

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

MATTERS FOR ACTION

CCPFV (*Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables*) - Working by Correspondence

Report on CCPFV Work Priorities, Work Plan, and Recommendations for Electronic Working Groups (EWG)¹

This report provides CCPFV's recommendations in response to the tasks CAC40 (2017) laid out for CCPFV. The Commission **is invited to consider** the proposals and recommendations in paragraphs 5 –10 of Section 2 to this document².

I. BACKGROUND

1. CAC40³ agreed that CCPFV would work by correspondence until CAC41 (2018) to:
 - (i) Prioritize its work on proposals for new work and pending work on the review of the existing standards;
 - (ii) Prepare a work plan to address its overall work; and
 - (iii) Prepare recommendations for CAC41 on the establishment of electronic working groups (EWG) to carry out standard-development work, as prioritized in the work plan, for consideration by a physical meeting of CCPFV to be held in 2019.
2. To accomplish these three tasks, the United States of America, as host country for CCPFV, the CCPFV Chair, and the Codex Secretariat prepared CL 2018/22-PFV to request comments on CCPFV priorities regarding new work, pending work on the review of existing standards, and responses to matters referred from the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) and the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS). The CL was distributed in March 2018. An online survey was developed for members to provide feedback on the CL.
3. In addition, in February 2018, the Codex Secretariat created "CCPFV-online," as an electronic user group on the Codex online Forum to allow CCPFV to meet electronically to review inputs on the CL and develop responses to the three tasks identified by CAC40. An invitation to join and participate in CCPFV-online was distributed in mid-February.
4. Twenty countries, one member organization, and seven observer organizations joined CCPFV-online. A list of participants is contained in appendix I. Eight countries provided comments on the CL via the online survey, one country commented directly to CCPFV-online, and three observer organizations submitted comments via e-mail to the Codex Secretariat. All results and comments were posted on CCPFV-online, including tables summarizing the survey inputs. Based on the results of the survey, responses to CL 2018/22-PFV, synthesis prepared by the CCPFV Chair, and review by CCPFV-online members of initial and final drafts, CCPFV, working as CCPFV-online, developed recommendations for the three tasks identified by CAC40.

¹ This report has been prepared by the Chair of CCPFV.

² For related information, see CCEXEC75 Critical Review of CCPFV work (CX/EXEC 18/75/2 Add.1).

³ REP17/CAC para. 95

These recommendations are provided in Section II below⁴. For an analysis of the results contributing to these recommendations, please see Section III of this report.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

Task (i) -- CCPFV Work Priorities

5. Standards Work
 - (a) 1st Tier Priority = Dried Fruits (new work)
 - (b) 2nd Tier Priority = Chili Sauce, Gochujang, Canned Fruit Salads, and Mango Chutney (all new work)
 - (c) Lower Priority = Cashew Kernels and Dried Sweet Potatoes (both new work)
 - (d) Lowest Priority = Address next steps for 12 existing CCPFV standards not yet revised
6. Responses to Matters Referred from Other Codex Committees
 - (a) 1st Tier Priority = Responses to Matters Referred from CCFA
 - (b) 2nd Tier Priority = Responses to Matters Referred from CCMAS

Task (ii) -- Work Plan for CCPFV

7. The following work plan identifies and sequences CCPFV activities.
 - (a) April-June 2018: CCPFV meets by correspondence (CCPFV-online), develops priority of work, work plan, and recommendations for EWGs for new work.
 - (b) June 2018: CCPFV-online recommends to CCEXEC that EWGs be formed for five highest priority proposals for new work, with countries identified as chairs or co-chairs for the each. CCEXEC reviews recommendation and prepares recommendations for CAC41. The remaining two proposals for new work will be considered once higher priority work is underway/completed. EWGs also recommended for Matters Referred from the CCFA and CCMAS, for a total of seven EWGs.
 - (c) July 2018: CAC41 reviews and approves or modifies recommendations.
 - (d) August 2018 to November 30, 2018: Chairs of EWGs solicit participation in the EWGs, establish membership in EWGs, develop draft documents (at Step 2), circulate drafts, solicit comments, and elaborate further drafts taking comments into account.
 - (e) December 15, 2018: Mid-year progress review. EWG Chairs report to CCPFV Chair and Host Secretariat on progress on drafts. Progress review will form basis for determining appropriate next steps, e.g., **Option (1)** hold physical meeting in 2019, or **Option (2)** meet by correspondence until the level of progress on standards is sufficient for a physical meeting, or possible submission to a standards advancement committee (if such an entity is agreed to by CAC).
8. For Option (1), the steps below follow:
 - (a) December 2018 to June 2019: EWGs continue elaboration of drafts.
 - (b) June 2019: Codex Secretariat distributes draft EWG documents (with translation) for review and comment by full CCPFV membership (at Step 3) in preparation for physical meeting of CCPFV in September 2019.
 - (c) September 2019: Hold CCPFV29 plenary, review and modify draft standards (at Step 4), and move to Step 5 (or 5/8) as possible. Finalize responses for CCFA and CCMAS. Consider next steps for remaining two proposals for new work (approved by CAC40). Consider next steps for existing 12 standards as well as matters arising from other committees.
 - (d) June 2020: CCEXEC reviews CCPFV drafts, makes recommendations for CAC43.
9. For Option (2), the steps below follow:
 - (a) December 2018 to May 2019: EWGs continue elaboration of drafts.
 - (b) June 2019: EWGs provide update to CCPFV Chair and Host Secretariat. CCPFV Chair provides

⁴ During the period of CCPFV-online activity (February – June 2018), measures were taken to ensure transparency and inclusiveness in the user group's work. These included working in English, French, and Spanish; posting all survey and CL responses online; providing two iterations of draft recommendations for review and comment by CCPFV-online members (with associated user group announcements); and sending alerts via the online Forum's private message system, and via external e-mail, to notify members of the final draft when it was ready for comment. Comments received were supportive of the recommendations.

update and recommendations to CCEXEC/CAC.

