



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 2(b)

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English only

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**  
**Seventieth Session**  
**WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland**  
**30 June - 3 July 2015**

**CRITICAL REVIEW FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**  
**MONITORING OF STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT**  
**(CCNEA)**

## **BACKGROUND**

1. This document contains information on work carried out by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East, which took place on 1-5 June 2015.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. Work on the development of regional standards is progressing according to schedule. The Regional Standard for Doogh is expected to be completed by 2017 as opposed to this year. The Committee provided clear guidance in order to facilitate the completion of this work at its 9<sup>th</sup> Session.

3. Work on labneh continues subject to the Commission's advice on how to deal with this product in the Standard for Fermented Milks (CODEX STAN 243-2003) on the basis of a document to be prepared by Lebanon.

STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT STANDARDS (OTHER THAN THOSE SUBMITTED FOR ADOPTION)<sup>1</sup>

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (8 <sup>th</sup> Session, 1-5 June 2015)	Timeframe		Current Status	Output Codes	Scientific Advice	Explanatory Notes
	Job ID or year	Target Year				
Proposed draft Regional Standard for Doogh	N21-2011	2015	2/3	1.2		CCNEA08 agreed to retain doogh as a regional standard and to consider a revised version at its next session with a view to its completion and final adoption by CAC40 (2017). The standard should be drafted in such a way as to address essential composition and quality factors, in addition to a clear product definition, and food additive and labelling requirements that would facilitate the incorporation of doogh into the <i>Standard for Fermented Milks</i> in future.
Proposed draft Regional Standard for Labneh	N12-2013	2017	4	1.2		CCNEA08 agreed to retain labneh as a regional standard. Lebanon, with the assistance of interested Member countries, would prepare a document to provide the technical justification for the removal of the reference to labneh in the <i>Standard for Fermented Milks</i> for consideration by CCEXEC. In addition, Lebanon, with the assistance of interested Member countries, would continue to work on the technical provisions specific to labneh while awaiting the decision of CAC on this matter. The new draft should focus specifically on those sections dealing with the scope, product description, essential composition and quality factors, food additives and labelling. Provisions in these sections should be drafted in such a way that would facilitate the insertion of labneh in the <i>Standard for Fermented Milks</i> at a later stage.

<sup>1</sup> “**Job Identification Number**”: Job Identification Number, or the year when new work was approved, or the year when work actually started, as applicable.

“**Target Year**”: the year by which the text is to be adopted at Step 8, as agreed by the Commission on the basis of the project document (from 2004 onwards), or the date specified by the Committee, where applicable.

“**Output Codes**”: the following codes are used: 1.1: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety; 1.2: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality; 1.3: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition; 1.4: Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of sampling and analysis.

**Explanatory Notes**: includes specific issues only for relevant provisions and the status of endorsement when applicable. There are no comments when no specific problems exist as regards the criteria mentioned in the Critical Review or other related issues.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (8 <sup>th</sup> Session, 1-5 June 2015)	Timeframe		Current Status	Output Codes	Scientific Advice	Explanatory Notes
	Job ID or year	Target Year				
Proposed draft Regional Standard for Zaatar	N13-2013	2017	2/3	1.2		CCNEA08 agreed to further consider a revised draft at its next session with a view to its completion and final adoption by CAC40 in 2017. The layout of the new draft should be aligned alignment with the Codex format for commodity standards in particular those that were used in Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and the Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs so as to ensure consistency. In particular the section on essential composition and quality factors should be brought into line with the format used in the aforesaid standards.
<p><u>Discussion papers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion paper on new work on pre-packaged salads (for consideration by CCNEA09)</li> </ul> <p><u>Discontinued topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camel milk (discontinued)</li> </ul> <p><u>Other topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Strategic Plan for CCNEA 2016-2019 (completed). The next session will monitor the implementation of the CCNEA Strategic Plan.</li> </ul>						
<u>Comments by the Chairperson/host country:</u>						