme Antonio Da Costa
Food Safety Expert
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministerios Bl.D-Ed. Sede 3 andar-Sala300
CEP: 70043-900
Brazilia
Brazil
Email: guilherme.costa@agricultura.gov.br

Assistant to the Chairperson - Assistant du Président - Asistente del Presidente

Mr Rafael Guimaraes Requiao
Secretaria de Relações Internacionais do Agronegócio
Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento
Brasilia
Brazil
Tel: +55 (61) 3218 2510
Email: rafael.requiaoa@agricultura.gov.br

VICE-CHAIRPERSONS – VICE-PRÉSIDENTS – VICEPRESIDENTES

Prof Purwiyatno Hariyadi
National Codex Committee of Indonesia
Southeast Asian Food and Agricultural Science and Technology (SEAFAST) Center
Bogor Agricultural University
IPB Campus, Dramaga
Bogor
Indonesia
Tel: +62 811110351
Email: phariyadi@apps.ipb.ac.id

Ms Mariam Eid
Head of Department
Agro-Industries Department
Codex Alimentarius
Lebanon
Tel: 009613567542
Email: meid@agriculture.gov.lb

Mr Steve Wearne
Director of Policy and Science
UK Food Standards Agency
Clive House 70 Petty France
London
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 7795 353580
Email: steve.wearne@food.gov.uk
ANGOLA
Dr Paulina Semedo
Presidente do Codex Angola
Ministério do Comércio - Instituto Nacional de Defesa do Consumidor
Codex-Angola
Largo António Jacinto, Ministério da Agricultura
Luanda, Angola
Tel: 926494178
Email: codexangola@yahoo.com.br
Mr Carlos Alberto Amaral
Représentant Permanent Adjoint de l'Angola auprès des Agences des Nations Unies à Rome
Permanent Representation of Angola
Email: repfao@embangola.com
Eng José Carlos Da Silva Bettencourt
Directeur National
Direcção Nacional da Agricultura e Ponto Focal do Codex-Angola
Ministério da Agricultura - Codex-Angola
Rua Comandante Jika, Largo António Jacinto
Luanda, Angola
Email: codexangola@yahoo.com.br
Dr Maria De Fátima Da Conceicao De Melo
Secretaria Executiva
Direcção Nacional de Agricultura e Pecuária
Codex-Angola / Ministério da Agricultura
Largo António Jacinto-Ministério da Agricultura
Luanda, Angola
Tel: +244 924 05 26 40
Email: ftmamelo@yahoo.com.br
Mr Ângelo Do Rosário Rafael
Représentant Permanent Suppléant de l'Angola auprès des Agences des Nations Unies à Rome
Permanent Representation of Angola
Email: repfao@embangola.com
Dr Lidia Morais
2ª Secretária Executiva Adjunta do Codex
Serviços de Saúde do EMG-FAA
Codex-Angola/Ministério da Defesa Nacional
Largo António Jacinto-Ministério da Agricultura e Florestas
Luanda, Angola
Tel: +244 923 31 66 78
Email: codexangola@yahoo.com.br

Mr Franco Gamboa Cardoso
Assistant Multilatéral do Sector Commercial de l'Ambassade de la République de l'Angola en Italie
Permanent Representation of Angola
Email: repfao@embangola.com

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINA
Ms Gabriela Catalani
Punto Focal Codex
Ministerio de Agroindustria
Azopardo 1025
CABA, Argentina
Tel: 4363 6383
Email: gacatalani@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE
Ms Fran Freeman
First Assistant Secretary
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
Canberra, Australia
Tel: +61262724747
Email: fran.freeman@agriculture.gov.au
Mr Mark Booth
Chief Executive Officer
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
15 Lancaster Place
Majura, Australia
Tel: +61 2 6272 2222
Email: mark.booth@foodstandards.gov.au
Ms Rosemary Navarrete
advisor Agriculture
Australia Embassy
Email: rosemary.navarrete@dfat.gov.au
Ms Cathrine Stephenson
Deputy Perm Rep
Australia Embassy
Email: cathrine.stephenson@dfat.gov.au

AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE
Mrs Bettina Brandtner
Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism
Stubenring 1
Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43 1 71100-606713
Email: bettina.brandtner@bmnt.gv.at
Mrs Claudia Andresek  
Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism  
Stubenring 1  
Vienna  
Austria  
Tel: +43 (1) 71100 602353  
Email: claudia.andresek@bmnt.gv.at

Mr Robert Dautzenberg  
Policy Officer  
Council of the Union  
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union  
Rue de la Loi, 175  
Bruxelles  
Belgium  
Email: robert.dautzenberg@consilium.europa.eu

Mr Alexander Rogge  
Policy Officer  
Council of the Union  
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union  
Rue de la Loi, 175  
Bruxelles  
Belgium  
Email: alexander.rogge@consilium.europa.eu

Mrs Lisa-Maria Urban  
Deputy Head of Department  
Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection  
Radetzkystraße 2  
Vienna  
Austria  
Tel: +43171100644793  
Email: lisa-maria.urban@bmg.gv.at

AZERBAIJAN - AZERBAİDJAN - AZERBAIYÁN

Mr Fuad Mardiyev  
Deputy Head of International Relations and Protocol Department  
International Relations and Protocol  
Food Safety Agency of The Republic of Azerbaijan  
Heydar Aliyev ave. 152  
Baku  
Azerbaijan  
Tel: +994518088080  
Email: mardiyevluad@gmail.com

BAHAMAS

Ms Rachel Williams  
Senior Microbiologist  
Marine Resources  
Ministry of Agriculture  
PO Box 3028  
Nassau  
Bahamas  
Tel: 242 361 3985  
Email: rachellwilliams@bahamas.gov.bs

BANGLADESH

Mr Manash Mitra  
Economic Counsellor  
Embassy of Bangladesh, Rome, Italy  
Economic Counsellor & APR to FAO, IFAD & WFP  
Via Antonio Bertoloni 14, 00197  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 39 06 808 2673  
Email: ecromebd2018@gmail.com

BARBADOS - BARBADE

Mrs Anthea Ishmael  
Director  
Barbados National Standards Institution  
Flodden Culloden Road  
St. Michael  
Barbados  
Tel: (246) 426 3870  
Email: aishmael@bnsi.com.bb

BELGIUM - BELGIQUE - BÉLGICA

Mr Carl Berthot  
General Advisor  
Food, Feed and other consumption products  
FPS Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment  
Eurostation - Place Victor Horta, 40 boîte 10  
Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: +3225247369  
Email: codex.be@health.belgium.be

Mr Johan Hallaert  
Directeur Politique Alimentaire  
FEVIA - Fédération de l’industrie alimentaire  
Rue de la science, 14  
Bruxelles  
Belgium  
Tel: +3225501760  
Email: jh@fevia.be

Mr Luc Ogiers  
Director  
General directorate international economy  
FPS Economy, SME  
Rue du Progrès, 50  
Bruxelles  
Belgium  
Tel: +3222777481  
Email: luc.ogiers@economie.fgov.be

BENIN - BÉNIN

Dr Françoise Assogba Komlan  
Secrétaire Générale du Ministère  
Ministère de l’Agriculture, de l’Elevage et de la Pêche  
Cotonou  
Benin  
Tel: 00229 95054105  
Email: fassogbakomlan@gmail.com
Mr Egnon Jacques Hougbenou Houngla  
Animateur du Secrétariat Permanent du Comité National du Codex Alimentarius, Directeur de l'Alimentation et de la Nutrition Appliquée  
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de la Pêche  
Tokpota  
Porto-Novo  
Benin  
Tel: 00229 94413013  
Email: jacques75@yahoo.fr

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) – BOLIVIE (ÉTAT PLURINATIONAL DE) – BOLIVIA (ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE)

Mr Yecid Ramiro Humacayo Morales  
Director General de Promoción de la Salud  
Ministerio de Salud  
Plaza del Estudiante S/N  
La Paz  
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)  
Tel: (591) 72490136  
Email: yhumacayo@minsalud.gob.bo

Mr Carlos Aparicio Vedia  
Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario  
Embajada de Bolivia en Italia  
Via Brenta 2a, int. 18, 00198  
Roma  
Italy  
Tel: (39-06) 8841001.8  
Email: infobolit@yahoo.it

Ms Thania Huayllani Arcayne  
Gerente Administrativo Financiero  
Sindan Organic  
Av. Arica Nº 777 Zona Senkata El Alto  
La Paz  
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)  
Tel: (591) 2851220  
Email: thania@sindanorganic.com.bo

Mr Carlos Renato Pucci Salvietti  
Vice Presidente  
Comité Nacional Del Codex Alimentarius  
Calle 10 de Obrajes  
La Paz  
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)  
Tel: (591) 2786072  
Email: renopucci@gmail.com

Mr Carlos Javier Suarez Cornejo  
Jefe De Unidad de Negociaciones Comerciales  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores Bolivia  
La Paz  
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)  
Tel: (591) 73077749  
Email: csuarezcornejo@gmail.com

Ms Mariana Marton  
Coordinator for Codex Alimentarius Matters  
Agriculture and Commodities Division  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco H  
BRASILIA  
Brazil  
Tel: 55 61 2030-8927  
Email: mariana.marton@itamaraty.gov.br

Mrs Gianina Müller Pozzebon  
Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, WFP and IFAD  
Email: gianina.pozzebon@itamaraty.gov.br

Mrs Antonia Maria De Aquino  
Manager of Special Products  
Nacional Health Surveillance Agency – Anvisa/MS  
SIA Trecho 5 – Área Especial 57 – Bloco D – 2º andar – CEP: 71205-050  
Brasilia  
Brazil  
Tel: + 55 61 3462 6514  
Email: Antonio.maria@anvisa.gov.br

Mrs Suzany Portal Da Silva Moraes  
Health Regulation Specialist  
Coordination of International Liaison and Regulatory Convergence  
Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency - ANVISA  
Email: suzany.moraes@anvisa.gov.br
Mr André Luis Santos
Chair of the Brazilian Codex Alimentarius Committee
National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology
Rua Santa Alexandria, 416 - 9º andar - Rio Comprido
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil
Tel: +55 21 2563-5543
Email: alsantos@inmetro.gov.br

Mr Rogério Silva
Coordinator for Codex Alimentarius Matters
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco D, Edifício Sede, Sala 349
Brasília
Brazil
Tel: +55 61 3218-3475
Email: rogerio.silva@agricultura.gov.br

BULGARIA - BULGARIE
Dr Galya Kostadinova
Head of department “Food safety”
Policies on agri-food chain directorate
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
Sofia Blvd. “Hristo Botev” 55,
Sofia
Bulgaria
Tel: 00 359 2 985 11 306
Email: GKostadinova@mzh.government.bg

BURKINA FASO
Mr Cyrille Sansan Regis Kambire
Intérim Point de Contact Codex Burkina/ Ingénieur Technologie Alimentaire
Direction de la Protection des Végétaux et du Conditionnement/DPVC
Ministère en charge de l’Agriculture
Direction de la Protection des Végétaux et du Conditionnement/DPVC Ouagadougou, zone du Bois Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso
Tel: +22670890010
Email: cyrille_kam@yahoo.fr

CAMEROON - CAMEROUN - CAMERÚN
Mr Charles Booto à Ngon
Directeur Général de l’ANOR
Direction générale
Agence des Normes et de la Qualité
B.P. 16966, rue 1792 Bestus
Yaoundé
Cameroon
Tel: 00237 222206368
Email: bootoagon@yahoo.fr

Mr Medi Moungui
Représentant Permanent Adjoint auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République du Cameroun
Rome
Italy
Email: medimoungui@yahoo.fr

Mr Awal Mohamadou
Sous-Directeur de la Programmation et d'Homolagation des Normes
Direction Générale
Agence des Normes et de la Qualité
Yaoundé
Cameroon
Tel: +237 699420780
Email: moawalin@yahoo.fr

Mr Pouedo Pouedogo
Services du Premier Ministre
Cameroon
Tel: (+237) 69 89 77 33
Email: pouedo@yahoo.com

Mr Indongo Yves Laret
Directeur du Développement de la Qualité
Ministère des mines, de l'Industrie et du Développement Technologique
Cameroon
Tel: (+237) 222 220825
Email: indyllaret@gmail.com

CANADA - CANADÁ
Ms Jennifer Hughes Doucet
Manager, International Affairs
Health Canada
Bureau of Policy, Intergovernmental and International Affairs
251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway, 408C (AL 2204D)
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
Tel: 613-948-8275
Email: Jennifer.HughesDoucet@Canada.ca

Ms Jennifer Fellows
Alternate Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the UN
via Zara, 30
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06854443603
Email: Jennifer.Fellows@international.gc.ca

Ms Pamela Harrod
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Dairy Farmers of Canada
21 Florence Street
Ottawa, ON
Canada
Tel: 613-236-9997 ext.2755
Email: Pamela.Harrod@dfc-plc.ca
Ms Nancy Ing
Regulatory Policy & Risk Management Specialist
International and Interagency Affairs and Codex
Contact Point
Health Canada
251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway, Tunneys Pasture
Mail Stop 2204C Floor 4
Ottawa
Canada
Tel: 613 941-5163
Email: nancy.ing@canada.ca

Ms Mae Johnson
Director
Bureau of Policy, Intergovernmental and International Affairs
Health Canada, Government of Canada
251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway AL 2204C
Ottawa
Canada
Tel: 613 957-8417
Email: Mae.Johnson2@Canada.ca

Mrs Kathy Twardek
Director, Consumer Protection and Market Fairness Division
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1400 Merivale Road, Tower 2, Floor 6
Ottawa
Canada
Tel: 613-773-5489
Email: Kathy.Twardek@canada.ca

Mrs Alison Wereley
Senior Policy Analyst, International Affairs and Market Access Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1400 Merivale Road, Tower 1, Floor 4
Ottawa
Canada
Tel: 613-773-6450
Email: Alison.Wereley@canada.ca

Mr Brent Wilson
Deputy Director
Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
1305 Baseline Road, Tower 5, Floor 5 Room 347
Ottawa
Canada
Tel: 613-773-1651
Email: Brent.wilson@agr.gc.ca

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - CENTRAFRIQUE, REP - CENTROAFRICANA,REPUBLICA
Dr Ernest Lango-Yaya
Chef d'Unité de Microbiologie
Ministère de la Santé
Laboratoire National de Biologie Clinique et de la Santé Publique
BP: 1426, Bangui République Centrafricaine
Bangui
Central African Republic
Tel: +236 75044605
Email: elangoyaya@gmail.com

CHILE - CHILI
Mrs Nuri Gras Rebolledo
Secretaria Ejecutiva
Chilean Food Safety and Quality Agency, ACHIPIA
Ministerio de Agricultura
17 Nueva York, piso 4
Santiago
Chile
Tel: 56 22 7979900
Email: nuri.gras@achipia.gob.cl

Mr Diego Varela
Coordinator
Agencia Chilena para la Inocuidad y Calidad Alimentaria, ACHIPIA
Ministerio de Agricultura
Calle Nueva York 17, piso 4
Santiago
Chile
Tel: 56 2 27979900
Email: diego.varela@achipia.gob.cl

Ms Roxana Vera Muñoz
Coordinadora Unidad de Acuerdos Internacionales
División de Asuntos Internacionales, Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero, SAG
Ministerio de Agricultura
Bulnes 140, piso 5.
Santiago
Chile
Tel: 56 22 3451167
Email: roxana.vera@achipia.gob.cl

Ms Margarita María Vigneaux Roa
Asesora Asuntos Multilaterales
Embajada de Chile en Italia
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Viale Liegi 21, 00198 Roma
Italy
Tel: + 39 06 844091
Email: mvigneaux@minrel.gob.cl
CHINA - CHINE

Mr Jinfeng Liu
Director
National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China
No.1 Xizhimenwainan Rd. Xicheng District Beijing City
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-68792382
Email: liujf@nhfpc.gov.cn

Ms Lu Bai
Deputy Director
Import and Export Food Safety of General Administration of Customs, P.R.China
No.6 Jiangoumennei Avenue, Dongcheng District, Beijing
China
Tel: 010-65195635
Email: FSI@customs.gov.cn

Ms Hao Ding
Assistant Researcher
China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment
203,No.2 Building, No.37 Guangqu Road, Chaoyang district
Beijing
China
Tel: 0086-1052165407
Email: dinghao@cfsa.net.cn

Mr Hongyan Dong
Division Director
Bureau of Quality and Safety Supervision for Agro-products
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China
No.11 Nong Zhanguan Nanli, 100125
Beijing
China
Tel: +86 10 59193164
Email: scszlb@agri.gov.cn

Mr Baotong Duan
Principal staff
Standardization Administration of P.R.China
No.9 Madiandonglu, Haidian District 100088
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-82262627
Email: duanbt@sac.gov.cn

Mr Yongxiang Fan
Researcher
China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment
203,No.2 Building, No.37 Guangqu Road, Chaoyang, Beijing
China
Tel: 0086-1052165410
Email: fanyongxiang@cfsa.net.cn

