



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Seventy-ninth Session**

CRITICAL REVIEW¹ PART I

1. Procedural background for the Critical Review

1.1 According to the *Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts Part 2*. Critical Review in the Codex Procedural Manual, “An on-going critical review shall ensure that proposals for new work and draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption continue to meet the strategic priorities of the Commission and can be developed within a reasonable period of time, taking into account the requirements and availability of scientific expert advice”. Furthermore, “The Commission decides, taking into account the outcome of the ongoing critical review conducted by the Executive Committee, that a standard should be elaborated and also which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work”.

1.2 In line with this, CCEXEC is invited to critically review the work of the committees, taking into account the recommendations of the Secretariat and the comments of the chairs to:

- Review standards and related texts submitted to the Commission for adoption;
- Monitor the progress of standards development;
- Review proposals for new work or revision of standards.

2 Examining proposed standards before submission to the Commission for adoption

The critical review process shall ensure that draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption have been fully considered at Committee level. The Executive Committee examines proposed standards from Codex committees before they are submitted to the Commission for adoption:

- for consistency with the mandate of Codex, the decisions of the Commission, and existing Codex texts;
- to ensure that the requirements of the endorsement procedure have been fulfilled, where appropriate;
- for format and presentation; and
- for linguistic consistency.

3 Monitoring progress of standards development

3.1 The Executive Committee reviews the status of development of draft standards against the timeframe agreed by the Commission and shall report its findings to the Commission. CCEXEC may propose an extension of the timeframe; cancellation of work; or propose that the work be undertaken by a Committee other than the one to which it was originally entrusted, including via the establishment of a limited number of subsidiary bodies, if appropriate.

3.2 Criteria to facilitate the conduct of monitoring progress of standards development²

3.2.1 When progress on a standard is delayed due to the need for scientific advice, the Executive Committee could encourage FAO and WHO to schedule an expert consultation to provide such advice in a timely manner, and recommend suspension of work until such time as scientific advice became available;

¹ This document addresses the Codex Committees and Task Force that met in the latter half of 2019 as well as Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL)

² CCEXEC58 (2006)

3.2.2 When scientific advice has been provided and a standard has been under consideration for more than five years, the Executive Committee should urge the Committee concerned to take action within a specified timeframe;

3.2.3 When an item has been considered for several sessions without any progress and there is no prospect of reaching consensus, the Executive Committee could propose suspension of work at a particular Step in the Elaboration Procedure for a specified period of time or discontinuation of work, or corrective action to be taken to achieve progress, fully taking into consideration the information provided by the subsidiary body concerned.

3.3 Discussion papers³

Discussion papers contribute to the workload of a committee and are important discussion tools for committees before requesting new work. A list of discussion papers is included for information purposes only, in order to present a complete view of the workload of each Committee, but will not be discussed as such.

4. Proposals to undertake new work or to revise a standard

4.1 Prior to approval for development, each proposal for new work or revision of a standard shall be accompanied by a project document, prepared by the Committee or Member proposing new work or revision of a standard. The decision to undertake new work or to revise standards shall be taken by the Commission taking into account a critical review conducted by CCEXEC.

4.2 The critical review includes:

- Examination of proposals for development/revisions of standards, taking into account the “*Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*”, the strategic plan of the Commission and the required supporting work of independent risk assessment;
- Identifying the standard setting needs of developing countries;
- Advice on the need for coordination of work between relevant Codex subsidiary bodies;
- Advice on establishment and dissolution of committees and task forces, including *ad hoc* cross-committee task forces (in areas where work falls within several committees); and
- Preliminary assessment of the need for expert scientific advice and the availability of such advice from FAO, WHO or other relevant expert bodies, and the prioritisation of that advice.

4.3 The decision to undertake new work or revision of individual maximum residue limits for pesticides or veterinary drugs, or the maintenance of the General Standard on Food Additives (including methods of analysis and sampling), the General Standard on Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (including methods of analysis and sampling), the Food Categorization System and the International Numbering System, shall follow the procedures established by the Committees concerned and endorsed by the Commission.

5. Further development of the critical review

5.1 CCEXEC72⁴ welcomed a new structure for the Critical Review which consisted of one document instead of three documents and also agreed for the information to be delivered in instalments to ensure timely availability. CCEXEC72 also indicated that it would be useful to have more information and insights from the Chairpersons on committee work and that the Secretariat give more guidance to the Chairs as to the inputs needed to allow CCEXEC to be more effective in the Critical Review. The importance of maintaining a horizontal view of the work of committees and the interactions between committees was highlighted.

5.2 A slightly revised structure for the critical review of the work in Codex committees was piloted for the review undertaken by CCEXEC77. The revised structure aimed at improving readability and giving more prominence and emphasis on information and insights from the Chairpersons. As the feedback on the revised structure has been positive, this structure is being maintained.

