



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS**

**First Session**

**Kochi, India, 11-14 February 2014**

**WORK MANAGEMENT MODALITIES OF THE CCSC**

**(Prepared by India)**

Governments and international organizations in Observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission wishing to submit comments on this document are invited to do so no later than **15 January 2014** as follows: CCSC Secretariat, Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India), 'Sugandha Bhavan", N.H. By Pass, Palarivattom.P.O, Kochi – 682025, Kerala, India (Email: [ccsch@indianspices.com](mailto:ccsch@indianspices.com)), with a copy to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy (e-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org)) and to National Codex Contact Point of India, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110001, India (Email: [codex-india@nic.in](mailto:codex-india@nic.in)).

### Introduction

1. The 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission agreed to establish a Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH), to be hosted by India. The Commission did not consider the proposals for new work and agreed that the first session of the Committee would consider its work management modalities (discussed in this document), programme of work, including prioritizing criteria (discussed under Agenda Item 5) and new work proposals from Members (discussed under Agenda Item 6) (ref. REP13/CAC pars 155-156). This document presents a proposal for the work management modalities for discussion by the Committee.

### Scope

2. This document describes the proposed process by which the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) will undertake its work and addresses the following:

- Frequency and length of the CCSC sessions
- Provisional Agenda
- Consideration for new work within CCSC
- Grouping of commodities in general standards
- Provision for Cross-Committee Interaction to conduct CCSC work
- Facilitation for Co-hosting of sessions

### Frequency and length of the Sessions

3. The Committee will meet at an interval of approximately 18 months. It is envisaged that the work of the Committee would be completed in 12 sessions. The session will be conducted for period of four days and may subsequently be extended to five days based on the volume and work of the Committee.

### Provisional Agenda

4. The Committee will follow the regular agenda pattern with standing agenda items such as Adoption of agenda, matters referred from Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees, activities of International organizations relevant to the work of the Committee, other business and future work, date and place of the next session and adoption of the report.

5. In addition, it is proposed that the Provisional Agenda includes a maximum of four working documents related to standards on spices and culinary herbs; e.g. - two on spices and two on culinary herbs in order to make the Committee work more efficient and minimize backlog.

### Consideration of new work within CCSCCH

6. A request for proposals for new work and/or revision of an existing standard will be issued in the form of a Circular Letter by the Codex Secretariat. New work and/or revision of an existing standard may be proposed either by:

- a. The Committee on its own initiative
- b. By another Codex Subsidiary body upon referral to CCSCCH
- c. By an individual member or members

7. As specified in the Codex *Procedural Manual*, work undertaken by the CCSCCH should fall within its Terms of Reference, should be consistent with the general procedures established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and should meet the **Prioritization Criteria set by CCSCCH based on the Codex Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities (discussed in Agenda 5)**.

8. A physical working group will be constituted by the Committee to prioritize the new work proposals as per Prioritization Criteria set by CCSCCH. The Committee will prioritize its proposals for new work at each CCSCCH Session based on the recommendations from the physical working group. The working group will meet prior to every Session. Proposals for new work of lower priority may be delayed if resources are limiting. Proposals for new work of lower priority not recommended may be reconsidered at the subsequent CCSCCH Session. If the proposal for new work is "not accepted" or "returned for revision," a justification for this recommendation will be provided by the physical working group.

9. It is proposed that the Committee considers at each meeting a maximum of four standards (e.g. two for spices and two for culinary herbs). Once work is completed on a standard for a particular spice/ culinary herb, the next proposal based on priority list will be taken for consideration by the CCSCCH.

10. Upon approval of the proposal for new work and/or revision of an existing standard by the CAC, the work will be undertaken through the Codex Step Procedure as provided for in the Codex *Procedural Manual* "Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts".

11. An electronic or physical working group may be established to assist the Committee to undertake the work for the development of the standard, - subject to approval of new work by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

12. A Template will be developed by the Committee for the standards on the basis of the first standards developed by the Committee. While developing the template, the standard layout followed by Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV), Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) and the standard layout for UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce may be taken into consideration.

### Grouping of commodities in general standards

13. For effective working of the Committee, the spices can be grouped into the following categories and the Committee can develop a general standard for the group. The various categories of the spices are as follows:

- Dried fruits or seeds, such as fennel, mustard, and black pepper.
- Arils, such as mace
- Barks, such as cinnamon and cassia.
- Dried flower buds, such as cloves.
- Stigmas, such as saffron.
- Roots, tuber, rhizomes such as turmeric and bulbs such as garlic.
- Resins, such as asafoetida

14. The individual standards for the spices will be placed as annexures to the general standard.

15. The general template for standards of culinary herbs will be based on a single group, i.e. leaves, owing to the major utility in the form of leaves. Individual standards for each culinary herb will be annexed to this general standard taking into account their utility as leaf characteristics, terminal shoots and stems.

### Provision for Cross-Committee Interaction to Conduct CCSCCH Work

16. It is noted that there are already existing mechanisms in place to facilitate cross-committee interactions through the regular agenda item, Matters Referred from the CAC and other Codex Committees. All provisions for food additive, hygiene, contaminants, labeling, methods of analysis and sampling are subject to the endorsement of the relevant Committees.

### Co- hosting Arrangements

17. As decided at the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission the host country (India) is open to co-hosting arrangements after gaining sufficient experience through conducting two or three sessions of the Committee. The co-hosting arrangements will be made in line with the provisions laid down in the Codex Procedural Manual.