Mr Yuk Ching Alex Fu
Senior Medical Officer
Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, HKSAR Government
45/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong
Hong Kong
China
Tel: (852)28675420
Email: ayCF@fehd.gov.hk

Ms Fang Gao
Agronomist
China Codex Contact Point
Center for Agro-food Quality and Safety, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-59198571
Email: 154354062@qq.com

Mr Guoqiang Gong
Division Chief
National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China
No.1 Xizhimenwainan Rd. Xicheng District Beijing City
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-68792985
Email: gonggg@nhfpc.gov.cn

Mr Gang Han
Director Doctor
Quality and Standard Research Center
Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences
No.150 Qingta, South Yongding Rd, Beijing
China
Tel: +86 10-68671004
Email: hangang@cafs.ac.cn

Ms Lihua Hao
Associate Professor
China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control
No.8 Zhongguancun South Street, Beijing
China
Tel: 010-62103930
Email: hlh060328@163.com

Mr Yuk Yin Ho
Controller
Center for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, HKSAR Government
45/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong
Hong Kong
China
Tel: 28675500
Email: vyho@fehd.gov.hk
Mr Man Ho Jai  
Senior Veterinary Officer  
Center for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, HKSAR Government  
3/F, 4 Hospital Road, Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong  
Hong Kong, China  
Tel: 39622061  
Email: jmhai@fehd.gov.hk

Ms Xiaoxi Ju  
Researcher  
Division of Risk Assessment  
Food Safety Centre, IACM, Macao S.A.R.  
Rua Nova da Areia Preta No.52  
Macao S.A.R.  
China  
Tel: 853-82969890  
Email: xxju@iacm.gov.mo

Ms Ruoxin Liao  
Research associate  
Public Monitoring Center for Agro-product of Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences  
Room 323, Chuangxin Building, Jinying Road No.20, Guangzhou Tianhe District, Guangdong Province, China  
Tel: 020-85161829  
Email: stacie891116@126.com

Ms Ka Ming Ma  
Scientific Officer  
Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environment Hygiene Department, HKSAR Government  
3/F, 4 Hospital Road, Hong Kong  
Hong Kong, China  
Tel: (852)39622064  
Email: jkmma@fehd.gov.hk

Ms Hoi Chi Sou  
Division Director  
Division of Risk Assessment  
Food Safety Centre, IACM, Macao S.A.R.  
Rua Nova da Areia Preta No.52, Macao S.A.R.  
Macao S.A.R.  
China  
Tel: 853-82969931  
Email: hcsou@iacm.gov.mo

Mr Liangjun Wan  
Professor  
Standard Center for Agro-food Quality and Safety, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
Beijing, China  
Tel: 010-59198527  
Email: 309419693@qq.com

Mr Yongting Wang  
Assistant of the Director General  
China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment  
No.2 Building, No.37 Guangqu Road, Chaoyang district, Beijing, China  
Tel: 0086-1052165500  
Email: wangyongting@cfsa.net.cn

Mr Ruichen Wei  
Associate Researcher  
Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition, Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences  
50 Zhongling Street, Nanjing 210014, China  
Tel: 025-84391617  
Email: weiruicheng@126.com

Ms Lan Wu  
Section Chief  
Guangzhou Customs of the P.R.C  
66 Huacheng Avenue, Zhujiang New City, Tianhe District, Guangzhou, China  
Guangzhou, China  
Tel: 020-38297960  
Email: 4903572941@qq.com

Ms Ru Xu  
Section Chief  
China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment  
No.2 Building, No.37 Guangqu Road, Chaoyang district, Beijing, China  
Tel: 0086-52165520  
Email: xuru@cfsa.net.cn
Mr Donghui Xu
Professor
The Institute of Vegetables and Flowers
Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences
Zhongguancun South Street, Haidian District 12
Beijing
China
Tel: 010-82106963
Email: xudonghui@caas.cn

Mr Guibiao Ye
Professor/Director, CCPR Secretariat
Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture
Room 904, Building No. 18, Maizidian Street, Chaoyang, 100125
Beijing
China
Tel: +86 10 59194302
Email: yeguibiao@agri.gov.cn

Mr Zonghui Yuan
Professor
Huazhong Agricultural University
Institute of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals, Shizishan Street, Hongshan Wuhan, Hubei 430070
China
Tel: +86 027-87287186
Email: yuan5802@mail.hzau.edu.cn

COLOMBIA - COLOMBIE
Dr Monica Fonseca Jaramillo
Ministro Consejero
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Via Giuseppe Pisanelli, 4 - 00196 Roma – Italia
Colombia
Tel: 39 06 3612131 - 06 3614348 - 0
Email: monica.fonseca@cancilleria.gov.co

Dr Maria Camila Sierra Restrepo
Primera Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Via Giuseppe Pisanelli, 4 - 00196 Roma – Italia
Roma
Colombia
Tel: 39 06 3612131 - 06 3614348 - 0
Email: maria.sierra@cancilleria.gov.co

Congo
Mr Marc Mankoussou
Representante Permanent Suppleant FAO
Embassy of Congo
Email: mankoussouk@yahoo.fr

Costa Rica
Mrs Tatiana Cruz Ramirez
Chief of Codex Department of Costa Rica
Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce
San José, Llorente de Tibas
Costa Rica
Tel: (506) 2549-1495
Email: tcruz@meic.go.cr

Mr Pablo J Innecken Zúñiga
Segundo Secretario de la Misión en Roma
Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante los organismos de la ONU-Roma
Largo Ecuador 6, Roma Italia

Croatia
Mrs Tatjana KaraČić
Head of Department for Codex Alimentarius and Food Quality Standards
Department for Codex Alimentarius and Food Quality Standards, Directorate for Food and Phytosanitary Policy
Ministry of Agriculture
Ulica grada Vukovara 78 10000 Zagreb
Hrvatska/Croatia
Zagreb
Croatia
Tel: +385 1 6106 452
Email: tatjana.karacic@mps.hr

Mrs Iva Mraović
Senior Adviser
Department for Codex Alimentarius and Food Quality Standards, Directorate for Food and Phytosanitary
Ministry of Agriculture
Ulica grada Vukovara 78 10000 Hrvatska Zagreb
Croatia
Tel: +385 1 6109 440
Email: iva.mraovic@mps.hr

Cuba
Dr Hortensia Nancy Fernández Rodríguez
Directora General NC y Presidenta CNC
Punto Contacto Codex
Oficina Nacional de Normalización
Calle E Nro. 261 e/11 y 13 Vedado, La Habana
La Habana
Cuba
Tel: 537 8300879
Email: jefatura@ncnorma.cu

Mrs Rebeca Cutie Cancino
Deputy Permanent Representative
Cuban Embassy
Email: adjuntocuba@ecuitalia.it
Ing. Marileydy Herrera Olmo
Directora Calidad y Tecnología
Ministerio de la Industria Alimentaria
Ave. 41 Nro 4455 e/ 44 y 46 Playa
La Habana
Cuba
Tel: 537 2123939
Email: marileydy.herrera@minal.gob.cu

Mr. Gabriel Lahens Espinosa
Director de Regulaciones Técnicas y Control de la Calidad
Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera
Infanta Nro. 16 esquina 23
La Habana
Cuba
Tel: 537 8380364
Email: gabriel.lahens@mincex.cu

Dr. Mayra Martí Pérez
Jefa de Departamento de Higiene de los Alimentos y Nutrición
Dirección Nacional de Salud Ambiental del Ministerio de Salud Pública
Calle 23 e/ M y N. Edificio Soto, Vedado
La Habana
Cuba
Tel: 537 8330267
Email: mayra.marti@infomed.sld.cu

Mr. George F. Poulices
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the UN Agencies to Rome
Rome
Italy
Email: faoprcyp@tin.it

Mr Spyridon Ellinas
Agricultural Attaché/Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the UN Agencies, Rome
Permanent Representation to the UN Agencies
Rome
Italy
Email: faoprcyp@tin.it

Dr. Anna Kouppari
Chief Agricultural Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment
Strovolos
Cyprus
Tel: 0035799646858
Email: akouppari@da.moa.gov.cy

Mr. Christos Koupparis
Consultant
C Koupparis and Associates
Tel: 0035799646858
Email: akouppari@da.moa.gov.cy

CZECH REPUBLIC - Tchéque, République - Česka, República
Dr. Dana Triskova
Head of Food Chain Unit
Department of Foodstuffs
Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
Tesnov 17
Prague 1
Czech Republic
Tel: +420725772533
Email: dana.triskova@mze.cz

CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Mrs. Wroly Danielle Sepe
Représentante Permanente Suppléante de la Côte d'Ivoire auprès de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM
via di Santa Costanza 21-00198
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 0644258249
Email: cotedivoirerep@yahoo.com

Mr. Yapi Clément Aie
Directeur Général
Laboratoire National d'Essais de Qualité de Métrologie et d'Analyses (LANEMA)
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: (+225) 02 08 08 08
Email: clementaie@yahoo.fr

Mr. Bertin Anon
Directeur des Productions Vivrières et de la Sécurité Alimentaire
Point de Contact Codex Côte d'Ivoire
Direction des Productions Vivrières et de la Sécurité Alimentaire (DPVSA)
Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural
BP V82
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: (+225) 20 22 24 81/ (+225) 07 687194
Email: anonbertin@yahoo.fr; codexcotedivoire@gmail.com
Mr Comoe Marius Rodriguese Brou
Président
Conseil National des Organisations de Consommateurs de Côte d'Ivoire (CNOC-CI)
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: (+225) 05 38 09 37
Email: micopci@yahoo.fr

Mr Seydou Cisse
Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de la Côte d'Ivoire auprès de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM via di Santa Costanza 21-00198 Roma
Italy
Tel: +39 3396134069
Email: cotedivoirerep@yahoo.com

Prof Ardjouma Dembele
Directeur du Laboratoire National d'Appui au Développement Agricole (LANADA)
Laboratoire National d'Appui au Développement Agricole
04 B.P.504 Abidjan 04/COTE D'IVOIRE
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: (+225) 05 95 95 72
Email: ardjouma@yahoo.fr

Mr Kouadio Maxime Esso
Sous-Directeur de la Recherche Agricole
Direction des Productions Vivrières et de la Sécurité Alimentaire (DPVSA)
Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: (+225) 07 35 69 80
Email: kouadiomaxime2000@yahoo.fr

Mr Victor Éloi Kambou
Représentant Permanent Suppléant de la Côte d'Ivoire auprès de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM via di Santa Costanza 21-00198 Roma
Italy
Tel: +39 0644258249
Email: cotedivoirerep@yahoo.com

Dr Kouamé Kanga
Représentant Permanent Adjoint de la Côte d'Ivoire auprès de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM via di Santa Costanza 21-00198 Roma
Italy
Tel: +39 0644258249
Email: cotedivoirerep@yahoo.com

Mr Stanislas Dewinther Tape
Sous-Directeur de la Qualité et de la Formation au Laboratoire National d'Essais de Qualité de Métrologie et d'Analyses (LANEMA)
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: (+225) 03 37 87 06
Email: stantape@gmail.com

Mrs Niamkey Simone Yankson
Présidente du Réseau Ivoirien pour la Promotion de l'Alimentation Bio en Côte d'Ivoire (RIPAB-CI)
Réseau Ivoirien pour la Promotion de l'Alimentation Bio en Côte d'Ivoire (RIPAB-CI)
Abidjan

Côte d'Ivoire
Email: micopci@yahoo.fr

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA - REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DÉMOCRATIQUE DE CORÉE - REPÚBLICA POPULAR DEMOCRÁTICA DE COREA
Mr Song Chol Rim
Deputy Permanent Rep. to FAO
Embassy of Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Email: dprkembroma@outlook.com

DENMARK - DANEMARK - DINAMARCA
Mr Knud Østergaard
Head of Division
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Ministry of Environment and Food
Stationsparken 31
Glostrup
Denmark
Tel: +45 7227 6705
Email: koe@fvst.dk

Mr Jørgen Hald Christensen
CEO
Danish Dairy Board
AGRO FOOD PARK 13 8200 Aarhus N Denmark
Viby J
Denmark
Tel: +45 40408428
Email: jhc@lf.dk

Mr Jens Therkel Jensen
Deputy Head of Division of International Cooperation
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Ministry of Environment and Food
Stationsparken 31
Glostrup
Denmark
Email: jetj@fvst.dk

Mrs Linda Jensen
Chief Adviser
Danish Agriculture and Food Council
Axeltorv 3
Copenhagen V
Denmark
Tel: +45 33394350
Email: lmj@lf.dk
**DJIBOUTI**

Mr Mouharam Fouad Abdallah  
Directeur  
Direction du commerce intérieur et de la protection du consommateur  
Ministère du Commerce  
cité Ministérielle, Djibouti ville  
Djibouti  
Tel: +25377821194  
Email: marahuom@hotmail.com

Mr Kamil Ali Hassan  
Directeur  
Laboratoire National d’Analyse Alimentaire (LANAA)  
Ministère de l’Agriculture  
Terre plein du port de pêche  
Djibouti  
Djibouti  
Tel: 00253 77 82 34 34  
Email: kayskarim@gmail.com

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – DOMINICAINE, REPUBLIQUE – DOMINICANA, REPÚBLICA**

Mr Mario Arvelo  
Permanent Representative of Dominican Republic to FAO, IFAD and WFP  
Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to FAO, IFAD and WFP  
Lungotevere dei Sangallo 1, 00186  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 066875850  
Email: mario@marioarvelo.org

Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva  
Counsellor  
First Secretary, Alternate Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Dominican Republic to FAO, IFAD and WFP  
Email: liudmila.kuzmicheva@rdroma.org

Mrs María Cristina Laureano  
Primera Secretaria, Representante Alterna  
Mision Permanente Republica Dominicana FAO  
Lungotevere dei Sangallo 1  
Roma  
Italy  
Tel: 066875850  
Email: maria.laureano@rdroma.org

**ECUADOR - ÉQUATEUR**

Mr Francisco Xavier Suasti Salazar  
Subsecretario de Comercialización  
Subsecretaría de Comercialización  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería  
Av. Amazonas y Av. Eloy Alfaro  
Quito  
Ecuador  
Tel: 593 2 3960100  
Email: fusuasti@mag.gob.ec

**EGYPT - ÉGYPTE - EGIPTO**

Dr Ahmed Abdelbaset Aly Shalaby  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Egypt to UN Agencies based in Rome  
Agricultural Office  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Italy  
Via Salaria 267 – 00199 Rome  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 8548956  
Email: egypt@agroffegypt.it

Ms Nabila Mahmoud Mohamed Abdelhalim  
Commercial Minister Plenipotentiary  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Department: Economic & Commercial Affairs  
Salaria St. 267 – 00199 Rome  
Rome  
Tel: +39 06 85355092  
Email: rome@ecs.gov.eg

Eng Hanan Fouad Hamid Ibrahim Hashem  
Head of Food Standards Department  
Food Standards Dept  
Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality (EOS)  
16, Tadreeb EL-Modarrebeen St., Ameriyah  
Cairo  
Egypt  
Tel: +201228056795  
Email: hananfouad86@hotmail.com
Eng Ahmed Mohammed Elhelw  
Codex Contact Point for Egypt  
Food Standards Department  
Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality (EOS)  
16 Tadreeb AlMudarbeen St., AlAmeriah  
Cairo  
Egypt  
Tel: +201224083536  
Email: Ahmed.ELhelw@eos.org.eg

Prof Salaheldin Hussein Sayed Ahmed Abouraia  
Emeritus Professor  
Food Industries  
Faculty of Agriculture-Cairo University  
34 St. Tayba, El Dokki  
Giza  
Egypt  
Tel: +201223199931  
Email: aborayasalah1947@yahoo.com

Eng Elshahat Eltoukhy  
Technical Director  
Chamber of Food Industries (CFI)  
1195 Corniche el Nile St.  
Cairo  
Egypt  
Tel: +20225748627  
Email: selim_sh2002@egyfi.org.eg

Dr Nermee Khalifa  
SRA BU Manager  
Coca-Cola Atlantic Industries  
Nasr City, free zone Eight District  
Cairo  
Egypt  
Tel: +20222767132  
Email: nekhalifa@coca-cola.com

Eng Mohamed Rashed Amin Soliman  
Assistant Manager  
Regulatory Affairs  
Juhayna Food Industries  
43 11th District, St 7, 6th of October  
Giza  
Egypt  
Tel: +201001504272  
Email: Mohamed.rashid@juhayna.com

Eng Mostafa Ghonamy Kassem Borham  
Quality Control Specialist  
Control Assurance  
Food Industries Holding Co.  
1 AlSawah Square, Hadaeq Al Qubbah  
Cairo  
Egypt  
Tel: +201116622669  
Email: mghonamy2002@yahoo.com

EL SALVADOR  
Mrs Claudia Guzmán De López  
Especialista Codex  
Punto de Contacto Codex El Salvador  
Organismo Salvadoreño de Reglamentación Técnica  
1° calle poniente, Final 41 Avenida Norte, N°18  
San Salvador,  
San Salvador  
El Salvador  
Tel: 503-7841-7178  
Email: cguzman@osartec.gob.sv