5.3 The Codex Secretariat has also examined the Critical Review as part of the ongoing regular review of Codex work management. Further information on this can be found in documents CX/EXEC 19/77/5 and CX/EXEC 20/78/4.

³ CCEXEC63 (2009)

⁴ CCEXEC72 (2016), REP17/EXEC1 paras. 7-14

6. Structure of appendices

The work of the different Committee is addressed in separate appendices.

The structure of the appendices for each Committee is as follows:

1. General information on the Committee and Session
2. Overall comments (Secretariat / Chairperson)
3. Status of work items (Overview)
4. Specific comments on individual work items (Secretariat/Chairperson)

7. List of appendices

Appendix 1: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA23)

Appendix 2: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP15)

Appendix 3: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA21)

Appendix 4: Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV21)

Appendix 5: Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH51)

Appendix 6: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNE10)

Appendix 7: Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU41)

Appendix 8: *Ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR7)

Appendix 9: Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL)

Appendix 1

1. General

Committee	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA23)		
Host	Kenya	Chairperson	Dr Kimutai Maritim
Session reported on	CCAFRICA23	2-6 September 2019	
Next Session	CCAFRICA24	Approximately two years following CCAFRICA23	
Report	<u>REP20/AFRICA</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

CAFRICA23 had a constructive and productive session with high number of participants and a revitalization, as has been the objective for the RCCs, is taking place. The standard setting work progressed well. Work on two out of three draft standards are on time, whereas the work on the draft standard for dried meat will need extension of the deadline. The agenda was rather heavy and was managed by scheduling a night session and in-session working groups, as such discussions on all scheduled agenda items was completed. The session did not, however, have time to address those items raised under Other Business during adoption of the agenda. The work on the general agenda items gathered a lot of engagement and fruitful discussions, and overall there was reduced time available for considering all items, especially the standards setting work. CCAFRICA23 agreed to improve efforts to participate in the various EWGs for the areas identified of special relevance to the region, including the establishment of MLs for hydrocyanic acids in cassava and cassava based products (by CCCF); the development of a discussion paper on mycotoxins in fermented cassava products (by CCCF); and MRLs for registered pesticide products in Africa that are unsupported by the original manufacturers (by CCPR). CCAFRICA also agreed to collaborate in the joint preparation and submission of new work proposals in areas of common interest. CCAFRICA noted the need to increase the contribution of the region to the scientific advice work that underpinned Codex standards through capacity development and improved regional coordination.

Chairperson's comments:

The Chairperson generally concurs with the Secretariat's comments on the overall workload of the Committee. The Chairperson underscores the cooperation and interest demonstrated by the delegates leading to consensus in all agenda items and quick adoption of the report. The keynote address provided the opportunity to improve food safety at the continental level and countries were encouraged to engage their technical experts in discussions on the agreement and its implementation. To consolidate the gains made at the two international food safety conferences the committee supported the establishment of a goodwill ambassador to champion the importance of food safety and welcomed the support of FAO and WHO. CCAFRICA encouraged countries to develop innovative ways to implement the Regional Guidelines for the design of control measures for street-vended foods (CXG 22R-1999) and to share such experiences. The Committee acknowledged the participation and support of the Deputy President for Codex work.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Draft standard for fermented cooked cassava - based products	N07-2015	2019	8
2. Draft standard for fresh leaves of <i>Gnetum</i> spp.	N09-2015	2019	8
3. Proposed draft standard for dried meat	N07-2016	2019	5
4. Proposed amendments to sections 3.2.2 and 3.4 of the <i>Regional Standard for Unrefined Shea Butter</i> (CXS 325R-2017)	-	-	Adoption
5. New work on the elaboration of guidelines for supporting the development of harmonised food laws for the CCAFRICA Region ⁵	-	-	1/2/3
For information			
6. Development of a paper on the prioritization of the work of CCAFRICA	For further consideration at the next session.		
7. Discussion paper on the development of a regional standard for fermented non-alcoholic cereal based drink (Mahewu)	For further consideration at the next session.		

4. Specific comments

1. Draft Standard for fermented cooked cassava - based products, Para. 76, Appendix III
Secretariat's comments: The work has progressed well and in line with the envisaged timeframe. The format and presentation as well as language is according to guidance. CCAFRICA 23 agreed to forward the draft standard for fermented cooked cassava-based products to CAC43 for adoption at Step 8 and publish examples of specific fermented cooked cassava-based products as an information document on the Codex website for future reference.
Chairperson's comments: The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments and the Committee notes with appreciation the support rendered by the Codex Secretariat that resulted in accomplishment of the work.
2. Draft Standard for fresh leaves of <i>Gnetum</i> spp., Para. 84, Appendix IV
Secretariat's comments: The work has progressed well and in line with the envisaged timeframe. The format and presentation as well as language according to guidance. CCAFRICA 23 agreed to forward the draft standard for fresh leaves of <i>Gnetum</i> spp. to CAC43 for adoption at Step 8.
Chairperson's comments: The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments and the Committee appreciates the support rendered by the Codex Secretariat that resulted in completion of the work.

