

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 7

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41st Session

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COMMENTS ON PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK

Comments of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Philippines, Liberia, Ghana

- **Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**
- **Comité sur les fruits et légumes frais**
- **Comité sobre fruta y hortaliza frescas**

The project document for new work on a standard for yam (REP18/FFV) (Para 60, Appendix V)
The project document for new work on a standard for onions and shallots (REP18/FFV) (Para 60)
The project document for new work on a standard for berry fruits (REP18/FFV) (Para 60)

Comments of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana

SENEGAL

Contexte : Au CCFFV 20, un groupe de travail d'intra-session a été formé avec les États-Unis d'Amérique en tant que président pour examiner les propositions de nouveaux travaux sur les normes Codex pour les fruits et légumes frais. Des exposés ont été présentés par le Costa Rica, l'Inde, l'Iran et le Mexique sur les propositions relatives aux projets de normes pour les feuilles d'igname, de curry vert, d'oignon et de baies, respectivement au cours du groupe de travail de session.

Le groupe de travail de la session a recommandé au comité d'examiner les projets de normes pour l'igname, les fruits de baies, les feuilles du curry et une norme combinée pour les Oignons et les échalotes.

Le Comité a décidé de soumettre des propositions de nouveaux travaux à la 41^e session de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius (CAC 41) et de former des groupes de travail électroniques (GTE) (sur la base de l'approbation de CAC 41) pour préparer des projets de normes pour les fruits, les oignons et les échalotes et les fruits Berry pour la circulation à l'étape 3 et à la CCFFV 21

Pour l'igname GTE sera présidé par le Costa Rica et coprésidé par le Ghana, en anglais et en espagnol.

Pour les oignons et les échalotes, les GTE seront présidés par l'Iran et coprésidés par l'Inde et l'Indonésie travaillant en anglais.

Le GTE de Berry Fruits sera présidé par le Mexique et coprésidé par l'Argentine, travaillant en anglais et en espagnol.

Position : Le Sénégal soutient l'approbation de ces nouveaux travaux.

Justification : cela pourra contribuer à augmenter les échanges de ces produits au niveau international

SIERRA LEONE

Main issues:-

At CCFFV20, an in-session Working Group was formed with the United States of America as Chair to consider the Proposals for new work on Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Presentations were made

by Costa Rica, India, Iran and Mexico on the proposals for Draft Standards for Yam, Green Curry Leaves, Onion and Blackberry respectively during the in-session working group.

The in-session Working Group recommended to the Committee that Draft Standards be considered for Yam, Berry fruits, Curry leaves and a combined standard be considered for Onions and Shallots.

The Committee decided to submit proposals for new work to the 41st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC41) and form electronic working groups (EWG) (based on the approval of CAC41) to prepare draft standards for Yam, Onions and Shallots and Berry fruits for circulation at Step 3 and consideration at CCFFV21

The Yam EWG will be chaired by Costa Rica and co-chaired by Ghana, working in English and Spanish.

RECOMMENDATION POSITION

Sierra Leone recommend the proposals for new work on Yam, Onions and Shallots and Berry Fruit.

The Onions and Shallots EWG will be chaired by Iran and co-chaired by India and Indonesia working in English only.

RECOMMENDATION POSITION

Sierra Leone recommend the proposals for new work on Yam, Onions and Shallots and Berry Fruit.

The Berry Fruits EWG will be chaired by Mexico and co-chaired by Argentina, working in English and Spanish.

The Committee decided that the proposal for curry leaves needs further development by India prior to the formation of an EWG and the development of a standard for circulation for comments and consideration at Step 3.

RECOMMENDATION POSITION

Sierra Leone recommend the proposals for new work on Yam, Onions and Shallots and Berry Fruit.

LIBERIA

Background/Issue

At CCFFV20, an in-session Working Group was formed with the United States of America as Chair to consider the Proposals for new work on Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Presentations were made by Costa Rica, India, Iran and Mexico on the proposals for Draft Standards for Yam, Green Curry Leaves, Onion and Blackberry respectively during the in-session working group.

The in-session Working Group recommended to the Committee that Draft Standards be considered for Yam, Berry fruits, Curry leaves and a combined standard be considered for Onions and Shallots.

The Committee decided to submit proposals for new work to the 41st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC41) and form electronic working groups (EWG) (based on the approval of CAC41) to prepare draft standards for Yam, Onions and Shallots and Berry fruits for circulation at Step 3 and consideration at CCFFV21

The Yam EWG will be chaired by Costa Rica and co-chaired by Ghana, working in English and Spanish.