Ms Maria A. Torres De Meillon  
Permanent Rep  
Embassy of El Salvador  
Email: mtorres@rree.gob.sv

Ms Mario Ghioldi  
Intern  
Embassy of El Salvador  
Email: marioghioldi@yahoo.it

ERITREA - ÉRYTHRÉE  
Mr Asmerin Kidane Tcleichiorghis  
Counselor  
Alternate Perm Rep of the state of Eritrea to FAO  
Email: asmeromk2016@gmail.com

ESTONIA - ESTONIE  
Ms Siret Surva  
Chief Specialist  
Food Safety Department  
Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia  
Lai tn 39 / Lai tn 41  
Tallinn  
Estonia  
Tel: (+372) 6256547  
Email: Siret.Surva@agri.ee

EUROPEAN UNION - UNION EUROPÉENNE - UNIÓN EUROPEA  
Mr Dirk Lange  
Head of Unit  
Health & Food Safety Directorate-General  
European Commission  
Rue Froissart 101  
BRUSSELS  
Belgium  
Tel: +32 229-52837  
Email: Dirk.Lange@ec.europa.eu

Mr Marco Castellina  
Administrator  
Health & Food Safety Directorate-General  
European Commission  
Rue Froissart 101  
Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: +32 229-87443  
Email: marco.castellina@ec.europa.eu
GERMANY - ALLEMANDE - ALEMANIA

Mr Niklas Schulze Icking
Deputy Head of Division
German Codex Contact Point
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Wilhelmstr. 54
Berlin
Germany
Tel: +4930185293515
Email: niklas.schulze-icking@bmel.bund.de

Ms Silke Fallah
Regulatory Affairs Manager
GNT Europa GmbH
Kackertstrasse 22
Aachen
Germany
Tel: +49 241 888 5 304
Email: sfallah@qnt-group.com

Ms Angelika Mrohs
Managing Director
German Federation for Food Law and Food Science
(BLL e.V.)
Claire-Waldoff-Straße 7
Berlin
Germany
Tel: +49 30 206 143-133
Email: amrohs@bll.de

Ms Marie-Luise Trebes
Chair of CCNFSDU
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Rochusstr. 1
Bonn
Germany
Tel: +49 228 99 529 3394
Email: CCNFSDU@bmel.bund.de

GHANA

Mrs Isabella Mansa Agra
Deputy Chief Executive (FID)
Food Inspection (FID)
Food and Drugs Authority
P.O.Box CT 2783 Cantonments
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233 244 337249
Email: isabella.agra@fdaghana.gov.gh ; agramansa@gmail.com

Dr Hayford Asiedu-Baah
Deputy Director
Veterinary Services Directorate
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233244857831
Email: asiedub@yahoo.com

Mr Michael Kwaw Assuah
Quality Control Manager
Quality Control Company, Ghana Cocoa Board
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233244514990
Email: m.k.assuah@gmail.com

Dr Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh
Deputy Managing Director (Operations)
Quality Control Company, Ghana Cocoa Board
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233260866413
Email: aedwomoh@gmail.com

Mr Andrew Amankwah Larrey
Codex Contact Point Manager
Food Standards Department
Ghana Standards Authority
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233542865000
Email: andrewlarrey@yahoo.com

Mr Joseph Jorie Mensah-Kane Jnr
Chief Revenue Officer
Customs Division
Ghana Revenue Authority
P. O. BOX 68
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233 208 155148
Email: jayjayme99@yahoo.com

Dr Reginald Nii Otoo Odai
Ag. Director for Research, Statistics and Information Management (RSIM)
Ministry of Health
P. O. Box M44 Accra, Ghana
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233205181059
Email: reggie_odai@yahoo.com

GREECE - GRECE - GRECIA

Mr Alexios Marios Lyberopoulos
Minister Counsellor
Embassy of Greece - Rome
Email: lyberopoulos.marios@mfa.gr
Ms Danai Papanastasiou  
Scientific Officer  
Nutrition Policy and Research Directorate  
Hellenic Food Authority  
124, Kifisias Ave & 2, Iatridou str  
Athens  
Greece  
Tel: 00302132145841  
Email: dpapanastasiou@efet.gr

GRENADA - GRENADE - GRANADA

Mr Thaddeaus Peters  
Pest Management Officer  
Pest Management Unit  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries & Land  
St. George’s  
Grenada  
Tel: 1-473-417-2398 / 1 473 440 0019  
Email: thaddeauspeters@gmail.com

GUATEMALA

Mr Nelson Antonio Ruano Garcia  
Director de Inocuidad y Punto de contacto Codex  
Viceministerio de Sanidad Agropecuaria y Regulaciones  
Ministerio de Agricultura Ganadería y Alimentación  
7ma Avenida 12-90 Zona 13 Guatemala  
Guatemala  
Tel: 502 55105490  
Email: mvnelsonru@yahoo.es ; nruano@maga.gob.gt

Mrs Sylvia Wohlers De Meie  
Representante Permanente Adjunta  
Embajada de Guatemala  
Via Giambattista Vico 20  
Roma  
Guatemala  
Tel: 00390636381143  
Email: swohlers@minex.gob.gt

GUINEA - GUINEE

Mr Djoumè Sangare  
Directeur Général  
Ministère de l'Industrie, des PME et de la Promotion du Secteur Privé  
Institut Guinéen de Normalisation et de Métrologie (IGNM)  
BP: Quartier Almamya- Rue: ka 003 Bat. No 819  
Conakry  
Guinea  
Tel: (224) 622 32 46 30  
Email: djoumsanga@gmail.com

Mr Mamady Toure  
Chef Division Normalisation; Secrétaire du CNC  
Ministère de l'Industrie, des PME et de la Promotion du Secteur Privé  
Institut Guinéen de Normalisation et de Métrologie (IGNM)  
Quartier Almamya- Rue 003 Bat.819  
Conakry  
Guinea  
Tel: (224) 628 58 12 80  
Email: touremady2016@gmail.com

GUYANA

Ms Camille Adams  
Senior Environmental Officer  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Ministry of the Presidency  
Email: caadamsepagy@gmail.com

HONDURAS

Ms Mirian Bueno Almendarez  
Sub Directora General de Inocuidad Agroalimentaria  
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad e Inocuidad Agroalimentaria  
SENASA  
Loma Linda Sur, Avenida la FAO, Boulevard Miraflores, Edificio de SENASA  
Tegucigalpa  
Honduras  
Tel: 504 22310786 ext. 228  
Email: mbueno@senasa.gob.hn

HUNGARY - HONGRIE - HUNGRÍA

Ms Rita Temesfalvi  
Head of Unit  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Kossuth tér 11.  
Budapest  
Hungary  
Tel: +36 30 682 6650  
Email: rita.temesfalvi@fm.gov.hu

Dr Andrea Zentai  
Food Safety Analyst  
System Management and Supervision Directorate  
National Food Chain Safety Office, CCMAS  
Kis Rókus utca 15/B  
Budapest  
Hungary  
Tel: 06-70-903-0606  
Email: zentaia@nebih.gov.hu
INDIA - INDE
Mr Ashish Bahuguna
Chairperson
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
FDA Bhawan, Near Bal Bhawan
New Delhi
India
Tel: 011-23220991
Email: chairperson@fssai.gov.in
Mr Sunil Bakshi
Advisor
(Codex / Regulations)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
FDA Bhawan, Near Bal Bhawan
New Delhi
India
Tel: +91-11-23237439
Email: sbakshi@fssai.gov.in
Mr Perumal Karthikeyan
Assistant Director (Codex and Regulations)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
FDA Bhawan Near Bal Bhavan Kotla Road
New Delhi
India
Tel: 91-11- 23237419
Email: baranip@yahoo.com
Mr Parmod Siwach
Assistant Director (T)
Export Inspection Council of India
3rd Floor, NDYMCA Cultural Centre Building, 1, Jai Singh Road
New Delhi
India
Tel: +91123341263
Email: tech5@eicindia.gov.in

INDONESIA - INDONÉSIE
Dr Penny Kusumastuti Lukito
Chairperson
National Agency For Drug and Food Control, the Republic of Indonesia
Percetakan Negara Street No. 23
Central Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +62811 163 289
Email: tukepalabadanpom@gmail.com
Mr Kukuh Syaefudin Achmad
Deputy Director General for Standard Implementation and Accreditation
Standard Implementation and Accreditation
National Standardization Agency of Indonesia
Menara Thamrin Building, 11th Floor M.H. Thamrin Street No. 8
Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +6221 3927422
Email: kukuhs@bsn.go.id
Mrs Diana Emilla Sari Sutikno
Head of Bureau for Cooperation
Bureau for Cooperation
National Agency for Drug and Food Control
Percetakan Negara Street No. 23
Central Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +6281281795473
Email: dianaemillas@gmail.com

Mr Singgih Harjanto
Head of Division for Standard Implementation
Center for Standard Application System
National Standardization Agency of Indonesia
BPPT 1 Building, 10th Floor Jl. M.H. Thamrin No. 8, Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +6221 3927422
Email: singgih@bsn.go.id
Ms Anna Melianawati
Head of Division for Agricultural, Food and Health
Center for Standard Development
National Standardization Agency of Indonesia
BPPT 1 Building, 14th Floor Jl. M.H. Thamrin No. 8, Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +6221 3927422
Email: anna@bsn.go.id
Ms Eni Nurkhayani
Assistant Deputy Director of Food Safety Control
Centre for Consumption Diversification and Food Safety
Ministry Of Agriculture
The Headquarter of the Ministry of Agriculture Building e, 6th floor j1. Harsono rm no. 3 ragunan South Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 7806708
Email: eni.nurkhayani@yahoo.co.id
Ms Okki Ayu Oktia
Analyst of International Cooperation
Bureau of Public Relation and Strategic Support
National Agency For Drug and Food Control, the Republic of Indonesia
Percetakan Negara Street No. 23
Central Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +62817 3436 838
Email: okki.oktria91@gmail.com
Ms Mauizzati Purba
Director of Processed Food Standardization
Directorate of Processed Food Standardization
National Agency of Drug and Food Control
Percetakan Negara Street No. 23
Central Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: +6221 42875584
Email: codexbpm@ yahoo.com
Mr Alex Sander  
Head of NADFC Provincial Office in Serang  
NADFC Provincial Office in Serang  
National Agency for Drug and Food Control  
Syech Nawawi Al-Bantani Street  
Serang  
Indonesia  
Tel: +6285271274302  
Email: alexandersfarmapt@yahoo.co.id

Ms Tri Agustin Satriani  
Director of Centre for Consumption Diversification and Food Safety  
Agency for Food Security  
Ministry of Agriculture  
The Headquarter of the Ministry of Agriculture Building e, 6th floor jl. Harsono RM NO. 3 Ragunan  
South Jakarta  
Indonesia  
Tel: +62 21 7806708  
Email: trias27@yahoo.com

Ms Dyah Setyowati  
Head of Section of Food Standard Harmonization  
Directorate of Processed Food Standardization  
National Agency of Drug and Food Control  
Percetakan Negara Street No 23  
Central Jakarta  
Indonesia  
Tel: +6221 42875584  
Email: codexbpom@yahoo.com

Mrs Tety Helfery Sihombing  
Director  
Directorate of Food Control for High Risk and New Technology  
National Agency of Drug and Food Control  
Percetakan Negara Street No.23  
Central Jakarta  
Indonesia  
Tel: +62-21 4241781  
Email: tettybpom@gmail.com

Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait  
First Secretary, Alternate Permanent Representative  
Embassy of Indonesia in Rome  
Email: gustaf.sirait@kemlu.go.id

Dr Saeed Saadat  
Director General  
Ministry of Agriculture, environment and food safety office  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Email: s.saadat@areo.ir

Dr Mohammad Hossein Shojaee Alibadi  
Senior Scientific Adviser Institute of Standards & Industrial Research of IR AN & Director and Laboratory Manager Faroogh Life Sciences Research Laboratory  
Faroogh Life Sciences Research Laboratory  
No: 96; Parcham Street Tohid Square  
Teheran  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Tel: +0989121591766  
Email: farooglab@gmail.com

Mrs Soudabeh Yahyazadeh Langaroudi  
Deputy of ISIRI  
Institute of standard and industrial research of Iran (ISIRI)  
Tel: 02188654059  
Email: syahyazadeh@yahoo.com

Mrs Leila Zinatbakhsh  
Secretary, N.C.C. of IRAN, Head of Codex standards cooperation group  
Codex Secretariat of Iran  
Institute of Standards & Industrial Research of IRAN (ISIRI)  
P.O.BOX 14155-6139  
Tehran  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Tel: 00982188654059  
Email: codex_office@inso.gov.ir

IRELAND  -  IRLANDE  -  IRLANDA

Mr Richard Howell  
Head of Research & Codex Division  
Research & Codex  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Agriculture House Kildare Street Dublin 2  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: +353 1 6072572  
Email: richard.howell@agriculture.gov.ie

Dr Pamela Byrne  
CEO  
Food Safety Authority of Ireland  
The Exchange Georges Dock IFSC, Dublin 1  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: +353 1 8171315  
Email: pambyrne@fsai.ie
Mr Damien Kelly  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the  
United Nations Rome-based Agencies  
Embassy of Ireland  
Villa Spada, Via Giacomo Medici 1 – 00153  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 06 58523832  
Email: damien.kelly@dfa.ie

ITALY - ITALIE - ITALIA

Mr Ciro Impagnatiello  
Senior officer  
Department of the European Union and International  
Policies and of the Rural Development  
Ministry of agricultural food and forestry policies  
Via XX Settembre n. 20  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +390646654058  
Email: c.impagnatiello@politicheagricole.it

Dr Stefano Angotzi  
Ufficio 3° - Dirigente delle professionalità sanitarie – Medico  
Segretariato generale  
Ministero della Salute  
Viale Giorgio Ribotta, 5 Roma  
Italy  
Tel: +390659943710  
Email: s.angotzi@sanita.it

Mr Davide Bradanini  
First Secretary  
Permanent Representation of Italy to the UN  
Organizations in Rome  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International  
Cooperation  
Piazzalle della Farnesina, 1 - Rome  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 36915035  
Email: davide.bradanini@esteri.it

Ms Simona Antonella Lamorte  
Expert alcohol and wine sector  
Department of the European Union and International  
Policies and of the Rural Development  
Ministry of agricultural food and forestry policies  
Via XX Settembre n. 20  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +390646654121  
Email: sa.lamorte@politicheagricole.it

Mrs Elisabetta Lanzellotto  
International relations officer  
Department of the European Union and International  
Policies and of the Rural Development  
Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies  
Via XX Settembre, 20  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 46654109  
Email: e.lanzellotto@politicheagricole.it

Dr Pierdavide Lecchini  
Direttore Ufficio 3 del Segretariato Generale  
Segretariato generale  
Ministero della Salute  
Viale Giorgio Ribotta, 5 Roma  
Italy  
Tel: +39065991  
Email: s.magnino@izsler.it

Dr Simone Magnino  
Dirigente - Veterinario  
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell’Emilia Romagna “Bruno Ubertini”  
Strada Campeggi, 59 Pavia  
Italy  
Tel: +39 0382 422006 / 526529  
Email: simone.magnino@izsler.it

Mrs Silvia Nicoli  
Agronomo  
Department of the European Union and International  
Policies and of the Rural Development  
Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry  
Via XX Settembre, 20  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 0646654130  
Email: s.nicoli@politicheagricole.it

Ms Graziella Romito  
Director of International Relations Unit  
Department of the European Union and International  
Policies and of the Rural Development  
Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies  
Via XX Settembre, 20  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 46654143  
Email: g.romito@politicheagricole.it
JAMAICA - JAMAIQUE
Dr Suzan Mc Lennon-Miguel
Senior Veterinary Specialist (Public Health)
Veterinary Epidemiology, Public Health & Food Safety Unit
Ministry of Industry Commerce Agriculture & Fisheries (Veterinary Services Division)
193 Old Hope Road, Hope Gardens, Kingston 6, Jamaica, West Indies
Jamaica
Tel: 876-873-4828
Email: sdmclennon@micaf.gov.jm

JAPAN - JAPON - JAPÓN
Dr Yayoi Tsujiyama
Acting Director for International Standards Office
Food Safety Policy Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Japan
Tel: +81-3-3502-8732
Email: yayoi_tsujiyama170@maff.go.jp

Mr Yasuhiro Goto
Officer, Office of International Food Safety
Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Japan
Tel: +81-3-3595-2326
Email: codexj@mhlw.go.jp

Dr Eiji Harada
Director, Office of International Food Safety
Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Japan
Tel: +81-3-3595-2326
Email: codexj@mhlw.go.jp

Mr Koji Miura
Adviser
Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Japan
Tel: +81-3-3595-2326
Email: codexj@mhlw.go.jp

Ms Aya Orito-Nozawa
Section Chief
Food Safety Policy Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Japan
Tel: +81-3-3502-8732
Email: aya_orito460@maff.go.jp