⁵ Project document to be submitted directly to CCEXEC and the Commission for approval.

<p>3. Proposed draft standard for dried meat, Para. 102, Appendix V</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCAFRICA23 noted that substantial progress had been made on the proposed draft revision and that some sections remained in square brackets and needed further consideration. CCAFRICA23 agreed to forward the proposed draft standard for dried meat to CAC43 for adoption at Step 5 and establish an EWG, chaired by Botswana and co-chaired by Kenya and Morocco, working in English and French, to consider the provisions in square brackets, and comments received at Step 5 and taking into account the discussions at CCAFRICA23, and prepare a revised draft standard for circulation for comments at Step 7, and consideration at CCAFRICA24.</p> <p>The work was envisaged to be finalized in 2019, but the Committee needs another session (CCAFRICA24) to finalize the work. Final adoption at CAC44 is realistic. Therefore an extension of the time for finalization of the work to 2022 is requested.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments. There was an in-session Working Group during the plenary sessions for the proposed draft regional standard. The in-session working group was geared towards harmonising the diverse opinions expressed by the delegates and addressing the low participation by members in the EWG. The in-session Working Group helped advance the document so the proposed draft standard could be forwarded for adoption at Step 5.</p>
<p>4. Proposed amendments to Sections 3.2.2 and 3.4 of the <i>Regional Standard for Unrefined Shea Butter (CXS 325R-2017)</i>, Paras. 40-41, Appendix VI</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The proposed amendments are editorial in nature, and are intended provide clarity in the standard as well as correct an error in the value of linoleic acid (C18:3) (% levels of fatty acids).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat comments.</p>
<p>5. New work on the elaboration of guidelines for supporting the development of harmonised food laws for the CCAFRICA region, Para. 108</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCAFRICA23 agreed to start new work on a set of guidelines that would support countries in drafting or revising their national legislation relating to food and food control. As requested by CCAFRICA23, a revised project document has been submitted by Kenya for approval as new work. The project document is according to procedural guidelines.</p> <p>CCAFRICA23 agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by Kenya and co-chaired by Senegal and Morocco, working in English and French, to prepare, subject to the approval of the new work, the proposed draft guidelines for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCAFRICA24.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat comments. The Committee supported the new work on guidelines for supporting the development of harmonised food laws for the CCAFRICA region.</p>
<p>6. Development of a paper on the prioritization of the work of CCAFRICA, Para. 38</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCAFRICA23 agreed that there was a need to further consider how to improve its standard setting work taking into account the different approaches, and the hurdles and challenges identified. The Coordinator will lead the development of a paper on prioritisation of the work of the Committee for consideration by the next session of CCAFRICA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The Chairperson will work closely with AU to develop the paper.</p>
<p>7. Discussion Paper on the development of a regional Standard for fermented non-alcoholic cereal based drink (Mahewu), Para. 110</p>

Secretariat's comments:

The agenda item was not considered as the Member presenting the paper (Eswatini) was not present at the meeting. CCAFRICA23 noted that this item would be considered at the next session.

Chairperson's comments:

The Chairperson concurs with the Secretariat's comments.