The Onions and Shallots EWG will be chaired by Iran and co-chaired by India and Indonesia working in English only.

The Berry Fruits EWG will be chaired by Mexico and co-chaired by Argentina, working in English and Spanish.

The Committee decided that the proposal for curry leaves needs further development by India prior to the formation of an EWG and the development of a standard for circulation for comments and consideration at Step 3.

Recommendation

Liberia supports the proposals for new work on Yam, Onions and Shallots and Berry Fruit.

GHANA

POSITION: We support the proposals for new work on Yam, Onions and Shallots and Berry Fruit.

RATIONALE: Yam, berries, onions and shallots are grown in specific regions of Africa depending on climate, temperature and growing conditions. Yams, berries, onions and shallots are also traded within Ghana and Africa in general. Ghana contributes significantly to global production of yams, onions and shallots, whilst Africa's contribution to global production of berries is increasing at a steady pace.

Development of Codex standard for yams, berries, onions and shallots will promote international trade in these important agricultural commodities for Africa.

- Committee on Food Labelling
- Comité sur l'étiquetage des denrées alimentaires
- Comité sobre etiquetado de los alimentos

The project document for new work on the development of guidance on use of simplified nutrition information on the front of pack (REP18/FL) (Para 48, Appendix III)

Comments of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana

SENEGAL

Contexte : À sa 44^e session, CCFL a accepté d'entreprendre de nouveaux travaux pour élaborer des lignes directrices sur les systèmes d'étiquetage des emballages. Cela a été fait après les discussions sur *le document de travail* sur la question présentée par le Groupe de travail spécial présidé par le Costa Rica. La plupart des commentaires formulés au cours de la session étaient à l'appui du lancement de nouveaux travaux sur l'utilisation d'informations nutritionnelles simplifiées sur le conditionnement (l'avant du pack). Le CCFL a donc accepté de soumettre le descriptif de projet (REP 18/FL ; Annexe III) pour approbation par CAC 41

Position : Le Sénégal soutient l'approbation de ce nouveau travail

Justification : l'existence de multiples systèmes d'ENF peut aboutir à des obstacles techniques au commerce. Il y a une réelle nécessité de disposer d'orientations scientifiques claires et transparentes pour permettre aux gouvernements souhaitant appliquer ce type d'étiquetage de le faire. Ce qui favoriserait l'harmonisation de ces systèmes et par conséquent faciliterait le commerce international et permettra aux consommateurs à mieux comprendre et à faire des choix éclairés.

SIERRA LEONE

Main issues:-

CCFL at its 44th session, agreed to start new work to develop Guidelines on Front of Pack (FOP) Labelling systems. This came up after discussions on the Discussion Paper on the matter presented by EWG chaired by Costa Rica. Most of the comments made during the session, were in support of starting new work on use of simplified nutrition information on the front of pack. The CCFL therefore agreed to submit the project document (REP 18/FL; Appendix III) for approval by CAC 41.

RECOMMENDATION POSITION

Sierra Leone support the approval for new work Step 2/3 Proposed draft guidelines on front of pack nutrition labelling REP18/FL, para 48 as this will ensure standardization format for FOPL and reduced Barrier to trade.

LIBERIA

Background/Issue

CCFL at its 44th session, agreed to start new work to develop Guidelines on Front of Pack Labelling systems. This came up after discussions on the *Discussion Paper* on the matter presented by EWG chaired by Costa Rica. Most of the comments made during the session, were in support of starting new work on use of simplified nutrition information on the front of pack. The CCFL therefore agreed to submit the project document (REP 18/FL; Appendix III) for approval by CAC 41.

Recommended Position for CAC41

Liberia supports adoption

GHANA

POSITION: We support the proposal for project document for new work on the COP.

RATIONALE: Nutrition Labeling will help provide consumers with appropriate understanding and allow them make informed food choices.

Currently, FoP Nutrition Labeling is done in different formats. This may serve as a barrier to trade in the absence of harmonized FoP labelling system. Developing general guidelines on FoPL will ensure standardization of format for FoPL.

- **Committee on Food Hygiene**
- **Comité sur l'hygiène alimentaire**
- **Comité sobre Higiene de los Alimentos**

The project document for new work on code of practice on food allergen management for food business operators (REP18/FH) (Para 48, See Annex III of this document)

Comments of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Philippines

SENEGAL

Contexte: L'Australie a introduit un nouveau travail :Code d'usages pour la gestion des allergènes alimentaires pour les entreprises du secteur alimentaire.

