

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 Items 2, 5, 6, 8 and 14

CAC/43 CRD13
Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-third Session

Comments from India

Agenda 2 : Reports of CCEXEC 78 and CCEXEC 79

REP20/EXEC2

CCEXEC79 recommended that upon completion of its current session, Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) be adjourned *sine die*

Comment: India is not in the favour of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) being adjourned *sine die* in view of 2 approved (by CAC40) new work proposals on Cashew kernels and Dehydrated sweet potato still pending with the Committee, which were put on low priority during the survey conducted in 2017. It was also recommended to take up the remaining new work proposals, once higher priority work is completed and the same was agreed by CAC41 (2018).

It may be mentioned that the CCEXEC77 had noted the interest in the work on cashew kernels and that Codex members were encouraged to participate in the work of CCPFV and that this could be further discussed in the upcoming RCCs. Accordingly, all RCCs discussed the same. It is important to note that CCASIA21 and CCAFRICA23 supported commencing work on cashew kernels, while support in CCNE10 was also noted with respect to ongoing work by CCPFV. The same was highlighted in the CCEXEC79 by Coordinator for Asia.

Further, we would like to inform the Commission that the Cashew kernel is highly traded commodity internationally and its consumption has been growing worldwide at approximately 7% per year. Africa, Brazil, India, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia are the major producer of the cashew kernels while US and EU are major importer for the cashew kernels in the world.

(Source: *Prospects for Cambodia's Cashew Sub-sector* by International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group)

Considering the fact that work proposal on cashew kernel has already been approved by CAC, is a globally traded commodity and has received support from three Codex regions, India proposes that the work on cashew kernel should be taken up by Codex. Therefore, India would like to make following proposals:

1. CCPFV continues working by correspondence to take up the work on development of standard for Cashew kernel and other proposals. There has been precedence in Codex, where a committee remained active for taking up only one or two agenda items and worked through correspondence viz, Committees like CCMMP (Dairy permeate powders), CCCPL (Quinoa) and CCS (Dehydrated centrifuged sugarcane juice).
2. Alternatively, the Commission may consider transferring the work on Cashew kernel to another closely related committee, like CCFFV as has been done previously in case of work on "Histamine" which was transferred from CCFFP (adjourned *sine die*) to CCFH.

India would be happy to lead / support the work on Cashew kernel.

Agenda 5: FINAL ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS (CX/CAC 20/43/4)

1. CCFFV: Draft Standard on Ware potatoes

Comment: The draft standard has been extensively discussed in last three sessions of CCFFV and has achieved great success in developing consensus in almost all sections. We believe that the draft standard is now ready for final adoption as the concerns raised have been appropriately addressed, except a few reservations on one or two parameters.

Therefore, India strongly supports the adoption of the draft standard as Codex text by the Commission.

2. CCFH: Draft code of practice on food allergen management for food business operators

Comment: We strongly support the adoption of the Draft COP on food allergen management for food business operators at Step 8 by the commission as such.

3. CCFH: Proposed draft revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969) and its HACCP annex

Comment: India supports the adoption of proposed draft at step 5/8 by the Commission.

4. CCPFV: Proposed draft standard for Chili Sauce

Comment: India strongly supports the adoption of proposed draft standard for Chili Sauce at step 5/8.

5. CCPFV: Proposed draft revision to the Standard for Mango Chutney (CXS 160-1987)

Comment: India strongly supports the adoption of proposed draft standard for Mango Chutney at step 5/8.

Agenda 6: ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS AT STEP 5 (CX/CAC 20/43/6)

CCNFSDU: Review of the Standard for Follow-up Formula: Section B: Proposed draft scope, definition and labelling (for Young Children)

Comment: India would like to reiterate its earlier position of including following references regarding WHO and WHA resolutions under scope in line with Codex Stan 72 and support its the adoption at step 5 with the understanding that our concern would be addressed appropriately in the document in the next step:

'The application of this section of the Standard should take into account the recommendations made in the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (1981), the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding and World Health Assembly resolution WHA54.2(2001) and 69.9 (2016)'

Rationale: It is essential that there is policy alignment between Codex instruments and the norms, standards, resolutions and recommendations adopted by the World Health Assembly, especially those relating to infant and young child feeding. Any Codex standard covering products targeted to children less than 36 months must at the very least conform to WHO guidelines and WHA Resolution. This is essential for the protection of optimal infant and young child health and to encourage implementation of WHO infant and young child feeding recommendations.

Agenda 8: Proposals for New Work (CX/CAC 20/43/9)

1. CCFH: New work on guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production

Comment: India supports the new work proposal on guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production.

2. CCFFP: Proposal for the amendment of the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981): inclusion of Sardinella lemuru (Bali Sardinella) in the list of Sardinella species under sec. 2.1

Comment: India supports the new work proposal for inclusion of *Sardinella lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of *Sardinella* species under sec. 2.1 of Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981).

Agenda Item 14: Designation of countries responsible for appointing the Chairpersons of Codex subsidiary bodies (CX/CAC 20/43/15)

Comment: We would like to emphasize on the importance of review of the sequencing and frequency of meetings of Codex committees specifically those which do not meet annually. The frequency of codex meetings is generally expected to be decided based on the need and work load of the respective Committee.

India had on previous occasions showed its support for consideration of conducting certain committee meetings to meet annually, given their workload, rather than meeting at intervals of 18 months or more. India raised this issue during the CCFFV20 (2017), keeping in view, the then on-going work and new work proposals within the Committee.

This point also emerged as one of the cross-cutting issues from the Critical review discussions by CCEXEC77. Subsequently, Coordinator for Asia (at the request of India) apprised CCEXEC78 of the fact that the time taken to develop standards by the Committee which do not meet annually but every 18 months or more, with considerable large number of agenda, is much longer than the agreed timeline to complete the work. The importance of the issue was noted and the Codex Secretary had reconfirmed during the CCEXEC78 that a discussion paper on this matter would be presented to CCXEC79. However, this could not be done possibly due to the pandemic situation leading to the holding of CCEXEC79 in virtual mode to take up only critical review and other items of pressing nature.

In view of the above, we request the commission that this issue be discussed on priority in a future session and a decision taken on possibility of convening these meetings annually, specifically committees with heavy workload, viz. Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits & Vegetables (3 Proposed Draft Standards, Discussion paper on Glossary of terms and possible new work proposals as well as a few new work proposals are waiting to get included in the priority list) and Codex Committee on spices and culinary herbs (5 Draft Standards, 2 Proposed Draft Standards and 2 new work proposals).