1. General

Committee	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP15)		
Host	Vanuatu	Chairperson	Mr Timothy Tumukon
Session reported on	CCNASWP15	16-20 September 2019	
Next Session	CCNASWP16	Approximately two years following CCNASWP15	
Report	<u>REP20/NASWP</u>		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCNASWP15 was a constructive and productive session. The work on the general agenda items gathered a lot of engagement and fruitful discussions, but reduced the time available for standards setting work. The standard setting work nevertheless progressed well and CCNASWP15 recommended that both proposed draft regional standards advance in the step process. As there are only a few outstanding issues regarding the proposed draft regional standard for kava products for use as a beverage when mixed with water, CCNASWP15 agreed to Task the Coordinator to work with the Member countries of the region to resolve the few outstanding issues prior to CCEXEC79, so that the Coordinator, should consensus be achieved among the Member countries, can recommend omission of Steps 6 and 7 and submission for adoption at Step 8 at CAC43. In regard to the proposed draft regional standard for fermented noni fruit juice, CCNASWP15 agreed to request JECFA to retain scopoletin on the priority list, though a safety evaluation of scopoletin by JECFA represents a challenge in regard to data availability and generation. CCNASWP15 agreed to request CCCF to prioritize work on ciguatera and encouraged Member countries to participate in the work of CCPFV.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>CCNASWP15 was attended by 10 of its 14 members. The meeting progressed well with discussions on issues affecting food safety in the region, including ciguatera and Cadmium in cacao. The meeting noted low participation by members in Codex work, including their participation through the online platform. Members agreed to work with the Coordinator to provide comments on the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, especially Goals 1,2 and 3. CCNASWP15 discussed the two draft regional standards on Noni and Kava. Members were happy with the progress made on the standards development, but felt the scopoletin issue is impeding progress of the draft standard for Noni. Members were happy to note the good progress on the draft region standard for Kava and agreed for the Coordinator to work with members to resolve issues raised by some members prior to CCEXEC79 and to have the draft standard ready for consideration and adoption at CAC43. Members of the CCNASWP commended the FAO and WHO on their continued engagement in the region, assisting members to manage food safety systems.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Proposed draft regional standard for fermented noni fruit juice	N01-2013	2017	5
2. Proposed draft regional standard for kava products for use as a beverage when mixed with water	N01-2017	2021	5 ⁶
For information			
3. Requested JECFA to retain scopoletin on the priority list and to call upon Member countries to generate and submit data to support the conduct of the safety evaluation	Request to retain on the priority list		

4. Specific comments

1. Proposed draft regional standard for fermented noni fruit juice, Paragraph 83, Appendix II
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The Committee had a constructive and productive discussion. CCNASWP15 agreed to forward the proposed draft regional standard to CAC43 for adoption at Step 5. CCNASWP15 further agreed to convene an EWG, to be chaired by Tonga and co-chaired by Samoa and working in English only, to further advance the draft regional standard taking into account the discussions at CCNASWP15 for consideration at CCNASWP16. The outstanding issue concerns scopoletin. The proposed draft standard states that "scopoletin levels should be kept as low as technologically feasible until a safe level is established by JECFA".</p> <p>The originally target year for final adoption was 2017, which was extended to 2021 by CAC40 (2017) as recommended by CCEXEC73. Since the RCC cycle was postponed from 2018 to 2019, and another CNASWP session is needed to finalize the draft standard, the target year for final adoption will have to be 2022 rather than 2021.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The Committee meeting was happy to receive the draft standard and additional information offered in the updated draft standard. The Committee noted that it needed additional information from industry and research to support the work on setting a safe level of scopoletin in noni juice. CCNASWP15 agreed to progress the draft standard to Step 5 and to work through an EWG led by Tonga and co-chaired by Samoa to help with information gathering from industry, academia and other efforts to further progress the work on the draft standard.</p>
2. Proposed draft regional standard for kava products for use as a beverage when mixed with water, Paragraph 96. Appendix III
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The Committee had a constructive and productive discussion and the work is progressing well. CCNASWP15 agreed to forward the proposed draft regional standard to CAC43 for adoption at Step 5. As there are only a few outstanding issues regarding the proposed draft regional standard, CCNASWP15 agreed to Task the Coordinator to work with the Member countries of the region to resolve the few outstanding issues prior to CCEXEC79, so that the Coordinator, should consensus be achieved among the Member countries, can recommend omission of Steps 6 and 7 and submission for adoption at Step 8 at CAC43.</p>

⁶ Task the Coordinator to work with the Member countries of the region to resolve the few outstanding issues prior to CCEXEC79, so that the Coordinator, should consensus be achieved among the Member countries, can recommend omission of Steps 6 and 7 and submission for adoption at Step 8 at CAC43.

The originally target year for adoption at Step 5 and final adoption was 2019 and 2021, respectively. Should another session be needed to finalize the draft standard, the target year for final adoption will have to be 2022 rather than 2021.

Chairperson's comments:

The CCNASWP15 discussed extensively the draft standard and considered all the points presented by Member countries. The Committee agreed to task the Regional Coordinator to work with its Members to resolve a few issues with the draft standard before CCEXEC79.

The Committee agreed to propose to CAC43 that it adopts the draft standard at Step 5 initially. Once the few issues are resolved through the Coordinator, the Committee further agreed to recommend to the Commission to omit Steps 6 and 7 and to submit the draft standard for final adoption at Step 8 at CAC43.

3. Requested JECFA to retain scopoletin on the priority list and to call upon Member countries to generate and submit data to support the conduct of the safety evaluation, Paragraphs 74 and 83 iii.

Secretariat's comments:

CCNASWP15, in response to the request from CCCF13, confirmed that they wished to retain scopoletin on the JECFA priority list and agreed to request JECFA to retain scopoletin on the priority list and to call upon Member countries to generate and submit data to support the conduct of the safety evaluation. Member countries are currently gathering data to support an exposure assessment and a review of available toxicological data is also being conducted.