Le Secrétariat a noté qu'en cas d'approbation des nouveaux travaux, le projet de document devrait être révisé afin de :i) préciser le lien avec l'étiquetage des aliments ;ii) déterminer la nécessité d'avis scientifiques ;iii) compléter l'information sur une évaluation par rapport aux cinq critères applicables aux questions générales, comme le prévoit le Manuel de procédure.

Compte tenu du consensus sur le champ d'application, le comité a convenu :

- de commencer les nouveaux travaux et le Comité a clarifié l'objet et le champ d'application comme suit :

«L'objectif du Code d'usage sera d'orienter les exploitants et les gouvernements des entreprises alimentaires pour gérer les allergènes dans la production alimentaire, y compris les contrôles visant à prévenir les contaminations croisées.» La gestion des allergènes alimentaires comprend également l'étiquetage des allergènes qui est traité par le CCFL.

- De demander à l'Australie et aux États-Unis d'Amérique de soumettre le projet révisé de document à la Commission du Codex Alimentarius (par l'intermédiaire du Secrétariat) pour approbation en tant que nouveau travail ;

- Créer un GTE présidé par l'Australie et coprésidé par le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis d'Amérique, afin d'élaborer un projet de code de circulation pour les observations à l'étape 3 et de discuter à la 50^e session du CCFH, sous réserve de l'approbation de la Commission.

Position ; Nous supportons l'approbation de ce nouveau travail

Justification : Actuellement, il n'existe pas de norme spécifique Codex ou de code de pratique/lignes directrices pour la gestion des allergènes dans les aliments. L'élaboration du document servira donc de guide pour la gestion des allergènes et contribuera ainsi à la protection de la santé et de la sécurité des consommateurs. Le code de pratique facilitera également une approche proactive de gestion des allergènes dans la production

SIERRA LEONE

Main issues:-

Australia introduced a new work: Code of Practice for the Management of Food Allergens for Food Businesses

The Secretariat noted that, in the case of approval of new work, the draft document should be revised in order to: i) clarify the link with food labeling; ii) determine the need for scientific advice; iii) complete the information on an assessment against the five criteria applicable to general issues as required by the Procedural Manual.

Given the consensus on the scope, the committee agreed:

- to begin new work and the Committee clarified the purpose and scope as follows:

“The purpose of the Code of Practice (CoP) will be to provide guidance to food business operators and governments to manage allergens in food production, including controls to prevent cross-contact. Food allergen management also involves allergen labelling which is addressed by the GSLPF.

- To request Australia and the United States of America to submit the revised draft document to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (through the Secretariat) for approval as new work;
- Establish an EWG chaired by Australia and co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the United States of America, to prepare a draft Code for circulation for Comments at Step 3 and discussion at the 50th session of the CCFH, subject to approval by the Commission.

RECOMMENDATION POSITION

Sierra Leone endorse the approval of new work

LIBERIA

Background/Issue

Australia introduced a new work: Code of Practice for the Management of Food Allergens for Food Businesses

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- Establish an EWG chaired by Australia and co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the United States of America, to prepare a draft Code for circulation for Comments at Step 3 and discussion at the 50th session of the CCFH, subject to approval by the Commission.

Recommendation

Liberia supports approval of new work

GHANA

POSITION: We Support the approval of new work

RATIONALE: Presently there is no specific Codex standard or code of practice/guidelines for the management of allergens in food. The development of the document will therefore provide a guidance for allergen management and so contribute to the protection of health and safety of consumers. The code of practice will also facilitate a proactive approach to managing allergens in food production.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines supports the project document for new work on Code of Practice on Food allergen management for food business operators.

Rationale:

The project document on code of practice on food allergen will contribute to the health and safety of the consumers in food supply chain including during manufacturing, as well as retail. It will address good hygienic practice (GHP) in manufacturing and food preparation practices in food service.

The project document is consistent with the provisions stated in the IRR of RA 10611-“Food Safety Act of 2013”. Joint DA-DOH A.O. No. 2015-0007.

The project document aligns with the ongoing discussions on allergen labelling of the CCFL.