Mr Yoshiaki Sakai
Technical Official, Office of International Food Safety
Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Japan
Tel: +81-3-3595-2326
Email: codexj@mhlw.go.jp

JORDAN - JORDANIE - JORDANIA
Dr Salah Al Tarawneh
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Rome based UN Agencies
Jordan Embassy - Rome
Via Giuseppe Marchi 1/B
Rome
Italy
Tel: + 3895040453-39
Email: roma@fm.gov.jo

KAZAKHSTAN - KAZAJSTÁN
Dr Nailiya Karsybekova
Coordinator
Ministry of Healthcare the Republic of Kazakhstan
Dostyk 18
Astana
Kazakhstan
Email: assem.smagul@gmail.com

Mrs Gaukhar Amirova
Technical expert
Codex Alimentarius
Ministry of Healthcare the Republic of Kazakhstan
Email: amirova.gauhar@gmail.com

Mr Kanat Balykbayev
General Director
RSE on RSM National center of Expertise Committee on public health protection Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Dostyk 18
Astana
Kazakhstan
Tel: +7 7172 55 49 04
Email: balykbaev@yahoo.com

Mr Askar Perneyev
Technical expert
Codex Alimentarius
Ministry of Health the Republic of Kazakhstan
Astana
Kazakhstan
Email: assem.smagul@gmail.com

Ms Aigerm Sadubayeva
Director
Department for control over technical regulations
Committee of the public health protection of the Ministry of health of RoK
Email: assem.smagul@gmail.com

Mrs Zhanar Tolysbayeva
Technical expert
Codex Alimentarius
Ministry of Healthcare the Republic of Kazakhstan
18 Dostyk ave, 8 floor, office 16
Astana
Kazakhstan
Tel: +77004981111
Email: assem.smagul@gmail.com

KENYA

Mr Harry Kimtai Kachuwai
Principal Secretary
State Department of Livestock
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation
Kilimo House, Cathedral Road
P. O. Box 34188-00100
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254721415721
Email: harry.kimtai@yahoo.com

Mrs Alice Okelo Onyango
FAO/WHO CCAfrica Coordinator Codex Contact Point
National standard development Bureau
Kenya Bureau of Standards
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 722268 225/+254206948303
Email: akothe@kebs.org

Dr Dr Allan Azegele
Deputy Director Veterinary Services
Laboratory
Directorate of Veterinary Service
Central Veterinary Services Research Laboratory,
Kabete Private Bag,00625 Kangemi
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254722968989
Email: ee_allan@yahoo.com

Mr Nicholas Otieno Ayore
Senior Assistant Director
Veterinary Services
Directorate of Veterinary Services
P.O. BOX Private Bag Kangemi
Nairobi
Kenya
Email: nicholasayore@gmail.com

Dr Kimutai William Maritim
FAO/WHO CCAfrica Coordinator Codex Contact Point
National standard development Bureau
Kenya Bureau of Standards
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254722601653
Email: kimutai@kdb.co.ke

Ms Lucy Muthoni Namu
Head, Quality Assurance & Laboratory Accreditation
Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254-020 661800
Email: lnamu@kephis.org

Mrs Margaret Jemutai Rugut
Managing Director
Dairy Board
P. O. Box 27113 Nairobi
Kenya
Email: kibogymr@kdb.co.ke

Dr Esther Wandia Njola Macharia Kimani
Managing Director
Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services
Oloolua Ridge, Off Ngong Road, P.O. Box 49592-00100,
Nairobi
Kenya
Email: director@kephis.org
Mrs Patricia Kimanthi
Manager
Communication
Kebs
54974
Nairobi
Kenya
Email: kimanthip@kebs.org

Ms Harriet Nduma
Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
Viale Luca Gaurico, 205
Rome
Italy
Email: info@embassyofkenya.it

Ms Anne Njoroge
Assistant Director
Agriculture and irrigation
State Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 30028
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 722825365
Email: wanjarogen@yahoo.com

Mr Samson Odera Ombok
Ag Director of Standard development and trade
Standard development and Trade
Kenya Bureau of Standards
P.O.Box 54974 Popo Road off Mombasa Road
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 020 6948000
Email: omboks@kebs.org

Mr Ombajo Peter Simon Opiyo
Chief Executive Officer
Pest Control Produce Board of Kenya
Pest Control Board Board
Box Number 13794
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 722 767647
Email: peteopiyo@yahoo.com

Dr Teresa Tumwet
Agriculture Attaché
Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
Viale Luca Gaurico 205
Rome
Italy
Email: teresatumwet@gmail.com

Mr Salah Al Bazzaz
Technical Adviser to the Permanent Representation of Kuwait
Email: mc8975@mclink.it

KYRGYZSTAN - KIRGHIZISTAN - KIRGUISTÁN

Mr Mukhamat Kaparov
Deputy Director
Center for Standardization and Metrology under The Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic
720040 197, Panfilov str. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Bishkek
Kyrgyzstan
Tel: +996 (770) 544077
Email: kaparov1964@gmail.com

Mrs Dinara Aitmurzaeva
Head of Division , CCP in Kyrgyzstan
Standardization Division
Center for Standardization and Metrology under The Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic
720040 197, Panfilov str. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Bishkek
Kyrgyzstan
Tel: +996 (770) 540126
Email: aytmurzaeva@nism.gov.kg

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - LAOS

Mr Somthavy Changvisommid
Director General
Food and drug Department
Ministry of Health, Lao PDR
Simouang road, MOH building
Vientiane
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Tel: +856-21-214013-14
Email: csomthavy_fdd@yahoo.com

Mr Khamsone Sysanhouth
manager
Nothern Upland program
Ministry of Agriculture and forestry
Patuxay square, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
P.O.Box: 811
Vientiane
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Tel: +856-2055515141
Email: sysanhouth@yahoo.com

Mrs Viengxay Vansilalom
Director
Food control division
Ministry of Health
simouang road, MOH building
vientiane
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Tel: +856-21-214013-14
Email: vvensilalom@gmail.com

LATVIA - LETTONIE - LETONIA

Mrs Olga Orlova
Councellor
Permanent Representation of Latvia to the EU
Avenue des Arts 23
Brussels
Belgium
Email: olga.orlova@mfa.gov.lv

LIBERIA - LIBÉRIA

Mr A. Haruna-Rashid Kromah
First Secretary
Embassy of Liberia in Rome
Italy
Email: ahrk510@yahoo.com
Mr Stephen Mambu  
Head of delegation, Head of the Codex-Liberia Secretariat  
National Standards Laboratory of Liberia  
Email: smamba@moci.gov.lr

Mrs Olivia Tabi  
intern of the Embassy of the Republic of Liberia  
Piazzalle delle Medaglie d'oro 7, 00136 Roma  
Email: ambaliberia.roma@gmail.com

Mr Dehwehn Omarley Yeabah  
National Codex Committee  
Ministry of Health-Liberia  
Liberia  
Email: doyeabah@yahoo.com

Dr Indre Makarskiene  
Chief Expert  
Nutrition and Physical Activity Division, Public Health Department  
Ministry of Health  
Vilniaus str. 33  
Vilnius  
Lithuania  
Tel: +370 5 219 3337  
Email: indre.makarskiene@sam.lt

Ms Marie-Lise Stoll  
Attachée  
Embassy of Luxembourg  
Email: marie-lise.stoll@mae.etat.lu

Dr Kanga Rani Selvaduray  
Head of Nutrition Unit  
Product Development and Advisory Services Division  
Malaysia Palm Oil Board  
No 6, Persiaran Institut Bandar Baru Bangi  
Kajang, Selangor  
Malaysia  
Tel: +603-87694216  
Email: krani@mpob.gov.my
Mali
Dr Diakité Oumou Soumana Maiga
Directrice Générale
Ministère de la Santé et de l’Hygiène Publique
Agence Nationale de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments
Centre Commercial, Quartier du Fleuve BPE :2362
Bamako
Mali
Tel: +223 66741504 /+223 20220747
Email: dkiteoumou24@yahoo.fr

Mr Mahmoud Abdoul Camara
Chargé du Service Central de Liaison du Codex pour le Mali
Ministère de la Santé et de l’Hygiène Publique
Agence Nationale de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments
Centre Commercial, Rue 305 Quartier du Fleuve BPE: 2362 Bamako
Bamako
Mali
Tel: +223 79293458
Email: scodexmali@yahoo.fr

Mauritania
Prof Mohamed Abdellahi Bollahi
Directeur et Point Focal National
Comité National du Codex Alimentarius
Institut National de Recherches en Santé Publique
Rue Gemal Abd Nasser
Nouakchott
Mauritania
Email: bollahi@yahoo.com

Eng Lekweiri Haiba Legrae
Secrétariat du Comité National du Codex
Laboratoire de Controle Qualité des Aliments et CNC
Institut National de Recherches en Santé Publique
Rue Gemal Abd Nasser
Nouakchott
Mauritania
Tel: 0022246231073
Email: lekwoiry86@yahoo.fr

Dr Hamed Sidi Mohamed
Représentant Permanent de la République Islamique de Mauritanie auprès de la FAO/PAM/IFAD à Rome
Email: info@ambamauritanieitaly.it

Mexico
Mr Mohamed Teyib Diye
Représentant Permanent Suppléant
Représentant Permanent de la République Islamique de Mauritanie auprès de la FAO/PAM/IFAD à Rome
Email: info@ambamauritanieitaly.it
Mr Benito Santiago Jimenez Sauma  
Representante Alterno  
Embajada de Mexico  
Via Lazzaro Spallanzani  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: bjemenez@sre.gob.mx

Mr César Osvaldo Orozco Arce  
Director de Normatividad Internacional y Agroindustria  
Dirección General de Normas  
Secretaría de Economía  
Puente de Tecamachalco no. 6 Col. Lomas de Tecamachalco, Naucalpan de Juárez  
Edo. de Mex  
Mexico  
Tel: +52 (55) 5229-6100 Ext.43247  
Email: cesar.orozco@economia.gob.mx

Mrs Khadija Kadiri  
Chef du service de la Normalisation et du Codex Alimentarius  
Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des produits Alimentaires  
Apt 22, IMM 8AD, El Massira II, CYM  
Rabat  
Morocco  
Tel: +212 6 61 40 98 47  
Email: kadirik7@gmail.com

Prof Rachid Aboutayeb  
Researcher  
Agriculture  
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)  
Centre Régional de la Recherche Agronomique de Settat  
Morocco  
Email: rachid.engineer@gmail.com

Mr Rachid Tadili  
Chef du Département des Etudes et Prospection  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime  
Etablissement Autonome de Contrôle et de Coordination des Exportations  
72, Angle Boulevard Mohamed Smiha et rue Mohamed EL Baâmrani  
Casablanca  
Morocco  
Tel: +212 6 61 40 98 47  
Email: tadili@eacce.org.ma

Mr El Houssine Yassine  
Chef de section  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime  
Laboratoire Officiel d'Analyses et de Recherches Chimiques  
25, Rue Nichakra Rahal  
Casablanca  
Morocco  
Tel: 0522302007  
Email: loarcassine@gmail.com

Ms Ana Viloria  
Senior Policy Officer  
Nutrition, Health Protection and Prevention Department  
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport  
The Hague  
Netherlands  
Email: ai.viloria@minvws.nl

Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Email: merome2010@gmail.com

Mrs Aye Aye San  
Alternative Permanent Representative  
Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Email: merome2010@gmail.com

Dr Marie-Ange Delen  
Coordinator Codex Alimentarius Netherlands  
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality  
PO Box 20401  
The Hague  
Netherlands  
Tel: +31 6 61 4615 2167  
Email: m.a.delen@minez.nl

Ms Tanja Akesson  
Codex Contact Point  
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality  
PO Box 20401  
The Hague  
Netherlands  
Email: t.z.j.akesson@minez.nl

Dr Wieke Tas  
Chair of CCCF  
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality  
PO Box 20401  
The Hague  
Netherlands  
Tel: +31 30 274 7048  
Email: astrid.bulder@rivm.nl

Mr Raj Rajasekar  
Senior Programme Manager  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
25 The Terrace  
Wellington  
New Zealand  
Email: raj.rajasekar@mpi.govt.nz

Mr Steve Hathaway  
Director  
Food Science & Risk Assessment  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
25 The Terrace  
Wellington  
New Zealand  
Email: raj.rajasekar@mpi.govt.nz
New Zealand
Email: steve.hathaway@mpi.govt.nz

Mr Don Syme
Counsellor (Primary Industries)
Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
New Zealand Embassy Rome
New Zealand
Tel: +39 06 85 3750 206
Email: don.syme@mfat.govt.nz

NICARAGUA

Ms Miriam Carolina Canda Toledo
Punto de Contacto del Codex
Dirección de Normalización y Metrología
Ministerio de Fomento, Industria y Comercio
Km 6, carretera a Masaya
Managua
Nicaragua
Tel: +505 2489300
Email: codex@mific.gob.ni

NIGERIA - NIGÉRIA

Mr Edet Sunday Akpan
Chairman
The Standards Council of Nigeria
Nigeria
Email: akpanedet60@yahoo.com

Mr Osita Anthony Aboloma
Director General/Chief Executive
Standards Organisation of Nigeria
52 Lome Crescent Wuse Zone 7
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2347010400000
Email: ositaaboloma@gmail.com

Prof Mojisola Christianah Adeyeye
Director-General
National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
Plot 2032, Olusegun Obasanjo Way, Zone 7, Wuse
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2349060007693
Email: cm.adeyeye@nafdac.gov.ng

Mr Abasiama Edet Akpan
PA to SON Council Chairman
The Standards Council of Nigeria
Nigeria
Email: abasi011@yahoo.com

Dr Olaniran Alabi
Chief Veterinary Officer (Gl 17)
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FCDA Secretariat, Area 11, Garki
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2348033148647
Email: olanlabi@gmail.com

Prof Reuben Arowolo
Professor of Pharmacology
College of Veterinary Medicine
Federal University of Agriculture
Nigeria
Email: roa_a rowolo@hotmail.com

Mr Emeka Ijomah
P. A. to DG SON

Nigeria
Email: ijomaee@gmail.com

Mr Charles Emeka Nwagbara
Head, Codex Contact Point Nigeria
Standards Organisation of Nigeria
52 Lome Crescent, Wuse Zone 7
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2348072801989
Email: charles_nwagbara@yahoo.com

Mr Sherif Alaba Olagunju
Director
National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
Plot 1, Isolo Industrial Estate, Apapa-Oshodi Express Way
Lagos
Nigeria
Tel: +2348033007258
Email: olagunju.s@nafdac.gov.ng

Mrs Simidele Jumoke Onabajo
Deputy Director
National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
Plot 1, Isolo Industrial Estate Apapa-Oshodi Express Way
Lagos
Nigeria
Tel: +2348033045403
Email: onabajo.s@nafdac.gov.ng

Mr Dele Kelvin Oye
Member
The Standards Council of Nigeria
Nigeria
Tel: +2348033139347
Email: doyetubas@yahoo.com
Mr Ibrahim Yahaya  
Senior Standards Officer  
Codex Contact Point, Nigeria  
Standards Organisation of Nigeria  
52, Lome Crescent, Wuse, Zone 7  
Abuja  
Nigeria  
Tel: +2347052694865  
Email: ibro736@yahoo.com

Mrs Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen  
Senior Adviser  
Norwegian Food Safety Authority  
Head Office  
Felles Postmottak P.O.Box 383  
Brumunddal  
Norway  
Tel: + 47 22779104  
Email: visvm@mattilsynet.no

Mr Knut Berdal  
Specialist Director  
Department of Food Policy  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
Oslo  
Norway  
Tel: +47 22249202  
Email: knut.berdal@lmd.dep.no

Mrs Gunnvor Berge  
Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative  
Norwegian Delegation to the UN Organizations in Rome  
Via delle Terme Deciane 7  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 340 7242 710  
Email: gunnvor.berge@mfa.no

Mrs Bodil Blaker  
Specialist Director  
Ministry of Health and Care Services  
Oslo  
Norway  
Tel: +47 22 24 86 02  
Email: bob@hod.dep.no

Mrs Anita Utheim Iversen  
Senior Adviser  
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries  
Oslo  
Norway  
Tel: + 47 906 14 999  
Email: aui@nfd.dep.no

Ms Fadia Al Jamal  
Oman's Liaison Officer with the International Organizations in Rome  
Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman Via della Camilluccia 625 00135 Rome  
Tel: +39.06.36300545  
Email: aljamalbadia@gmail.com

Mrs Edilma López  
Jefa del Departamento de Metrología  
Metrología  
Autoridad de Protección al Consumidor y Defensa de la Competencia  
Vía Fernández de Córdoba, Plaza Córdoba  
Panamá  
Panama  
Tel: 5101374  
Email: floaiza@acodeco.gob.pa

Mrs Theany Loaiza  
Abogada  
Decisión de Quejas  
Autoridad de Protección al Consumidor y Defensa de la Competencia  
Vía Fernández de Córdoba, Plaza Córdoba  
Panamá  
Panama  
Tel: 2231020  
Email: lsheffer@itaslaw.com