Chairperson's comments:

Member countries agreed that additional data is needed to evaluate the safety levels of scopoletin. Members expressed concerns that the draft standard is not being progressed as anticipated and the Committee urged its Members to assist in generating data and submit to JECFA. The CCNASWP15 requested that JECFA retains scopoletin on its priority list.

Appendix 3

1. General

Committee	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA21)		
Host	India	Chairperson	Mr Sunil Bakshi
Session reported on	CCASIA21	23 – 27 September 2019	
Next Session	CCASIA22	Approximately two years following CCASIA21	
Report	<u>REP20/ASIA</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

CCASIA21 was a constructive and productive session. The discussions on the general agenda items relating to revitalization, Codex work relevant to the region and use of Codex standards went smoothly and gathered a lot of information. However, consideration should be given on how to manage these general agenda items in a more reasonable way in order to avoid overlap, improve efficiency of discussions and appropriately balance this with the time needed for consideration of the development of regional standards. CCASIA21 noted the usefulness of the Draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and agreed to start using the document internally. CCASIA21 also agreed to further develop the SOP. CCASIA21 confirmed that the criteria for the establishment of work priorities as laid down in the Procedural Manual were sufficient to prioritize its work and there was no need to develop additional guidance in this regard. CCASIA21 further encouraged Members to participate in the various relevant EWGs, collaborate in the joint preparation and submission of new work proposals of common interest and explore mechanisms to share scientific information in a timely manner.

Chairperson's comments:

CCASIA21, my first opportunity as the Chairperson of a Codex committee, was an important meeting for the region eagerly awaited and held after a long gap of 3 years since the previous regional meeting in 2016. The meeting was well supported by the CCASIA member states, the Codex Secretariat and representatives of FAO and WHO. The entire session featured a packed programme that spanned 10 horizontal issues (related to food safety; Codex standards, strategic plan and communication plan), four discussion papers (new work proposals), and a number of side events of interest to the region.

CCASIA21 was able to finish the agenda within the given timeframe. The discussions on horizontal issues were rich in nature with an all round participation of the member countries and efficient facilitation by FAO/WHO representatives and the Codex Secretariat. CCASIA21 widely acknowledged the usefulness of the keynote address, which specifically focused on issues and best practices related to food safety in primary production, with countries sharing their experiences and FAO/WHO providing further inputs on ways to address the related challenges.

Constructive deliberations on three discussion papers (see 'Specific Comments') led to mutually agreed modifications of the new work proposals complying with the Codex format for project document and an agreement to forward these to CAC43 for approval as new work. There were no complications or operational matters left unaddressed that would conflict with delivery of these proposals according to the proposed timelines. One discussion paper (Development of a Regional Standard for Rice-Based Low Alcohol Beverages) could not be progressed, since the proposing Member country requested to discontinue the work due to the limited data available on food safety issues and impediments to trade. The Committee also took on record a new work proposal on "Development of a Regional Standard for Traditional Dairy Based Sweets", but could not discuss it due to lack of time and the paper not being available to members on time. Overall the Committee is operating quite efficiently and no major procedural issues were observed. However, a significant challenge that countries mentioned was difficulty faced in responding to a number of questionnaires in preparation of the meeting. This can be taken into consideration in the next session. Inputs received from member countries through electronic means were scanty. While member countries actively participated in the plenary discussions, we need to further enhance the participation of member countries on the electronic platforms. Another major challenge for CCASIA, is almost continued inability of some countries to attend CCASIA sessions and there is an imminent need to engage/encourage such countries and support their participation in the physical sessions.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Proposal for the development of a regional standard for soybean products fermented with <i>Bacillus</i> species	-	2024	1/2/3
2. Proposal for the development of a regional standard for quick frozen dumpling	-	2024	1/2/3
3. Proposal for the development of a regional standard for cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves	-	2024	1/2/3
4. Amendments to CCASIA Regional Standards	-	-	Revocation
For information			
5. Work prioritization	Criteria as laid down in the PM sufficient to prioritize the work		
6. Draft standard operating procedure (SOP) for CCASIA	For further development and internal use		