The project document for new work on code of practice on guidance for the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks (REP18/FH) (Para 54, See Annex IV of this document)

Comments of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Philippines

SENEGAL

Contexte : Ce nouveau travail a été proposé par l'Union européenne et concerne l'élaboration d'orientations pour la gestion des crises et des épidémies (micro)biologiques d'origine alimentaire. Il a pour objet d'orienter les autorités compétentes sur la gestion des crises/crises d'origine alimentaire, y compris la communication entre les programmes nationaux avec INFOSAN. » L'orientation vise à faire face à la préparation, à la détection, à l'intervention et au rétablissement dans le but de limiter l'ampleur de ces événements. Le champ d'application est limité aux risques biologiques. Cette orientation vise à fournir un complément et un lien vers les documents élaborés par la FAO/OMS et les textes du Codex, selon le cas. Le document définira le rôle des autorités compétentes et collaborera avec les exploitants d'entreprises alimentaires et d'autres intervenants lors des éclosions/crises d'origine alimentaire.

Position : Le Sénégal propose l'approbation de ce nouveau travail

Justification : Les crises alimentaires et les éclosions ont de graves conséquences sur le plan économique et sur la santé. Les conseils pour gérer les crises et les éclosions d'origine alimentaire seront donc utiles pour minimiser l'impact et les répercussions de la crise ou des éclosions d'origine alimentaire. Le document est également conforme à l'un des mandats de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius, qui est la protection de la santé publique et de la sécurité. Le document favorisera une approche de gestion coordonnée pour la gestion des crises alimentaires et des éclosions d'un niveau multisectoriel.

SIERRA LEONE**Main issues:-**

This new work was proposed by the European Union and concerns the development of guidance for the management of (micro)biological foodborne crisis/outbreaks. The Committee agreed to start new work in this area and clarified the purpose and scope as follows:

“The purpose of the new work is to provide guidance to competent authorities on the management of foodborne outbreaks/crises, including the communication between national programmes with “INFOSAN. The guidance intends to address preparedness, detection, response and recovery with the intent of limiting the extent of such events. The scope is limited to biological hazards. This guidance intends to provide a supplement and a link to documents developed by FAO/WHO and Codex texts, as appropriate. The document will define the role of competent authorities and collaboration with food business operators and other stakeholders during foodborne outbreaks/crises.

- requested the European Union to submit the revised project document to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (through the Secretariat) for approval as new work; and
- established an EWG, chaired by Denmark and co-chaired by Chile and the European Union, working in English and Spanish, to prepare (subject to the approval of the Commission), the proposed draft guidance for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCFH50.

RECOMMENDATION POSITION

Sierra Leone endorse approval of new work considering the fact that most less developed countries have weak infrastructure to handle food borne disease.

LIBERIA

Background/Issue

This new work was proposed by the European Union and concerns the development of guidance for the management of (micro) biological foodborne crisis/outbreaks. The Committee agreed to start new work in this area and clarified the purpose and scope as follows:

“The purpose of the new work is to provide guidance to competent authorities on the management of foodborne outbreaks/crises, including the communication between national programmes with “INFOSAN. The guidance intends to address preparedness, detection, response and recovery with the intent of limiting the extent of such events. The scope is limited to biological hazards. This guidance intends to provide a supplement and a link to documents developed by FAO/WHO and Codex texts, as appropriate. The document will define the role of competent authorities and collaboration with food business operators and other stakeholders during foodborne outbreaks/crises.

- requested the European Union to submit the revised project document to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (through the Secretariat) for approval as new work; and
- established an EWG, chaired by Denmark and co-chaired by Chile and the European Union, working in English and Spanish, to prepare (subject to the approval of the Commission), the proposed draft guidance for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCFH50.

Recommendations

Liberia supports approval of new work

GHANA

POSITION: We support the approval of new work.

RATIONALE: Foodborne crisis/outbreaks have serious economic and health consequences. Guidance to manage foodborne crisis/outbreaks will therefore be useful in minimizing the impact and incidences of foodborne crisis/outbreaks. The document is also in line with one of the mandates of Codex Alimentarius Commission, which is the protection of public health and safety. The document will promote a coordinated management approach for handling foodborne crisis/outbreaks from a multi-sectorial level.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines support the project document for new work on Guidance for the management of microbiological foodborne crises/outbreaks

Rationale:

The project guidance document would assist the management of foodborne outbreaks especially at national level without delay and also addressed to food business operators (FBOs). The guidance document intends to provide a supplement and a link to documents developed by FAO/WHO and Codex Texts. It will define the role of competent authorities and collaboration with FBOs' and other stakeholders during foodborne outbreaks.