Dr Lilian Martínez De Alonso  
Director General  
Instituto Nacional de Tecnología, Normalización y Metrología (INTN)  
Asunción  
Paraguay  
Email: lliandealonso@gmail.com
Mr Mirko Soto Sapriza  
Representante Alterno  
Embajada de Paraguay en Roma  
Roma  
Paraguay  
Email: msotosapriza@mre.gov.py

Mrs Ana María Viedma Ayala  
Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Sanidad Animal - SENACSA  
Paraguay  
Email: anaviedma@senacsa.gov.py

PERU - PÉROU - PERÚ

Dr Percy Rudy Montes Rueda  
Director General de la Digesa  
Digesa (Dirección General De Salud Ambiental E Inocuidad Alimentaria)  
Calle Las Amapolas 350, Lince 15046  
Lima  
Perú  
Tel: +5116314430 / +511980643010  
Email: pmontes@minsa.gob.pe

Mrs Diana Victoria Calderón Valle  
Segunda Secretaria /Funcionaria de la Embajada del Perú en Italia  
Embajada del Perú en Italia  
Via Francesco Siacci, 2/b, 00197  
Roma  
Italia  
Tel: +390680691510  
Email: dc Calderonv@rree.gob.pe

Ing Gloria Atala Castillo Vargas  
Especialista de la Dirección de Normalización del INACAL  
LIMA  
Instituto Nacional de Calidad – INACAL  
Las Camellias 817 – San Isidro  
Lima  
Perú  
Tel: 0051-1-640 8820 anexo 1307, Ce  
Email: gc Castillio@inical.gob.pe

Mr Pablo Antonio Cisneros Andrade  
Ministro Consejero / Jefe de Cancillería  
Embajada del Perú en Italia  
Via Francesco Siacci, 2/b, 00197  
Roma  
Italia  
Tel: +390680691510  
Email: pcisneros@rree.gob.pe

Ing Ernesto José Dávila Taboada  
Asesor Tecnico  
Adex (Asociación de Exportadores)  
Av. Javier Prado Este, San Borja 15021  
Lima  
Perú  
Tel: +51997244255  
Email: erdavila0@gmail.com

Mr Domingo Nolasco  
Permanent Representative  
Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Email: romepe2007@gmail.com

Dr Marvin Vicente  
Acting Director and Chairperson, National Codex  
Organization Technical Committee  
National Meat Inspection Service  
Department of Agriculture  
National Meat Inspection Service No 4 Visayas Ave, Brgy Vasra, Quezon City  
Quezon City  
Philippines  
Tel: 9247980 local 300  
Email: vicentemarvin@yahoo.com

Mr Lupiño Lazaro Jr.  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Department of Agriculture  
Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy  
Email: lupinolazaro@yahoo.com

Mr Ronald De Veyra  
Deputy Director General  
Office of the Deputy Director General  
Food and Drug Administration  
Block 4 Lot 10 Springville West Molino, Bacoor Cavite  
Bacoor City  
Philippines  
Tel: 850-1900 loc. 2161  
Email: rondeveyra@yahoo.com

Mr Theodore Andrei Bauzon  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Email: romepe2007@gmail.com

Ms Frances Kaye Anne Adao  
Development Management Officer III  
Policy Research Service  
Department of Agriculture  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
Quezon City  
Philippines  
Tel: 6329267439  
Email: frances.kaye.anne.adao@gmail.com
Mr Marion Reyes  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy  
Email: romepe2007@gmail.com

Ms Maria Luisa Gavino  
Assistant, Office of the Agriculture Attaché  
Department of Agriculture  
Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy  
Email: maris.gavino@gmail.com

Ms Magdalena Kowalska  
Main expert  
International Cooperation Department  
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection  
30, Wspolna St.  
Warsaw  
Poland  
Tel: +48 22 623 29 04  
Email: kodeks@ijhars.gov.pl

Eng Mohd Saoud Al-mesallam  
President of QS  
Qatar General Organization for Standardization, QS  
Qatar  
Email: msmusallam@mme.gov.qa

Ms Maria Luisa Gavino  
Assistant, Office of the Agriculture Attaché  
Department of Agriculture  
Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy  
Email: maris.gavino@gmail.com

Ms Magdalena Kowalska  
Main expert  
International Cooperation Department  
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection  
30, Wspolna St.  
Warsaw  
Poland  
Tel: +48 22 623 29 04  
Email: kodeks@ijhars.gov.pl

QATAR

Eng Mohd Saoud Al-mesallam  
President of QS  
Qatar General Organization for Standardization, QS  
Qatar  
Email: msmusallam@mme.gov.qa

Mr Faisal Al-Bader  
Senior Food Standardizer  
Standards and Metrology Department  
Qatar General Organization for Standardization  
Abou Hamour - Opposite the Medical Commission  
Doha  
Qatar  
Tel: 00974 55553566  
Email: frbader@mme.gov.qa

POLAND - POLOGNE - POLONIA

Ms Magdalena Kowalska  
Main expert  
International Cooperation Department  
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection  
30, Wspolna St.  
Warsaw  
Poland  
Tel: +48 22 623 29 04  
Email: kodeks@ijhars.gov.pl

REPUBLIC OF KOREA - RÉPUBLIQUE DE COREÉE - REPÚBLICA DE COREA

Dr Sang Bae Han  
General Director  
Food Standard Planning office  
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety  
Osong Health Technology Administration Complex 187, Osongsaengmyeong2-ro, Osong-eup, Heungduk-gu, Cheongju-si, Chungbuk  
Republic of Korea  
Tel: 82-43-719-2051  
Email: difco64@korea.kr

Dr Yong Ho Park  
TFAMR chair  
Seoul National University  
Email: yhp@snu.ac.kr

Mr Jae Woo Park  
Deputy Director  
Agri-Livestock and Fisheries Products  
Policy Division  
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety  
Email: jwparkdvm@korea.kr

Ms Young Jae Yang  
TFAMR secretariat  
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety  
Republic of Korea  
Email: osol6660@korea.kr

Dr Yongsik Cho  
Researcher  
Rural Development Administration  
Email: yscho@korea.kr

Dr Won-Young Choi  
Scientific Officer  
Food Safety Policy Division  
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety  
Email: oohoo21@korea.kr

Mr Dae-Weon Choi  
Senior Deputy Director  
Food Safety Policy Division  
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety  
Email: cdaewon@korea.kr

Mr Chanmin Jeong  
Deputy Director  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
94 Dasom 2-ro  
Email: jcm1214@korea.kr

Mr Ha-Yun Kim  
Researcher  
National Institute of Agricultural Sciences  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food And Rural Affairs  
166 Nonsaengmyeong-ro, Iseo-myeon, Wanju, Jeollabuk-do, Korea Wanju-gun  
Republic of Korea  
Tel: +82-63-238-3565  
Email: khy0617@korea.kr

Ms Dasun Lee  
Researcher  
Food Safety Policy Division  
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety  
Email: leedasun@korea.kr

Mr Eunesub Lee  
Senior Deputy Director  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs  
94, Dason2-ro, Sejong-si, korea  
Sejong-si  
Republic of Korea  
Email: leeeunesub@korea.kr

Ms Jeonghae Rho  
Director  
Korea Culinary Science Institute  
Email: jeonghaerho@gmail.com

Mr You-shin Shim  
Principal Rresearch Scientist  
Food Standard Research Center  
Tel: 82-31-780-9330  
Email: ysshim@kfri.re.kr

Dr Mun Gi Sohn  
Professor  
Food Science and Biotechnology  
Kyung Hee University  
Email: mgsohn@khu.ac.kr

Mr Woosang Sung  
Assistant Director  
Mistry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
141, Yongjeon-ro, Gyeongsanbuk-do  
Gimcheon-si
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82-10-9973-3826
Email: intestament@korea.kr

ROMANIA - ROUMANIE - RUMANIA
Ms Monica Maria Cojanu
Counsellor
General Food Safety Department
National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority
Piata Free Press no. 1 Body D1, District 1
Bucharest
Romania
Tel: +40723446670
Email: cojanu.monica@ansvsa.ro

RUSSIAN FEDERATION – FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE – FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA
Mr Ilya Andreev
Second secretary
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to FAO and other UN Agencies in Rome
Roma, Via Magenta, 16
Tel: +39 06-902-357-44
Email: andreevsmail@yandex.ru

Mr Kiril Antyukhin
First secretary
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to FAO and other UN Agencies in Rome
Roma, Via Magenta, 16
Tel: +39 06-902-357-44
Email: kirill.888@mail.ru

Ms Anna Koroleva
Consultant of the Division
Division of International integration and organization of interaction with WTO and OECD
Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being
18/20, Vadkovskiy pereulok
Moscow
Russian Federation
Tel: +7 915 325 77 55
Email: Korolyova_AP@gsen.ru

Dr Dmitriy Nikityuk
Director
Federal Research Centre of Nutrition, Biotechnology and Food Safety
Ust’inskiy proezd, 2/14
Moscow
Russian Federation
Email: codex@gsen.ru

Dr Victor Tutelian
Head of science of Research center
Federal Research Centre of Nutrition, Biotechnology and Food Safety
Ust’inskiy proezd, 2/14
Moscow
Russian Federation
Email: codex@ion.ru

Mrs Tatiana Zavistyaeva
Deputy Director of the Department
Department of Science and International Cooperation
Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being
18/20, Vadkovskiy pereulok
Moscow
Russian Federation
Email: codex@gsen.ru

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS - SAINT-KITTS-ET-NEVIS - SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS
Mr Hiram Williams
DIRECTOR
St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards
La Guerite
Basseterre
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Tel: 869-465-5279 / 869-662-3339
Email: mplbos@gmail.com

SAINT LUCIA - SAINTE LUCIE - SANTA LUCÍA
Ms Tzarmallah Haynes
Head of Department
Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards
Biase Industrial Estate
Castries
Saint Lucia
Tel: 17584530049
Email: T.HAYNES@slbs.org

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES – SAN VICENTE/GRANADINAS
Mr Ezra D. Ledger
Executive Director
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Bureau of Standards
Campden Park Industrial Site
Kingstown
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Tel: 17844578092
Email: deledger@gov.vc

SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE – ARABIA SAUDITA
Prof Hisham Aljadhey
Chief Executive Officer
Saudi Food and Drug Authority
SAUDI ARABIA RIYADH North Ring Road - Al Nafal Unit (1) 13312 - 6288
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966112038222
Email: CODEX.CP@sfda.gov.sa

Mr Ameen Al-Ahmar
Food Science head section
National Agriculture & Animal Resources Research
Mr Abdulaziz Alshuwaish  
Executive Director of Standards and Food Product Evaluation  
Executive Dept. for Standards and Food Product Evaluation  
Saudi Food and Drug Authority  
Saudi Arabia 3292 Northern Ring Road- Alnafel Area  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966112038222  
Email: Codex.cp@sfda.gov.sa

Ms Ghandourah Ghandourah  
Director of the International Cooperation Department  
Department of President's Office  
Saudi Food and Drug Authority  
Saudi Arabia 3292 Northern Ring Road- Alnafel Area  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966112038222  
Email: Codex.cp@sfda.gov.sa

Mr Hani Mansi  
Regional and International Standards Dept. Manager  
Executive Dept. for Standards and Food Product Evaluation  
Saudi Food and Drug Authority  
Saudi Arabia North Ring Road - Al Nafal Unit (1)  
Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966112038222  
Email: codex.cp@sfda.gov.sa

Mr Nar Diene  
Coordonnateur de Comite  
Ministère Sante et Action Sociale  
Centre Anti-Poison  
Fann/Dakar  
Dakar  
Senegal  
Tel: +221 77649 61 56  
Email: snardiene@yahoo.fr
Mr Baye Mayoro Diop  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Senegal  
Email: ambasenequiri@tiscali.it

Dr Aloyse Waly Diouf  
Directeur de Cabinet  
Ministère Sante et Action Sociale  
Rue Aime Cesaire Fann  
Dakar  
Senegal  
Tel: 00221 77 605 33 56  
Email: diouf_aloyse@yahoo.fr

Mrs Mame Diarra Faye Leye  
Point de Contact du Codex Alimentarius  
Centre Anti Poison  
Ministère de la Santé et de l'Action sociale  
Hôpital de Fann - Avenue Cheikh Anta Diop  
Dakar  
Senegal  
Tel: +221 77 520 09 15  
Email: mamediarrafaye@yahoo.fr

Mrs Felicite Bandiaky Fonseca  
Chef d'unité  
Ministère Sante et Action Sociale  
Centre Anti-Poison  
Fann Dakar  
Senegal  
Tel: +221766636326  
Email: felbandiakyseca@gmail.com

Mr Moustapha Kane  
Chef de Division Education à l’Hygiène  
Service National de l’hygiène  
Ministère Sante et Action Sociale  
Terminus TATA 34 Nord Foire Dakar  
Dakar  
Sénégal  
Tel: 00221 77 616 42 72  
Email: mkndbkane@yahoo.fr

Mrs Mame Khady Mbaye  
Chef de Division  
Ministère Commerce  
Direction Commerce Intérieur  
Sénégal  
Email: Mamekhadymbaye@yahoo.fr

Dr Mamadou Ndiaye  
Expert Conseiller en Peche  
Groupement des Armateurs et Industriels du Sénégal  
Route Des Maristes  
Sénégal  
Tel: +221776566543  
Email: ndiaye.mamadou@netcourrier.com

Mr Diene Ndiaye  
Directeur  
Ministère Pêche et Economie Maritime  
Direction des Industries de Transformation de Pêche  
Sénégal  
Tel: +221775724642  
Email: ndiaye@mpem.gouv.sn

Dr Marie Khemesse Ngom Ndiaye  
Directeur General Sante  
Ministere de la Sante et de l'action Sociale  
Direction Generale de la Sante  
Rue Aime Cesaire  
Sénégal  
Tel: +221338694206  
Email: ndiayekhemesse@yahoo.fr

Dr Moussa Dieng Sarr  
Chef de Service  
Ministère Sante et Action Sociale  
Service National de l’Hygiène  
NORD FOIRE  
DAKAR  
Sénégal  
Tel: +221 775337824  
Email: ndiensarr@yahoo.fr

Dr Mareme Mbaye Sene  
Chef D’unité  
Ministère Sante Et Action Sociale  
Centre Anti-Poison  
Hôpital Fann  
Dakar  
Sénégal  
Email: msmbaye@gmail.com

Mrs Maikouma Sow  
Chef de Division  
Ministère Sante et Action Sociale  
Service National de l’Hygiène  
Terminus TATA, 34 Nord Foire Dakar  
Dakar  
Sénégal  
Tel: +221 77 641 39 16  
Email: maynatacko@yahoo.fr

SIERRA LEONE - SIERRA LEONA

Mr Amadu Jogor Bah  
Deputy Executive Director  
Sierra Leone Standards Bureau  
Wahman Abucompund C T Box 11 Kissy Ferry Juction  
Freetown  
Sierra Leone  
Tel: +23276202010  
Email: codexcontactpointsl@gmail.com

Mr Joseph Jonathan Ndanema  
Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security  
Herwarthstr. 4  
Berlin  
Sierra Leone  
Email: joseph.ndanema@maffs.gov.sl

SINGAPORE - SINGAPOUR - SINGAPUR
Dr Him Hoo Yap  
Director-General  
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore  
52, Jurong Gateway Road, #14-01 Singapore 608550  
Singapore  
Tel: 68052828  
Email: yap_him_hoo@ava.gov.sg  

Mr Teng Yong Low  
Deputy Director  
Regulatory Programmes Department, Regulatory Administration Group  
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore  
52, Jurong Gateway Road, #14-01 Singapore 608550  
Singapore  
Tel: 68052911  
Email: low_teng_yong@ava.gov.sg  

SLOVAKIA - SLOVÁQUIE - ESLOVAQUIA  
Ms Katarína Janeková  
Senior Officer  
Food Safety and Nutrition  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Dobrovičova 12  
Bratislava  
Slovakia  
Tel: 0421 2 59266 564  
Email: codex@land.gov.sk  

SLOVENIA - SLOVENÍE - ESLOVENIA  
Dr Blaža Nahtigal  
Codex Contact Point  
Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food  
Dunajska cesta 22  
Ljubljana  
Slovenia  
Tel: 00386 1 3001330  
Email: codex.mkgp@gov.si  

Ms Maja Kokalj  
Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food  
Dunajska cesta 22  
Ljubljana  
Slovenia  
Tel: +38613001300  
Email: maja.kokalj@gov.si  

SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD - SUDÁFRICA  
Mr Billy Makhafola  
Director: Food Safety and Quality Assurance  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Private Bag X343  
Pretoria  
South Africa  
Tel: +2712 319 7306seme  
Email: BillyM@dafl.gov.za  