4. Specific comments

1. Proposal for the development of a regional standard for soybean products fermented with <i>Bacillus</i> species, Para. 97, Appendix V
Secretariat's comments: CCASIA21 agreed to forward the project document to CAC43 for approval as new work and establish an EWG chaired by Japan, working in English, subject to the approval of the new work, to prepare the proposed draft standard for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCASIA22. The project document complies with the requirements in the Procedural Manual.
Chairperson's comments: The proposal, originally made by Japan in CCASIA20 (2016), has made considerable progress based on the discussions in CCASIA21. With the broadening of its scope to include similar items prepared and traded in the region and aligning the project document with the specified Codex format, the proposal has been forwarded to CAC43 for approval as new work. Nevertheless, some issues were identified and need further discussion and resolved, viz, use of the term <i>Bacillus spp.</i> considering the pathogenic nature of some <i>Bacillus</i> species and assessment of the need to include a provision on "weights and measures" in the standard in line with format for commodity standards. With a broad interest of the region in this specific work, it seems the EWG established by the Committee will be able to resolve the outstanding concerns mentioned above and any further work will be handled easily during the next RCC meeting.
2. Proposal for the development of a regional standard for quick frozen dumpling, Para. 102, Appendix VI
Secretariat's comments: CCASIA21 agreed to forward the project document to CAC43 for approval as new work and establish an EWG chaired by China, working in English, subject to approval of the new work, to prepare the proposed draft standard for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCASIA22. The project document complies with the requirements in the Procedural Manual. The committee was successful in concluding the project document with consensus by the Committee.

<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>China made the proposal in CCASIA20 (2016), but due to lack of time and the document being available at the last moment, deliberations could not be done on the proposal.</p> <p>At CCASIA21, written comments were submitted by four member countries as CRDs. There were detailed deliberations on the proposal during the session and certain specific changes (regarding nomenclature of the product to accommodate more similar products; broadening of the scope, definition, description; and inclusion of more ingredients used as fillings in the product) were made. These changes ensured a broader interest of the member countries in the development of the regional standard. The proposal now meets the "Criteria for establishment of work priorities" with the proposed changes and revisions made since the proposal was last introduced by China.</p> <p>Overall, CCASIA 21 was successful in finalizing the project document with a clear consensus.</p>
<p>3. Proposal for the development of a regional standard for cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves, Para. 112, Appendix VII</p>
<p>Secretariat Comments:</p> <p>CCASIA21 agreed to forward the project document to CAC43 for approval as new work and establish an EWG chaired by China, working in English, subject to approval of the new work, to prepare the proposed draft standard for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration by CCASIA22.</p> <p>The project document complies with the requirements in the Procedural Manual.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Detailed deliberations were made on the revised project document, mainly nomenclature of the product and definition. The revised proposal is now more inclusive of other similar products and the scope is further broadened taking into consideration the wide varieties of such products available in several countries of the region. The project document being presented before the CCEXEC/CAC is as per the format provided in the Procedural Manual and meets the criteria laid down thereunder.</p> <p>CCASIA21 was successful in concluding discussions and finalizing the project document with consensus. However, further deliberations and inputs from members countries of the region will be required to make the proposal more inclusive and ensure smooth progression through next steps.</p>
<p>4. Amendments to CCASIA Regional Standards, Para. 57, Appendix II</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCASIA21 agreed with the recommendations of CCFA50, i.e. to revoke the provisions for monosodium tartrate (INS 335(i)), monopotassium tartrate (INS 336(i)) and dipotassium tartrate (INS 336(ii)) in the Regional Standards for Soybean Paste (CXS 298R-2009) and Chilli Sauce (CXS 306R-2011).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The recommendations of CCFA50 for revocation of the said additives in two regional standards, since no JECFA specifications exist for these additives, were agreed upon by all members of CCASIA.</p> <p>As there was a clear consensus in the Committee regarding the recommendation and no issues were raised by any member country, the revocation is expected to be approved at the upcoming CAC session smoothly.</p>
<p>5. Work prioritization, Para. 50</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCASIA21 confirmed that the criteria for the establishment of work priorities as laid down in the Procedural Manual were sufficient to prioritize its work.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Considering the workload of the Committee with four discussion papers that were to be deliberated upon in CCASIA21, a need for prioritization of work was identified by the members. While possibility of developing a prioritization criteria specifically for CCASIA was proposed, the Committee, nevertheless, saw merit in and finally agreed on the use of current criteria laid down in the Procedural Manual for this purpose rather than developing one of their own.</p> <p>The current status of the work of CCASIA is such that three proposals have emerged during CCASIA21 for approval by CAC as new work and one more proposal (Development of a Regional Standard for Traditional Dairy Based Sweets) is expected to be considered at the next session of the Committee, and with a number of horizontal items being regularly on the agenda, there appears to be an imminent need for application of prioritization by the committee for managing its workload in a balanced manner.</p>

6. Draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for CCASIA, Para. 65**Secretariat's comments:**

This document will be a living document for internal use by CCASIA in order to strengthen regional coordination and is not intended to be a formal Codex text. CASIA21 noted the usefulness of the document and agreed to start using the document internally and strongly supported its further development. CCASIA21 agreed to establish an EWG chaired by India, working in English, to prepare a revised SOP, based on comments received in this session as well as experience gained in using the document and any further comments received from Members, for consideration at CCASIA22.