The project document is consistent with the provisions stated in the IRR of RA 10611-“Food Safety Act of 2013”.Joint DA-DOH A.O. No. 2015-0007 20 February 2015

- **Committee on pesticide residues**
- **Comité du codex sur les résidus de pesticides**
- **Comité del codex sobre residuos de plaguicidas**

Priority list of pesticides for evaluation by the 2019 JMPR (REP18/PR) (Para 153, Appendix XIII)

Comments of Ghana

GHANA

POSITION: We support the approval of the priority list of pesticide for evaluation by the 2019 JMPR including: 7 new compounds plus one reserve (pyrasulfatole), 19 new uses and other evaluation for the extraordinary JMPR meeting, 13 new uses and other evaluation for the normal JMPR meeting and 10 compound under the periodic reviews.

RATIONALE: All the compounds in the 2019 schedules have been supported by the manufacturer. Both Toxicological and residue data on commodities is available. They comply with the scheduling criteria.

- **Committee on residues of veterinary drugs in foods**
- **Comité sur les résidus de médicaments vétérinaires dans les aliments**
- **Comité sobre residuos de medicamentos veterinarios en los alimentos**

Priority list of veterinary drugs (REP18/RVDF) (Paras 84(i)-(ii), 108, 109, 112, 115, 116, Appendix VI (Parts A and D))

Comments of Philippines

PHILIPPINES

Background

In the past CCRVDF meeting, ethoxyquin in shrimp have been nominated to be included in Priority List of Veterinary Drug Residue in Food. In line with this, the Philippines thru the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) committed to submit the data of ethoxyquin in shrimp.

General Comments:

The Philippines failed to submit data of ethoxyquin in shrimp.

Recommendation:

Option 1. Seek extension of another year to provide sufficient data

Option 2. Withdraw its request for the inclusion of ethoxyquin in the priority list

The Philippines seek an extension of another year to provide sufficient data

- **Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling**
- **Comité du codex sur les méthodes d'analyse et d'échantillonnage**
- **Comité del codex sobre métodos de análisis y toma de muestras**

Revision of the Guidelines on measurement uncertainty (CXG 54-2004) (REP18/MAS)
(Para 61, Appendix IV)

Comments of Philippines

PHILIPPINES

General Comments:

The Philippines supports the proposal for new work to revise the Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CXG 54-2004) and expresses appreciation for the work done by the Electronic Working Group led by Germany in coming up with the Proposed Draft Revised Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CXG 54-2004) and Information Document Example Procedures for Estimating Measurement Uncertainty

Rationale :

An updated guidelines will provide a better understanding of measurement uncertainty, the influence it will have on decision making and its role in conformity assessment of a particular analytical sample and will be a useful reference for the laboratory analysts and decision makers.

Editorial Comments:

The Philippines would like to make the following editorial comments:

	Editorial Comments
Appendix II, paragraph 2, line 2	Consider replacing "is conform" with "conforms"
Appendix II, paragraph 2, line 3	Consider replacing "contaminate" with "contaminant" and removing the phrase "in order to"
Paragraph 4 under Using the Guide, line 1	Consider removing the word "which"
Paragraph 5 under Using the Guide, line 8	Consider replacing the phrase "please be referred" with "refer"
Under Measurand	Consider replacing "certain" with "certaint"
From Measurement error to measurement uncertainty, Paragraph 1, line 2	Consider replacing "determine" with "determining" and "correct for" with "correcting"
line 4	Consider replacing "measurement" with "measuring"
Paragraph 2, line 1	Consider replacing "never" with "not"
line 2	Consider replacing "inevitable" with "inevitably"
Appendix II, page 9, Uncertainty Sources, No.3 sentence	Consider replacing "please be referred" with "refer"

Revision of the Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004) (REP18/MAS) (Para 71, Appendices V and VI)

Comments of Philippines

PHILIPPINES

General Comments:

The Philippines supports the proposal for new work to revise the General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004) and expresses appreciation for the work done by the Electronic Working Group led by New Zealand in coming up with an outline of a new CXG 50.

Rationale :

The proposed approach for a new General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG-50) will result in a shorter document containing understandable and educational guidance in sections along with links to sampling plans applications which will make it more usable by all countries as per the Project Document prepared by the eWG. The proposed outline is also much simpler and the appended sections useful.