Mrs Meisie Katz  
General Manager: Food and Associated Industries  
Food and Associated Industries  
National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications  
PO BOX 36558  
Cape Town  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 21 5263400  
Email: Katzmn@nrccs.org.za  

SPAIN - ESPAGNE - ESPAÑA  
Mrs Maria Luisa Aguilar Zambalamberri  
Jefe de Servicio  
Punto de Contacto Codex España  
Agencia Española de Consumo, Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición  
C/ Alcala, 56  
Madrid  
Spain  
Email: maguilar@msssi.es  

SRI LANKA  
Dr Lakshman Gamlath  
Deputy Director General  
Environmental Health and Food safety  
Ministry of Health  
No. 464, TB Jaya Mawatha, Colombo 10  
Colombo  
Sri Lanka  
Tel: 0094717723232  
Email: lgamlath@gmail.com  

SUDAN - SOUDAN - SUDÁN  
Mrs Ula Makkawi Abdelrhman  
Senior Quality Control Officer  
Quality Control&Export Development Administration  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture &Forestry  
Aljammam Street Khartoum/ Sudan P.O.BOX 285  
Khartoum  
Sudan  
Tel: +249918075475  
Email: uiaabdelaziz@gmail.com  

Mrs Amel Abbas Ibn Oaf  
Senior Officer  
General Directorate of Animal Health and epizootic disease control protection  
Federal Ministry of Animal Resource  
P.O. Box 293  
Khartoum
Sudan
Tel: +249912812314
Email: amangoub17@yahoo.com
Mrs Sana Elshafiea
Director of Standardization Administration
Sudanese Standard & Metrology Organization
Aljamaa Street Sudanese Standard & Metrology Organization
Khartoum
Sudan
Email: sanaelshafie2013@gmail.com
Mrs Batoul Mohamed Abdo
Senior Quality control officer
Quality Control & Export Development Administration
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
Sudan Aljamaa street P.O. box 285
Khartoum
Sudan
Tel: +249122694334
Email: batatis77@hotmail.com
Dr Osman Ahmed Osman Mohamed
Director
Directorate of Planning and Research Department
Sudanese Standard & Metrology Organization
Baladia Street
Khartoum
Sudan
Tel: +249912235846
Email: Osmanssmo71@yahoo.com

SURINAME
Mr Djomadie Kasanmoesdiran
Acting Director
Ministry of Agriculture Animal Husbandry and fisheries
Suriname
Email: di.kasanmoesdiran@sr.net

SWEDEN - SUIÈDE - SUIZA
Ms Svanhild Foldal
Senior Administrative Officer
Division for the Food Chain, Animal health and Welfare
Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation
Mäster Samuelsgatan 70
Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: +46 72206834
Email: svanhild.foldal@gov.se

Mr Fredrik Alfer
Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of Sweden, Rome
Via Serchio 9-11
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 3356404603
Email: fredrik.alferr@gov.se
Ms Carmina Ionescu
Codex Coordinator
International Affairs
National Food Agency
Box 622
Uppsala
Sweden
Tel: +46 709245601
Email: carmina.ionescu@slv.se

Dr Michael Beer
Head Food and Nutrition
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
Bern
Switzerland
Email: michael.beer@blv.admin.ch
Dr Himanshu Gupta
Regulatory & Scientific Affairs
Nestec SA
Avenue Nestlé 55 Post Box
Vevey
Switzerland
Email: Himanshu.Gupta@nestle.com

Ms Carmina Ionescu
Codex Coordinator
International Affairs
National Food Agency
Box 622
Uppsala
Sweden
Tel: +46 709245601
Email: carmina.ionescu@slv.se

Dr Michael Beer
Head Food and Nutrition
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
Bern
Switzerland
Email: michael.beer@blv.admin.ch

Dr Himanshu Gupta
Regulatory & Scientific Affairs
Nestec SA
Avenue Nestlé 55 Post Box
Vevey
Switzerland
Email: Himanshu.Gupta@nestle.com

Mr Martin Müller
Swiss Codex Contact Point
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
Bern
Switzerland
Email: martin.mueller@blv.admin.ch

Mr François Pythoud
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to FAO, IFAD, WFP
Via Aventina 32
Rome
Italy
Email: francois.pythoud@eda.admin.ch
Dr Ludovica Verzegnassi
CT-Regulatory and Scientific Affairs
Nestec Ltd
55, Av. Nestlé
Vevey
Switzerland
Email: ludovica.verzegnassi@nestle.com

THAILAND - THAILANDE - TAILANDIA

Mr Pisan Pongsapitch
Deputy Secretary General
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
50 Phaholyothin Road, Ladyao, Chatuchak
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: 662-561-2277
Email: pisan@acfs.go.th

Ms Namaporn Attaviroj
Standards Officer
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
50 Phahonyothin Rd., Ladyao, Chatuchak
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 561 2277 ext. 1422
Email: jzanamaporn@gmail.com

Mrs Chantanee Buranathai
Director of Livestock Standards Subdivision
Department of Livestock Development
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
69/1 Phayathai Road, Rajathevi
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: +662 6534444 ext 3142
Email: chantanee.dld@hotmail.com

Mr Poonlarp Chantavichitwong
Deputy Secretary-General
Thai Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Public Health
88/24 Tiwanon Road, Talad Kwan, Muang Nonthaburi
Nonthaburi
Thailand
Tel: +6625907006
Email: poonlarp@fda.moph.go.th

Dr Pichet Itkor
Vice Chairman
Food Processing Industry Club
The Federation of Thai Industries
Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Zone C 4th Floor, 60 New Rachadapisek Road, Klongtoey
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: +668 9939 4654
Email: Pichet.itkor@rb.com

Dr Panisuan Jamnarnwej
Honorary Advisor of TFFA
Thai Frozen Foods Association
92/6 6th Floor, Sathornthani Building 2 North Sathorn Rd., Silom, Bangrak
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: +6622355622
Email: panisuan@yahoo.com

Ms Malee Jirawongsy
Food and Drug Technical Officer, Expert Level
Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Public Health
Mueang Nonthaburi District
Nonthaburi
Thailand
Tel: +6625907249
Email: fdamasy@gmail.com

Mr Charoen Kaowsuksai
Vice- Chairman of Food Processing Industry Club
The Federation of Thai Industries
Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Zone C, 4th Floor, 60 New Rachadapisek Rd., Klongtoey
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: 662-9763088
Email: jidsudakos@cpram.co.th

Mr Visit Limlurcha
President of Thai Food Processors’ Association
Thai Food Processors’ Association
170/21-22 9th Floor Ocean Tower 1 Bldg., Klongtoey
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: 662-2612684
Email: thaifood@thaifood.org

Ms Dawisa Paiboonsiri
Standards Officer
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
50 Phaholyothin Road Ladyao. Chatuchak
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: 662-5612277 ext. 1427
Email: dawisa.p@gmail.com

Ms Ingorn Panyakit
Director of Office of Standard Development
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
50 Phaholyothin Road, Ladyao, Chatuchak
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: 662-561-2277
Email: ingorn2011@gmail.com
Mrs Wanwipa Suwannarak  
Director  
Fish Inspection and Quality Control Division  
Department of Fishery  
50 Phaholyothin Road, Lad Yao, Chatuchak  
Bangkok  
Thailand  
Tel: +666 32170812  
Email: wanwipa.su@dof.mail.go.th

Ms Chanikan Thanupitak  
Trade and Technical Manager of Fisheries Products  
Thai Food Processors' Association  
170 / 21 -22 9th Floor Ocean Tower 1 Bldg., New Ratchadapisek Rd., Klongtoey  
Bangkok  
Thailand  
Tel: +662 261 2684-6  
Email: chanikan@thaifood.org

Prof Kraisid Tontisirin  
Senior Advisor  
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards  
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
50 Phaholyothin Road, Lad Yao, Chatuchak  
Bangkok  
Thailand  
Tel: +66 (2) 561 2277  
Email: kraisid.tontisirin@gmail.com

TOGO
Dr Tchala Kazia  
Codex Contact Point  
Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture  
1, rue de l'Espérance LOME/TOGO  
LOME  
Togo  
Tel: +22890023325  
Email: kaziatchala@yahoo.fr

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - TRINITÉ-ET-TOBAGO - TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO
Dr Farz Khan  
Chief Chemist and Director Food and Drugs  
Chemistry Food and Drugs Division  
Ministry of Health  
92 Frederick Street Port-of-Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Email: cfdd@health.gov.tt

TURKEY - TURQUIE - TURQUÍA
Mr İlhami Sahin  
Coordinator  
The General Directorate of Food and Control  
The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock  
Gida, Tarim ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Eskişehir Yolu 9. km Lodumlu  
Ankara  
Turkey  
Tel: 00903122587757  
Email: ilhami.sahin@tarim.gov.tr

UGANDA - OUGANDA
Dr Ben Manyindo  
Executive Director  
Uganda National Bureau of Standards  
Plot 2-12, Standards House, By-Pass Link, Bweyogerere P.O. Box 6329, Kampala  
Kampala  
Uganda  
Tel: 256 417-333250  
Email: ed@unbs.go.ug

Mr Samson Mpiira Akankiza  
Coffee Sustainability Manager  
Directorate of Quality and Regulatory Services  
Uganda Coffee Development Authority  
Coffee House Plot 35 Jinja Road P.O Box 7267  
Kampala  
Uganda  
Tel: +256 772 692200  
Email: samson.akankiza@ugandacoffee.go.ug

Dr Jolly Justine Hoona  
Principal Veterinary Officer  
Department of Animal Production  
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries  
Berkely Lane, Entebbe P.O. Box 102  
Kampala  
Uganda  
Tel: +256 772 482255  
Email: justinejollyhoona@gmail.com

Mr Andrew Lajul Kilama  
Director  
Corporate Services  
Uganda Coffee Development Authority  
Coffee House Plot 35 Jinja Road P.O Box 7267  
Kampala  
Uganda  
Tel: +256 772 410052  
Email: andrew.kilama@ugandacoffee.go.ug

Dr Herbert Kyeyamwa  
Senior Veterinary Officer - Public Health  
Department of Animal Production  
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries  
Berkely Lane, Entebbe P.O. Box 102  
Kampala  
Uganda  
Tel: +256 772 404245  
Email: hkyeyamwas@yahoo.co.uk
Mr Hakim Baligeya Mufumbiro
Ag. Manager, Standards Department
Standards
Uganda National Bureau of Standards
Plot 2-12, ByPass Link, Bweyogerere Industrial and Business Park, P.O. Box 6329, Kampala, Uganda Kampala Uganda
Tel: +256 772 513680
Email: hakim.mufumbiro@unbs.go.ug

Mr Robert Sabiiti
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Republic of Uganda
Viale Giulio Cesare 71, Scala B Int 9A, 9B Rome Italy
Tel: +39 063225220 / +39 063207232
Email: robertsabiiti47@gmail.com

Mr Johnson Allan Ssubi
Technical Executive Assistant
Executive Director's Office
Uganda National Bureau of Standards
Plot 2-12 ByPass Link, Bweyogerere Industrial Park, P.O.BOX 6329, Kampala Kampala Uganda
Tel: +256 752 954135
Email: johnson.ssubi@unbs.go.ug

Dr Jolly Kemirembe Zariibwende
Executive Director
Dairy Development Authority
Plot 1, Kafu Road, Nakasero P.O. Box 34006, Kampala Kampala Uganda
Tel: +256 785 094120
Email: ed@dda.or.ug

UKRAINE - UCRANIA

Dr Serhii Kolesnyk
Head of sector, Codex Contact Point
Sector of International Regulatory Science for Food and Chemical Safety
L.I. Medved's Research Center of Preventive Toxicology, Food and Chemical Safety, Ministry of Health
6, Heroiv Oborony str. Kyiv Ukraine
Tel: +380963480071
Email: codex.ukrainia@gmail.com

Mr Maksym Mantiuk
Alternate Representative of Ukraine to FAO
Email: maksym.mantiuk@mfa.gov.ua

Ms Olha Semenchuk
Deputy director
Department of food safety and Veterinary
State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection
1, B. Grinchenko str. Kyiv Ukraine
Tel: +380442788467
Email: semenchuk@vet.gov.ua

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – EMMIRATS ARABES UNIS – EMMIRATOS ARABES UNIDOS

Mr Yousef Almarzooqi
Heat of technical regulation
Regulation Department
ESMA
P.O Box 48666 Dubai UAE
Dubai United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971506423324
Email: yousef@esma.gov.ae

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI – REINO UNIDO

Ms Regan Brash
Team Leader SPS and TBT
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
2 Marsham Street London
Email: regan.brash@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Steve Cowperthwaite
Head of EU and International Strategy
Food Standards Agency
125 Kingsway London
United Kingdom
Email: steve.cowperthwaite@food.gov.uk

Mr Neil Fourie
Lead for EU Agriculture and Fish
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
Email: Neil.Fourie@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Kevin Hargin
Head, Food Hygiene and Animal Feed Policy Unit
Food Standards Agency (FSA)
Floors 6 and 7 Clive House
Email: Kevin.Hargin@food.gov.uk

Mr Ian McWatt
Chief Operating Officer
Food Standards Scotland (FSS)
Email: Ian.McWatt@fss.scot
Ms Pendi Najran  
Senior Scientific Officer  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Area 1A, Nobel House 17, Smith Square  
London  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0) 2080263867  
Email: pendi.najran@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Ms Laura Newman  
Team Leader for Codex  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Area 1A, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0) 7827 821645  
Email: laura.newman@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Mike O’Neill  
Head Codex Policy and Programmes  
Food Standards Agency (FSA)  
Floors 6 and 7 Clive House  
London  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +447917213545  
Email: Mike.O'neill@food.gov.uk

Ms Isla Scott  
Head of Domestic Policy Standards and Consumers  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)  
Email: Isla.Scott1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Ms Beth White  
Policy Advisor for Codex  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)  
2 Marsham Street London  
Email: bethany.white@defra.gsi.gov.uk

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA – REPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE – REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE TANZANÍA

Eng Tumaini Manfred Mitu  
Acting Director General  
Tanzania Bureau of Standards  
P.O.Box 9524  
Dar-es-Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Tel: +255713250051  
Email: tumaini.mitu@tbs.go.tz

Mr Khatib Khatib  
Director General  
Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS)  
P.O BOX 1136  
Zanzibar  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Tel: +255777872021  
Email: khatib.mwadini@zbs.go.tz

Prof Makenya Abraham Honoratus Maboko  
Chairperson Board of Directors  
Tanzania Bureau of Standards  
Box 9524  
Dar-es-Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Tel: +255 784305891  
Email: maboko@uccmail.co.tz

Dr Claude Mosha  
CEO & Chief SPS (Food Feed Safety & Quality) Consultant  
Nderyingo Food Feed Consulting International (T)  
P.O.Box 24850  
Dar-es-Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Tel: +255 765 087 187/ 713 324495  
Email: cismoeshar@yahoo.co.uk

Mr Lazaro Henry Msasalaga  
Head of Agriculture and Food Standards Section / Codex Contact Point  
Process Technology Standards  
Tanzania Bureau of Standards  
P.O. Box 9524  
Dar-es-Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Tel: +255 22 2450206  
Email: codex@tbs.go.tz

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – ÉTATS-UNIS D’AMÉRIQUE – ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Mr Ted McKinney  
Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs  
OSEC  
US Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: 1-202-720-3111  
Email: Ted.McKinney@osec.usda.gov

Ms Mary Frances Lowe  
US Manager for Codex Alimentarius  
Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Services  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Room 4861-S Bldg.  
Washington  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-205-7760  
Email: maryfrances.low@fsis.usda.gov
Mr Richard Boyd  
Chief, Contact Services Branch  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Specialty Crops Inspection Division, Specialty Crops  
Program, Agricultural Marketing Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW Room 0714-South Bldg.  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 (202) 690-1201  
Email: Richard.boyd@ams.usda.gov

Ms Camille Brewer  
Director, International Affairs Staff  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Department of Health and Human Services  
5001 Campus Drive  
College Park, MD  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 240-402-1723  
Email: Camille.brewer@fda.hhs.gov

Dr Julie Callahan  
Senior Director, Agricultural Affairs  
Executive Office of the President  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, D.C.  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-395-9582  
Email: JCallahan@ustr.eop.gov

Ms Megan Crowe  
Senior International Economist  
International Trade Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-625-1451  
Email: megan.crowe@trade.gov

Ms Marsha Echols  
Attorney/Professor of Law  
Law Office of Marsha Echols  
3266 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-625-1451  
Email: echols@marshaechols.com

Dr Jose Emilio Esteban  
Executive Associate for Laboratory Services  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Public Health Science  
United States Department of Agriculture  
950 College Station Rd.  
Athens, GA  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 (706) 546-3420  
Email: Emilio.esteban@fsis.usda.gov

Dr Kevin Greenlees  
Senior Advisor for Science and Science Policy, Chair, CCRVDF  
Center for Veterinary Medicine, HFV-100  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
7500 Standish Place  
Rockville, Maryland  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-240-402-0638  
Email: kevin.greenlees@fda.hhs.gov