Chairperson's comments:

The document, a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to strengthen regional coordination, was prepared and introduced by India as the Regional Coordinator.

The SOP lays down an informal framework for the region to promote mutual communication and enhance cooperation at the regional level, specifically to facilitate active participation in Codex; enabling a mechanism for sharing relevant data/scientific advice amongst the countries of the region for the purpose of developing regional positions and preparing/supporting new work proposals; and developing regional standards for food products important from regional trade point of view.

The members generally appreciated the document and acknowledged it as a useful tool for enhancing and strengthening regional cooperation. It also evoked a great interest among representatives of FAO and WHO, specifically in respect of the stronger working relations between the Coordinator and FAO and WHO between sessions based on the elements of the SOP. As agreed by the Committee, more discussion would be undertaken, to begin with in the EWG set up for this purpose by the Committee and then by the CCASIA22, for further development of the SOP.

The document is expected to lead to a coordinated and cohesive working by the region as a whole and making overall significant contributions to the Codex working.

Appendix 4

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV21)		
Host	Mexico	Chairperson	Mr. Alfonso Guati-Rojo Sánchez assisted by Mr. Cesar Orozco Arce
Session reported on	CCFFV21	7 – 11 October 2019	
Next Session	CCFFV22	To be determined	
Report	<u>REP20/FFV</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

Despite some challenges during the preparatory phase due to late confirmation of dates and venue as well as late availability of the translation company, thanks to the excellent leadership of the Chairperson and great contribution of all the participants, CCFFV21 was in general an undoubtedly constructive and productive session. Four draft standards were advanced in the step process and one of them was completed ahead of the schedule. The Committee identified a compromised solution to the previously unresolved issue, i.e. tolerance in extra class, after making efforts from different aspects. At the next session, three draft standards and one discussion paper will be considered. Depending on the progress of the discussion, CCFFV22 may consider the possibility of taking up new work proposals.

Following CCFFV21, Indonesia has expressed an interest in being a Co-chair of the EWG on onion and shallots. Indonesia did not attend CCFFV21, but used to be the Co-chair of this EWG. The Chairperson of CCFFV and the EWG Chairpersons have noted this request.

Chairperson's comments:

The 21st meeting of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) was the first CODEX Alimentarius meeting which I have had the pleasure to chair. In general terms, we consider was a fruitful meeting thanks to the excellent work of the Codex Secretariat, as well as the delegates, whose expertise and commitment must be recognized.

Some critical issues were presented for certain agenda items and in order to reach consensus by all delegates on a technical and scientific basis on this issues, several physical working groups were established during the coffee breaks, with the assignment of considerate every delegates comment, as well as those that were sent to Codex Secretariat through the OCS platform. This strategy was a success in order to advance to step 8 several draft Standards.

Along the meeting, four proposed standards advanced to step 8 for its adoption during the 43rd session of the CAC; Kiwifruit, Garlic, Ware Potato and Yam.

During this CCFFV intersessional period, the standards for berries, onions and shallots and fresh dates are being actively discussed on the electronic working group platform, which, with the great support of the EWG chairs, is expected to circulate its reports three months before the next CCFFV meeting. Likewise, Mexico is working on some improvements, including meeting logistics and translation times for working documents which should be discussed in the 2021 session.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Draft standard for kiwifruit	N11-2014	2017/2020	8
2. Draft standard for garlic	N09-2014	2017/2020	8
3. Draft standard for ware potatoes	N08-2014	2017/2020	8
4. Proposed draft standard for yam	N01-2018	Three CCFFV meetings or less	5/8
For monitoring			
5. Proposed draft standard for fresh dates	N01-2016	Three CCFFV meetings or less	2
6. Proposed draft standard for onions and shallots	N02-2018	Three CCFFV meetings or less	2
7. Proposed draft standard for berry fruits	N03-2018	Three CCFFV meetings or less	2
For information			
8. Discussion paper on glossary of terms used in the layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables	For further development		

4. Specific comments

1. Adoption of draft standard for kiwifruit, Para. 23, Appendix II
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>This draft standard had been held at Step 7 by CCFFV20 (2017) and thus delayed as there had been no agreement on provisions concerning quality tolerances for decay in "Extra Class" and "Class I". CCFFV20 requested an extension of the timeline until CCFFV21 (2019), which was approved. CCFFV21 after a long discussions and despite several reservations, noted that all the outstanding issues had been addressed and agreed to forward the draft standard for kiwifruit for adoption at Step 8. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style. CCFFV21 also agreed to forward the draft provisions for labelling to CCFL for endorsement.</p> <p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The only outstanding issue in the Standard, provisions concerning quality tolerances for decay in "Extra Class" and "Class I", in which was no agreement on, was discussed vigorously. The great work of the electronic working group chaired by New Zealand was recognized and the need to meet the deadline set in CCFFV20 to conclude the discussions. It was considered that the standard was sufficiently discussed both, electronically and physically, for its advance to step 8 and that advance within the step process does not necessarily imply unanimity in every decision, since there is the right to externalize a reservation according to the Codex Procedural Manual.</p>
2. Adoption of draft standard for garlic, Para. 38, Appendix III