Task (iii) – Recommendations for EWGs

10. The following EWGs are recommended to pursue CCPFV work under the work plan described in TASK (ii) above. The countries identified as Chairs and Co-Chairs volunteered for these roles in response to the online survey or during CCPFV-online activity.

- (a) **EWG for Dried Fruits** – Chair Thailand with Co-Chair Republic of Korea. Terms of Reference (TOR): Elaborate General Standard for Dried Fruits, to include annexes for Dried Persimmons, Raisins, Dates, and Dried Apricots. (Could include Dried Longan which was identified in the proposal for new work for dried fruits.) Will work in English only.
- (b) **EWG for Chili Sauce** – Chair India. TOR: Elaborate conversion of Regional Standard for Chili Sauce to Worldwide Standard. Will work in English only.
- (c) **EWG for Gochujang** – Chair Republic of Korea. TOR: Elaborate conversion of Regional Standard for Gochujang to Worldwide Standard. Will work in English only.
- (d) **EWG for Canned Fruit Salads** – Chair Thailand. TOR: Elaborate General Standard for Canned Fruit Salads, to include annexes for Canned Fruit Cocktail and Canned Tropical Fruit Salad. Will work in English only.
- (e) **EWG for Mango Chutney** – Chair India with Co-Chair Jamaica. TOR: Revision and updating of existing Codex Standard for Mango Chutney. Will work in English only.
- (f) **EWG for Response to CCFA** – Chairs USA and Iran. TOR: Develop responses to matters referred from CCFA, including matters from CCFA49 and CCFA50. Will work in English only.
- (g) **EWG for Response to CCMAS** – Chair Iran. TOR: Develop responses to matters referred from CCMAS. Will work in English only.

Note: The proposals for Cashew Kernels and Dried Sweet Potatoes had the least support as new work. To ensure adequate resources for the higher priority work, these areas of new work will be considered at a later date.

III. RESULTS FROM CL 2018/22-PFV AND ANALYSIS

11. As indicated above, eight member countries provided comments on CL 2018/22-PFV through the online survey. In addition, one country posted comments supportive of CCPFV activity directly to the CCPFV-online platform. Also, three observer organizations submitted comments via e-mail which focused on CCPFV's preparation of responses to matters referred from CCFA. Due to the overall modest volume of responses, few wide-ranging generalizations could be drawn from the results. However, the results allowed CCPFV-online to complete its three tasks.

12. Below are results and analysis based on the survey inputs, responses to the CL 2018/22-PFV, and comments from CCPFV-online members:

13. The eight survey respondents showed varying support for the seven new work proposals approved by CAC40. Five of the eight responding countries showed support for chairing or participating in work to develop standards based on the proposals. Six of the eight countries provided priority rankings for the new work; however, the countries varied widely in their rankings. No proposal was unanimously ranked highest or lowest priority. After tallying the survey results, it was possible to group the proposals into three tiers, with the Dried Fruits proposal in the first tier having the highest priority ranking overall; the proposals for Chili Sauce, Gochujang, Canned Fruit Salads, and Mango Chutney in a second tier; and the proposals for Cashew Kernels and Dried Sweet Potatoes in a third tier. Some of these proposals include revising and/or combining some existing standards with new standards. There was a volunteer to Chair and/or Co-Chair EWGs for each of the new proposals. There were also three to four volunteers to participate in each area of new work. To ensure adequate resources for the higher priority new work proposals, only those standards in the 1st and 2nd tiers are recommended for EWGs.

14. The work on revising the 12 existing standards that were not included in the new work proposals received fewer supporting responses than the new work. When asked about their position on revising these 12 existing standards, five of the eight responding countries indicated "No Opinion" or "Keep Unchanged" for all 12 of the standards. Of the remaining three responding countries, one supported revising all 12 existing standards, and two showed interest in revising some of the existing standards, and indicated "No Opinion" on the remaining standards. No country volunteered to Chair or Co-Chair an EWG for any of these existing standards. This indication of lower interest in the revision of the existing 12 standards is consistent with the responses previously received for CL 2017/07-PFV titled Request for Proposals for New Work on Codex Standards for Processed Fruits and Vegetables (Continuation of Work of the Codex Committee on Processed

Fruits and Vegetables – CCPFV). The responses received did not include any proposals for revising the current 12 existing standards, and no Codex members indicated interest in leading revision work on any of these 12 standards. Based on the current results, and supported by the earlier comments, the work on revising the existing 12 standards can be placed in a lower priority than the new work, with no EWGs recommended.

15. One survey respondent volunteered to lead both the EWG relating to questions arising from CCFA and the EWG relating to questions arising from CCMAS. Another survey respondent volunteered to lead the EWG relating to questions arising from the CCFA. In order to ensure progress in CCFA and CCMAS, and due to the willingness of countries to lead EWGs regarding matters referred from these committees, EWGs for work in these areas are recommended.

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