Mr Joseph Hain  
Senior Trade Advisor  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-720-0930  
Email: Joe.Hain@fas.usda.gov

Ms Sarah Lynch  
Deputy U.S. Codex Manager  
U.S. Codex Office  
1400 Independence Avenue SW Room 4861-South Building  
Washington DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 202 690 4042  
Email: kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov

Ms Barbara McNiff  
Senior International Issue Analyst  
U.S. Codex Office  
1400 Independence Ave., SW Room 4857-South Building  
Washington, D.C.  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 202-708-9515  
Email: Sarah.lynch@fsis.usda.gov

Mrs Barbara McNiff  
Senior International Issue Analyst  
U.S. Codex Office  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1 202-690-4719  
Email: Barbara.McNiff@fsis.usda.gov

Mr Bryce Quick  
Minister Counselor for Agriculture, USUN Mission  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
Via Boncompagni 2  
Rome, Italy  
Italy  
Tel: +1-39-06-4674-3507  
Email: Bryce.Quick@fas.usda.gov
Dr Kathryn Simmons  
Chief Veterinarian, NCBA  
Center for Public Policy  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 801  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-879-9131 (work)  
Email: ksimmons@beef.org

Ms Karen Stuck  
Principal  
KDS Associates  
148 North Carolina Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-544-0395  
Email: karenstuck@comcast.net

Mr Vito Su  
Food Security Advisor  
Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street  
Washington, DC  
United States of America  
Tel: +1-202-736-4016  
Email: SuVi@state.gov

Mr Richard White  
Consultant  
5116 Lake Overlook Avenue  
Bradenton, FL  
United States of America  
Tel: +1703 304 0424  
Email: Richard.d.white@gmail.com

URUGUAY

Eng Pedro Friedrich  
Punto de Contacto Codex para Uruguay  
Departamento de Evaluación de la Conformidad  
Laboratorio Tecnológico del Uruguay  
Avda Italia 6201  
Montevideo  
Uruguay  
Email: pfriedri@latu.org.uy

Mr Jose Luis Heijo  
Director  
Dirección Nacional de Industrias  
Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería  
Montevideo  
Uruguay  
Tel: 59829163551  
Email: jose.heijo@miem.gub.uy

Mr Ernesto Messano  
Representante Alterno  
Representación Permanente de Uruguay  
Email: uruit@ambasciatauruguay.it

VANUATU

Mr Timothy Tekon Tumukon  
Director  
Department of Biosecurity  
Private Mail Bag 9086  
Port Vila  
Vanuatu  
Tel: (678) 23519 or (678) 33580  
Email: ttumukon@vanuatu.gov.vu

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) - VENEZUELA (RÉPUBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DU) - VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)

Dr Elías Rafael Eljuri Abraham  
Embajador  
Representación Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante la FAO  
Via G. Antonelli 47  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 06 808 1407  
Email: embavenefao@iol.it

Ms Marycel Pacheco Gutierrez  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Venezuela  
Email: faoroma@embavenefao.org

Mr Porfirio Pestana De Barros  
Ministro Consejero  
Representación Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante la FAO  
Via G. Antonelli 47  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 068081407  
Email: faoroma@embavenefao.org

Mr Luis Gerónimo Reyes Verde  
Primer Secretario  
Representación Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante la FAO  
Via G. Antonelli 47  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 068081407  
Email: faoroma@embavenefao.org

VIET NAM

Mr Duc Nhuan Chu  
Official  
Government Office  
1A Hoang Hoa Tham street  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Email: director@vinacert.vn
Mr Van Chinh Dang  
Official  
Ministry of Health  
138A Giang Vo street  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Email: codexvn@vfa.gov.vn

Mrs Thi Minh Ha Nguyen  
Deputy of Head  
Vietnam Codex Office  
Vietnam Food Administration  
135 Nui truc street  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Tel: 917298786  
Email: codexvn@vfa.gov.vn

Mr Thanh Phong Nguyen  
Director  
Vietnam Food Administration  
Ministry of Health  
135 Nui truc street  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Email: codexvn@vfa.gov.vn

Mr Huu Dung Nguyen  
Director  
Vinacert Certification and Inspection Joint Stock Company  
130 Nguyen Duc Canh street  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Email: director@vinacert.vn

Mrs Thi Kim Oanh Nguyen  
Official  
Vinacert Certification and Inspection Joint Stock Company  
130 Nguyen Duc Canh street  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Email: director@vinacert.vn

Mrs Thi Kim Phan  
Director  
Vietnam Food Safety Association  
135 Nui truc street  
Hanoi  
Viet Nam  
Email: maihuong@vinalab.org.vn

**ZIMBABWE**

Mr Fredy Chinyavanhu  
Deputy Director - Food Control  
Gvt Analyst Laboratory  
Ministry of Health and Child Care  
P.O Box CY 231, Causeway  
Harare  
Zimbabwe  
Tel: +263 772 426 084  
Email: nepfoodsafety.zw@gmail.com

Mrs Irene Bosha  
Counsellor  
ZIM Embassy in Rome  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Via Virgilio 8 - 00193  
Rome  
Zimbabwe  
Tel: +39668308282  
Email: zimrome-wolit@tiscali.it

Ms Placida S Chivandire  
Counsellor  
ZIM Embassy in Rome  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Via Virgilio 8-00193, Rome  
Rome  
Zimbabwe  
Tel: +26339668308282  
Email: zimrome-wolit@tiscali.it

Mr Godfrey Magwenzi  
ZIM Ambassador to Rome  
ZIM Embassy in Rome  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Via Virgilio 8-00193 Rome  
Rome  
Zimbabwe  
Tel: +39668308282  
Email: zimrome-wolit@tiscali.it

Mrs Caroline Matipira  
Minister Counsellor  
ZIM Embassy in Rome  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Via Virgilio 8-00193  
Rome  
Zimbabwe  
Tel: +39668308282  
Email: zimrome-wolit@tiscali.it
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE)
Dr Olga Algayerova
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations
Geneva 10
Switzerland
Email: Olga.Algayerova@un.org
Ms Maria Teresa Pisani
Official of UN
Geneva
Switzerland
Email: mariateresa.pisani@un.org

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)
Mr Andrew Cannavan
Laboratory Head
Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, Department of Nuclear Science
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100
Vienna
Austria
Tel: (+43-1) 2600-28395
Email: A.Cannavan@iaea.org

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS GOUVERNEMENTALES INTERNATIONALES
ORGANIZACIONES GUBERNAMENTALES INTERNACIONALES

AFRICAN ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ARSO)
Dr Eve Christine Gadzikwa
Director General
Standards Association of Zimbabwe
10 Northend Close, Northridge Park Borrowdale,
Harare, Zimbabwe
Harare
Zimbabwe
Tel: +263 885517
Email: gzulu@saz.org.zw

AFRICAN UNION (AU)
Prof Ahmed El-Sawalhy
Director of AU-IBAR
Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
African Union
Kenindia Business Park, Westlands Road,
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254203674212
Email: ahmed.elsawalhy@au-ibar.org

Mr John Oppong-Otoo
Food Safety Officer
African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
P. O. BOX 30786 Westland
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254787582754
Email: nanapong23@yahoo.com

Mrs Fatuma Buke Wario
Project and Event Coordinator
African Agricultural Technology Foundation
P.O. Box 30709, Nairobi, Kenya
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: 254 20 4223731, 254 20 422 374
Email: f.wario@aatf-africa.org

CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY AGENCY (CAHFSA)
Dr Gavin Peters
Animal Health Specialist
Animal Health
Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
Letitia Vriesdelaaan #10
Paramaribo
Suriname
Tel: +5977195318
Email: gavin.peters@cahfsa.org

ECOWAS
Dr Benoit Gnonlonfin
ECOWAS-USAID Senior SPS Standards Advisor
Department of Industry and Private Sector Promotion
ECOWAS building River Plaza Annex 2 496 Abogo
Langema Street, Central Business District
Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +2347084003507
Email: bgnonlonfin74@gmail.com

STANDARDIZATION ORGANIZATION FOR G.C.C. (GSO)
Eng Ahmed Al-Bashah
Head of Standards
Standards & Metrology Directorate
Standardization Organization for G.C.C.
P.O. Box 85245, Riyadh 11691,
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +9661 4826154
Email: aalbashah@gso.org.sa

Dr Oday Hatim Al-Buhamed
Director of Standards & Metrology Directorate
Standardization Organization for G.C.C.
P.O. Box 85245,
Riyadh 11691, 
Saudi Arabia 
Email: obuhamad@gso.org.sa

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)
Dr Robert Gaynor Ahern 
Leader 
Agricultural Health and Food Safety 
IICA 
Vázquez de Coronado 
San José 
Costa Rica 
Tel: 506 2216 0222 
Email: robert.ahern@iica.int

Mr Eric Bolaños Ledezma 
Especialista, Sanidad Agropecuaria e Inocuidad de Alimentos 
SAIA 
Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA) 
Apto Postal 55-2200, San José Vázquez de Coronado 
San Isidro 11101 
San José 
Costa Rica 
Tel: + 506 2216 0418 
Email: erick.bolanos@iica.int

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ ANIMALE (OIE)
Ms Ann Backhouse 
Head 
Standards 
OIE 
12 rue de Prony 
Paris 
France 
Tel: +33611662546 
Email: a.backhouse@oie.int

ORGANISMO INTERNACIONAL REGIONAL DE SANIDAD AGROPECUARIA (OIRSA)
Mr Figueroa Lauriano 
Director Regional de Inocuidad de Alimentos 
OIRSA 
Calle Ramon Beloso fijal pasaje Isolde Colonia Escalon 
San Salvador 
El Salvador 
Tel: 503 2209 9226 
Email: lfigueroa@oirsa.org

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA VIGNE ET DU VIN (OIV)
Dr Jean Claude Ruf 
Scientific Coordinator 
OIV 
18, rue d'Aguesseau 
Paris 
France 
Tel: +33674663451 
Email: jruf@oiv.int

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)
Mr Giuseppe Marra 
Technical Attache' 
Compliance and Facilitation Directorate 
World Customs Organisation 
Rue du marché', 30 
Brussels 
Belgium 
Email: giuseppe.marra@wcoomd.org

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
Ms Serra Ayral 
Counsellor 
Trade and Environment Division 
World Trade Organization 
Tel: +41 22 739 5465 
Email: serra.ayral@wto.org

Mr Melvin Spreij 
Counsellor, WTO, and Head, STDF 
Agriculture & Commodities Division 
WTO 
Email: melvin.spreij@wto.org
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FEED CONTROL OFFICIALS (AAFCO)
Mr Richard Ten Eyck
Ingredient Definitions Committee Chair
Association of American Feed Control Officials
635 Capital St NE
Salem
United States of America
Tel: 5033510965
Email: rteneyck@oda.state.or.us

ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE POUR LE DROIT DE L’ALIMENTATION (AEDA/EFLA)
Mrs Nicole Coutrelis
EFLA Vice-President
European Food Law Association (EFLA)
Email: secretariat@efla-aeda.org

ASOCIACIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE AVICULTURA (ALA)
Mr Apolonio Suarez
Presidente
Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura
Lima, Perú
Peru
Tel: 5113721540
Email: asuarez@rinconadelsur.com.pe

Mr Pablo Antonio Suarez Becerra
Asesor
Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura
Lexinton Avenue 18
New York
United States of America
Tel: 1 202 2908463
Email: psuarezgb@gmail.com

Dr Hebert Trenchi
Coordinador
Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura
Almodón
Montevideo
Uruguay
Tel: 59899668470
Email: coordinadorctc@avicolutina.com

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN COELIAC SOCIETIES (AOECS)
Mrs Hertha Deutsch
Codex and Regulatory Affairs
AOECS, Association of European Coeliac Societies
Anton Baumgartner Strasse 44/C5/2302
Vienna
Austria
Tel: +431667188
Email: hertha.deutsch@gmx.at

COLLAGEN CASINGS TRADE ASSOCIATION (CCTA)
Dr Rainer Bierwagen
CCTA
Email: rainer.bierwagen@bblaw.com

Ms Virginie Simon
CCTA
Email: Virginie.simon@scarlet.be

THE CONSUMER GOODS FORUM (CGF)
Ms Anne Gerardi
Senior GFSI Project Manager
GFSI
The Consumer Goods Forum 22-24 rue du Gouverneur Général Eboué
Issy-les-Moulineaux
France
Email: a.gerardi@theconsumergoodsforum.com

Ms Marie-Claude Quentin
Senior Technical Manager
the Consumer Goods Forum
22/24 rue du Gouverneur Général Eboué
Issy-les-Moulineaux
France
Email: mc.quentin@theconsumergoodsforum.com

COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE NUTRITION (CRN)
Dr James Griffiths
Vice President
Science & International Affairs
CRN
1828 L St., NW Ste. 810
Washington
United States of America
Tel: 202-204-7662
Email: jgriffiths@crnusa.org

CROPLIFE INTERNATIONAL (CROPLIFE)
Dr Janet Collins
Sr. Vice President Science & Regulatory Affairs
CropLife America
1156 Fifteenth Street, N.W. Suite 400
Washington DC
United States of America
Tel: 0012028334474
Email: jcollins@croplifeamerica.org
Mr Robert Hunter  
Executive Director, Crop Protection  
CropLife International  
326 avenue Louise  
Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: 003225420410  
Email: robert.hunter@croplife.org

Mr Michael Kaethner  
Regulatory Policy  
Bayer CropScience  
Geb 6100 A1.4 Alfred Nobel Str 50  
Monheim  
Germany  
Tel: 00492173387521  
Email: michael.kaethner@bayer.com

Dr Wibke Meyer  
Regulatory Affairs Manager  
CropLife International  
326 avenue Louise  
Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: 003225420410  
Email: wibke.meyer@croplife.org

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SPECIALTY FOOD INGREDIENTS INDUSTRIES (EU SPECIALTY FOOD INGREDIENTS)

Dr Dirk Cremer  
EU Specialty Food Ingredients  
DSM Nutritional Products Europe Ltd., Human Nutrition and Health P.O. Box 2676  
Basel  
Switzerland  
Email: dirk.cremer@dsm.com

Mrs Catherine Mignot  
EU Specialty Food Ingredients  
DSM Nutritional Products Tour Nova 71 boulevard National T La Garenne-Colombes  
France  
Tel: +33 1 46 43 59 26  
Email: catherine.mignot@dsm.com

FOODDRINKEUROPE

Ms Katie Carson  
DSM  
Email: katie.carson@dsm.com

Mr Eoin Keane  
Email: e.keane@fooddrinkeurope.eu

Ms Annie Loc'h  
Email: annie.loc@danone.com

Ms Beate Kettliz  
Director  
Food Policy, Science and R&D  
FoodDrinkEurope  
Avenue des Nerviens 9-31  
Bruxelles  
Belgium  
Email: b.kettlitz@fooddrinkeurope.eu

INTERNATIONAL BABY FOOD ACTION NETWORK (IBFAN)

Ms Patti Rundall  
IBFAN  
4 Trumpington Street  
Cambridge  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +447786523493  
Email: prundall@babymilkaction.org

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE (ICA)

Mr Kazuo Onitake  
Senior Scientist, Quality Assurance Division  
Japanese Consumers’ Co-operative Union  
International Co-operative Alliance  
Coop Plaza 3-29-8, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku  
Tokyo  
Japan  
Tel: +81 3 5778 8109  
Email: kazuo.onitake@jccu.coop
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF BEVERAGES ASSOCIATIONS (ICBA)
Ms Paivi Julkunen
Chair, ICBA Committee for Cod
International Council of Beverages Associations
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C.
United States of America
Email: pjulkunen@coca-cola.com

Ms Joanna Skinner
Manager, Regulatory Labeling & Nutrition
Global Scientific & Regulatory Affairs
The Coca-Cola Company
One Coca-Cola Plaza
Atlanta
United States of America
Tel: +14048592480
Email: joaskinner@coca-cola.com

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF GROCERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATIONS (ICGMA)
Mr Nicholas Gardner
Director
Global Strategies
The Grocery Manufacturers Association
1350 I ST NW Suite 300
Washington
Tel: 12026395900
Email: ngardner@gmaonline.org

Ms Melissa San Miguel
Vice President
Head of Policy
Red Flag
1440 G ST, NW
Washington
United States of America
Tel: +1 614 813 2605
Email: melissa.sanmiguel@thisisredflag.com

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION (IDF/FIL)
Mr Eric Grande
Regulatory Affairs Director
Groupe LACTALIS
Tel: +33 06 16992796
Email: Eric.GRANDE@lactalis.fr

Ms Aurélie Dubois Lozier
Technical Manager
International Dairy Federation
Boulevard Auguste Reyers 70 B
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +317736980355
Email: adubois@fil-idf.org

Ms Caroline Emond
Director General
International Dairy Federation
70 Boulevard Auguste Reyers
Brussels
Belgium
Email: dg@fil-idf.org

INTERNATIONAL FOOD AUTHENTICITY ASSURANCE ORGANIZATION (IFAAO)
Mr Yves Rey
Executive Director
IFAAO
373 Park Avenue South, 6th Floor
New York
United States of America
Email: yvesrey@ifaaoo.org

Mr Michael Roberts
the Vice-Chairperson of the IFAAO Advisory Board
IFAAO
Email: microrob@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL FEED INDUSTRY FEDERATION (IFIF)
Mr Joel Newman
President & CEO
American Feed Industry Association
2101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 916
Arlington, VA
United States of America
Tel: +1 703-558-3562
Email: jnewman@afia.org

INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS (IFT)
Dr Rosetta Newsome
Director, Science & Policy Initiatives
Science & Policy Initiatives
Institute of Food Technologists
IFT 525 West Van Buren St. Chicago, IL 60607-3830
Chicago
United States of America
Tel: 312.369.0575
Email: rlnewsome@ift.org

INTERNATIONAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICE ASSOCIATION (IFU)
Mr John Collins
Executive Director
IFU (Int. Fruit and Vegetable Juice Association)
23 Boulevard des Capucines
Paris
France
Tel: +44 1278 627844
Email: john@ifu-fruitjuice.com

INTERNATIONAL GLUTAMATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (IGTC)
Mr Satoru Kubo
International Glutamate Technical Committee
3-11-8 Hatchobori, Chuo-ku
Tokyo
Japan
Tel: +81-80-3258-1900
Email: secretariat@e-igtc.org

INTERNATIONAL MEAT SECRETARIAT (IMS)
Ms Courtney Knupp
Director of International Trade Policy
International Meat Secretariat
5 rue Lespagnol
Paris
France
Tel: 202-768-4012
Email: knuppc@nppc.org
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE FLAVOR INDUSTRY (IOFI)

Dr Thierry Cachet
Regulatory and Advocacy Director
Belgium
IOFI
Avenue des Arts, 6
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +3222142052
Email: tcachet@iofi.org

INTERNATIONAL PROBIOTICS ASSOCIATION (IPA)

Mr George Paraskevakos
Executive Director
International Probiotics Association (IPA)
1824 S. Robertson
Los Angeles
United States of America
Tel: 514-571-5949
Email: george@internationalprobiotics.org

Mrs Rosanna Pecere
Executive Director
IPA EUROPE
Ave d’Auderghem 22-28
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 2 549 50 81
Email: r.pecere@ipaeurope.org

Mr Huub Scheres
Director of External Affairs
Dupont Nutrition and Health
Archimedesweg 30
Leiden
Netherlands
Tel: +3171
Email: Huub.Scheres@dupont.com

Mr David Pineda Ereno
International Probiotics Association
Email: info@internationalprobiotics.org

THE INTERNATIONAL POULTRY COUNCIL (IPC)

Mrs Marilia Rangel Campos
Secretary General
International Poultry Council
2300 West Park Place Boulevard St 100
Stone Mountain
United States of America
Tel: +5511999867527
Email: marilia@internationalpoultrycouncil.org

INTERNATIONAL STEVIA COUNCIL (ISCO)

Mrs Maria Teresa Scardigli
Executive Director
International Stevia Council
Avenue Jules Bordet 142
Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 761 16 51
Email: GlobalOffice@internationalsteviacouncil.org

INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL DIETARY FOODS INDUSTRIES (ISDI)

Mrs Sandrine Alloncle
Global Regulatory & Scientific Affairs Senior Manager
Nestle Nutrition
Email: Sandrine.Alloncle@nestle.com

Mrs Cristine Bradley
Global Assoc Director, Regulatory and Nutrition Science
RB
Email: Cris.Bradley@rb.com

Mr Marian Brestovansky
Regulatory Affairs Officer
ISDI-International Special Dietary Foods Industries
Email: secretariat@isdi.org

Mr Kaushik Janakiram
Regulatory Affairs Officer
RB
Email: Kaushik.Janakiram@rb.com

Mr Jean Christophe Kremer
Secretary General
ISDI-International Special Dietary Foods Industries
Email: secretariat@isdi.org

Mr Xavier Lavigne
Director, Regulatory Policy & Intelligence
Abbott Nutrition
Email: xavier.lavigne@abbott.com

Mrs Sabine Seggelke
Director Global Public Affairs
Danone Nutricia Early Life Nutrition
Email: Sabine.SEGGELKE@danone.com

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)

Mrs Sandrine Espeillac
Secretary of ISO/TC 34
ISO
Chemin de Blandonnet 8 Case Postale 401
Vernier, Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +33 1 41 62 86 02
Email: sandrine.espeillac@afnor.org

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ms Anne Mackenzie
Head, Standards & Regulatory Issues
HarvestPlus c/o IFPRI
32 Shepheards Landing, RR #2,
Mahone Bay
Canada
Tel: +1 902 627 2729
Email: a.mackenzie@cgiar.org

NATIONAL HEALTH FEDERATION (NHF)

Mr Scott Tips
President
CALIFORNIA
1952
Monrovia
United States of America
Tel: 16263572181
Email: scott@rivieramail.com

OENOLOGICAL PRODUCTS AND PRACTICES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (OENOPPIA)

Mrs Elisabetta Romeo-Vareille
Policy-officer
Oenoppia
21-23, rue Croulebarbe
PARIS
France
UNITED STATES PHARMACOPEIAL CONVENTION (USP)

Dr. Steven Gendel
Senior Director - Foods, Science Foods
US Pharmacopeial Convention (USP)
12601 Twinbrook Parkway
Rockville
United States of America
Tel: (301) 692-3375
Email: steven.gendel@usp.org

WORLD SUGAR RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (WSRO)

Dr. Roberta Re
Director-General
WSRO (World Sugar Research Organisation)
WSRO Milton Hall Ely Road Milton
Cambridge
United Kingdom
Tel: 01223 928060
Email: rre@wsro.org

HEALTH FOR ANIMALS (HEALTHFORANIMALS)

Dr. Alexander Boettner
Exec. Dir. Regulatory Affairs
MSD Animal Health Innovation GmbH
Zur Propstei 55270
Schwabenheim
Germany
Tel: +49 (6130) 948 190
Email: alexander.boettner@msd.de

Mrs. Donna Louise Bowater
HealthforAnimals
Email: donna@marchmontcomms.com

Mr. Carel Du Marchie Sarvaas
Executive Director
HealthforAnimals
Avenue de Tervueren 168 1150 Brussels

FAO PERSONNEL
PERSONNEL DE LA FAO
PERSONAL DE LA FAOCODEX SECRETARIAT

Dr. Renata Clarke
Head, Food Safety and Quality Unit
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 2010
Email: Renata.Clarke@fao.org

Mr. Markus Lipp
Senior Food Safety Officer
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Email: Markus.Lipp@fao.org

Mr. Dirk Schulz
Food Safety Assessment Officer
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 57052842
Email: dirk.schulz@fao.org

Dr. Vittorio Fattori
Food Safety Officer
Food Safety and Quality Unit
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy

Mr. Jesse Sevcik
HealthforAnimals
Elanco Animal Health 555 12 Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20004 USA
Tel. 202-4343-1014 Email: jsevcik@elanco.com 650
Washington, D.C.
United States of America
Email: jsevcik@elanco.com
Mr Jeffrey Lejeune  
Food Safety and Antimicrobial Resistance Consultant  
AGFF  
FAO  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 56951  
Email: Vittorio.Fattori@fao.org

Mrs Eleonora Dupouy  
Food Safety and Consumer Protection Officer  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: 390657056623  
Email: Jeffrey.Lejeune@fao.org

Ms Cornelia Boesch  
Dr. sc. techn. ETH  
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.  
Viale delle terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 55854  
Email: Cornelia.Boesch@fao.org

Mr Blaise Ouattara  
Food Safety and Quality Officer  
Food Safety and Quality Unit,  
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Email: Blaise.Ouattara@fao.org

Ms Esther Garrido Gamarro  
Food safety and quality officer  
Products, Trade and Marketing Branch (FIAM)  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division  
The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 56712  
Email: Esther.GarridoGamarro@fao.org

Ms Maria Xipsiti  
Nutrition Officer  
Nutrition and Food Systems Division  
FAO  
Email: maria.xipsiti@fao.org

Mr Kosuke Shiraishi  
Junior Professional Officer  
FAO  
Email: Kosuke.Shiraishi@fao.org

WHO PERSONNEL  
PERSONNEL DE L’OMS  
PERSONAL DE LA OMS

Dr Soumya Swaminathan  
Deputy Director-General  
Programmes and Corporate Operations  
World Health Organization  
20, Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41227913090  
Email: swaminathans@who.int

Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima  
Director  
Food Safety and Zoonoses  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
20, Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 791 2773  
Email: miyagishimak@who.int

Dr Angelika Tritscher  
Food Safety and Zoonoses  
World Health Organization  
20, Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 791 3569  
Email: tritschera@who.int

Mrs Catherine Mulholland  
Administrator Codex Trust Fund  
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
20, Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 7913080  
Email: mulhollandc@who.int

Dr Francesco Branca  
Director  
Nutrition for Health and Development  
World Health Organization  
20, Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 1025
Email: brancaf@who.int
Dr Peter Ben Embarek
Scientist
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 1498
Email: benembarekp@who.int

Mr Adam Bradshaw
Consultant
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 3410
Email: bradshawa@who.int

Mrs Françoise Fontannaz-Aujoulat
Technical Officer
Food Safety and Zoonoses
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 3697
Email: fontannazf@who.int

Mrs Yuki Minato
Technical Officer
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41227913713
Email: minatoy@who.int

Ms Satoko Murakami
Technical Officer
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41227913640
Email: murakamis@who.int

Mr Carmen Savelli
Project Officer
Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS)
World Health Organization (WHO)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 3234
Email: savellic@who.int

Mrs Lindita Molla
Public Health/Food Safety
Department of Health and Environment
Aleksander Moisiu, No 80 Tirana
Email: lindimolla2002@yahoo.com

Dr Joke Van Der Giessen
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
Email: joke.van.der.giessen@rivm.nl

Dr Lucie Vermeulen
Scientific staff member
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
Antonie van Leeuwenhoeklaan 9,
3721 MA Bilthoven
Email: lucie.vermeulen@rivm.nl
Mr Tom Heilandt
Secretary Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 4384
Email: tom.heilandt@fao.org

Ms Sarah Cahill
Senior Food Standard Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Email: Sarah.Cahill@fao.org

Ms Hilde Kruse
Senior Food Standard Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Email: Hilde.Kruse@fao.org

Ms Gracia Brisco
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 52700
Email: gracia.brisco@fao.org

Ms Verna Carolissen-Mackay
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 5629
Email: verna.carolissen@fao.org

Ms Lingping Zhang
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 53218
Email: lingping.zhang@fao.org

Mr Patrick Sekitoreko
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 6626
Email: patrick.sekitoleko@fao.org

Mr David Massey
Special Advisor
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 53465
Email: david.massey@fao.org

Ms Donatella Mori
IT Business Analyst (Information Systems)
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: 06 5705 6820
Email: donatella.mori@fao.org

Ms Anne Beutling
Associate Professional Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 53528
Email: anne.beutling@fao.org

Ms Myoengsin Choi
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06570 54796
Email: myoengsin.choi@fao.org

Ms Rain Yamamoto
Food Standards Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 0570 55868
Email: rain.yamamoto@fao.org

Mr Roberto Sciotti
Record & Information Management Officer &
Webmaster
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 56141
Email: Roberto.Sciotti@fao.org
Mr Mirko Montuori
Communication and Information Consultant
Codex Alimentarius
FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: 0657053806
Email: mirko.montuori@fao.org

Mr Ross Halbert
Consultant
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Email: rhalbert@gmail.com

Mr Giuseppe Di Chiera
Programme Specialist
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 52533
Email: giuseppe.dichiera@fao.org

Ms Jingfei Qian
Seconded Officer
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 57050425
Email: Jingfei.Qian@fao.org

Ms Jocelyne Farrugia
Administrative Assistant
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 54601
Email: Jocelyne.Farrugia@fao.org

Ms Ilaria Tarquini
Administrative Assistant
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Tel: 0657055425
Email: ilaria.tarquinio@fao.org

Ms Florence Martin De Martino
French Proofreader
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Email: florence.martin@fao.org

Mr Peter Di Tommaso
Documents Clerk
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome
Italy
Email: peter.ditommaso@fao.org
### AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL MANUAL

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<th>Codex body</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<td>CCRVDF</td>
<td>Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods REP18/RVDF Para. 83, 84(i), Appendix V</td>
<td>REP18/RVDF Para. 83, 84(i), Appendix V</td>
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### LIST OF ADOPTED STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

<table>
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<th>Standards and Related Texts</th>
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<td>Standard for Aubergines</td>
<td>REP18/FFV</td>
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<td>Revision of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: date marking (CXS 1-1985)</td>
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<td>Revision of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CXC 52-2003): Guidance for histamine control</td>
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<td>N02-2016</td>
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<td>MLs for cadmium in chocolate containing or declaring ≥ 50% to &lt; 70% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis; and chocolate containing or declaring ≥ 70% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis</td>
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<td>Revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989)</td>
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<td>Revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of the annexes on canned mangoes, canned pears and canned pineapples of the <em>Standard for Certain Canned Fruits</em> (CXS 319-2015) and 14 standards for fish and fish products</td>
<td>REP18/FA Paras. 48(i) points c and d Appendix V, part B</td>
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<td>Revised food-additive sections of the <em>Standard for Certain Canned Fruits</em> (CXS 319-2015) and the Standards for <em>Canned Salmon</em> (CXS 3-1981); <em>Canned Shrimps or Prawns</em> (CXS 37-1991); <em>Canned Tuna and Bonito</em> (CXS 70-1981); <em>Canned Crab Meat</em> (CXS 90-1981); <em>Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products</em> (CXS 94-1981); <em>Canned Finfish</em> (CXS 119-1981); <em>Salted Fish and Dried Salted Fish of the Gadidae Family of Fishes</em> (CXS 167-1989); <em>Dried Shark Fins</em> (CXS 189-1993); <em>Crackers from Marine and Freshwater Fish, Crustacean and Molluscan Shellfish</em> (CXS 222-2001); <em>Boiled Dried Salted Anchovies</em> (CXS 236-2003); <em>Salted Atlantic Herring and Salted Sprat</em> (CXS 244-2004); <em>Sturgeon Caviar</em> (CXS 291-2010); <em>Fish Sauce</em> (CXS 302-2011) and <em>Smoked Fish, Smoke-Flavoured Fish and Smoke-Dried Fish</em> (CXS 311-2013)</td>
<td>REP18/FA Paras. 48(i) points a and b and 30(ii) Appendix IV</td>
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<td>Revised food-additive sections of Standards for <em>Milk Powders and Cream Powder</em> (CXS 207-1999), a <em>Blend of Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat in Powdered Form</em> (CXS 251-2006); and <em>Edible Casein Products</em> (CXS 290-1995)</td>
<td>REP18/FA Para. 30(ii)</td>
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<td>MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies)</td>
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<td>Revision of the <em>Classification of Food and Feed</em> (CXM 4-1989): Type 04: Nuts, seeds and saps Type 05: Herbs and spices</td>
<td>REP18/PR Paras. 118 and 120 Appendices VII-Part A &amp; VIII-Part A N11-2004 N09-2006</td>
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<td>Tables on examples of representative commodities for: Types 04 and 05 (For inclusion in the <em>Principles and Guidance for the selection of representative commodities for the extrapolation of maximum residue limits for pesticides for commodity groups</em>(CXG 84-2012)) Table 04: Nuts, seeds and saps Table 05: Herbs and spices</td>
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<td>RMR for gentian violet</td>
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<td>MRLs for amoxicillin (finfish fillet, muscle); ampicillin (finfish fillet, muscle); lufenuron (salmon and trout fillet); monepantel (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle)</td>
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<td>Methods of analysis / performance criteria for provisions in Codex standards (for inclusion in CXS 234-1999)</td>
<td>REP18/MAS Para. 22, Appendix II</td>
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<td>Standard for Quinoa</td>
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<td>Review of the <em>Standard for Follow-up Formula</em> (CXS 156-1987):</td>
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<td>COP for the reduction of 3-MCPDE and GE in refined oils and</td>
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<td>food where there is no regulatory level or risk management</td>
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<td>Revision of the <em>Guidelines on measurement uncertainty</em> (CXG 54-2004)</td>
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<td>Revision of the <em>Guidelines on Sampling</em> (CXG 50-2004)</td>
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<td>CCCF</td>
<td>Establishment of MLs for cadmium in dry mixtures of cocoa and sugars sold for final consumption</td>
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<td>REP18/PR Para. 112, App. VI</td>
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<td>CCFH</td>
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<td>REP18/FH, para. 6</td>
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<td>CCCF</td>
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<td>REP18/CF, para. 84</td>
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<td>Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989)</td>
<td>REP18/FA, para. 148, CX/CAC 18/41/10 Add.1</td>
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Established under Rule XI.1(b)(i)

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<td>CX 708</td>
<td>Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate</td>
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¹ Working by correspondence