<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The work has progressed well since CCFFV20, which had returned the draft standard to Step 6 for further revision, comments and consideration. CCFFV20 also requested an extension of the timeline until CCFFV21 (2019), which was approved. CCFFV21 noted that all the outstanding issues had been addressed and agreed to forward the draft standard for garlic for adoption at Step 8. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style. CCFFV21 also agreed to forward the draft provisions for labelling to CCFL for endorsement.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The discussion during the plenary focused, as in the electronic working group (eWG), as exposed by Mexico, on the inclusion of smoked garlic. There was a consensus on the exclusion of the smoked garlic from the standard. Some details were improved for a better understanding in sections: 2, 4, 5, 7.2.2, without making modifications that required further discussion.</p> <p>All sections of the standard were reviewed and was agreed for its advance to step 8.</p>
<p>3. Adoption of draft standard for ware potatoes, Para. 50, Appendix IV</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The work has progressed well since CCFFV20 and the adoption by CAC41 of the draft standard at Step 5. CCFFV20 also requested an extension of the timeline until CCFFV21 (2019), which was approved. CCFFV21 noted that all the outstanding issues had been addressed and agreed to forward the draft standard for ware potatoes for adoption at Step 8. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style. CCFFV21 also agreed to forward the draft provisions for labelling to CCFL for endorsement.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Some pending issues were discussed during the plenary, a physical working group coordinated by the chair of the eWG, India, was established to improve some critical issues detected such as minimum requirements and quality tolerances.</p> <p>Thanks to the great work of the chair of the eWG and the delegates, a consensus was reached on these issues in the physical working group, and during the plenary.</p> <p>All sections of the standard were reviewed and was agreed for its advance to step 8.</p>
<p>4. Adoption of proposed draft standard for yam, Para. 74, Appendix V</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The work has progressed very well since CCFFV20 proposed this new work, which was approved by CAC41. CCFFV21 noted that all the outstanding issues had been addressed and agreed to forward the proposed draft standard for yam to CAC43 for adoption at Step 5/8. CCFFV21 also agreed to forward the draft provisions for labelling to CCFL for endorsement.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>During the plenary, the pending issues of the electronic working group, such as the tolerance for decay, were reviewed and an extensive discussion on the provisions concerning sizing was addressed. A physical working group coordinated by Costa Rica and Ghana was assigned to take into consideration all commercialized yam varieties within the standard. The proposal was reviewed during the plenary. All sections of the standard were reviewed and was agreed for its advance in the step process to 5/8.</p>
<p>5. Proposed draft standard for fresh dates, Para. 60(ii) and (iii)</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The work has progressed well since CCFFV20, which had returned the draft standard to Step 3. CCFFV21 noted that the scope needed clarification from CCFFV20 and that the proposed draft standard was not ready for advancement in the Step process. Hence, CCFFV21 agreed to return the proposed draft standard to Step 2. CCFFV21 furthermore agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia, to consider the comments received and the discussions at CCFFV21 and to revise the proposed draft standard for further consideration by CCFFV22. The work should be finalized by CCFFV22, and if not, an extension of the timeline need to be requested.</p>

<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>During the plenary, the stages development of fresh dates and the possible overlap with the Standard for Dates (CXS 143-1985) were discussed extensively, the chair of the EWg, India, explained the different classifications of varieties to be considered "fresh", however, no consensus was reached during the meeting due to different interpretations of the product different stages.</p> <p>It was agreed to ask the CCFFV for clarification on which dates are not considered processed.</p> <p>It was considered that the project standard was not ready for its advance on the step process, so it was returned to step 2 for its consideration on an electronic working group chaired by India and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and its subsequent revision by the CCFFV22.</p>
<p>6. Proposed draft standard for onions and shallots, Para. 88 (ii) and (iii)</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The new work was approved by CAC41. CCFFV21 noted that the proposed draft standard for onions and shallots still required further review and was therefore not ready for advancement in the Step process. Hence, CCFFV21 agreed to return the proposed draft standard to Step 2 for redrafting. CCFFV21 furthermore agreed to establish an EWG chaired by Iran and co-chaired by Indonesia and India, to revise the standard based on the written comments submitted and the at CCFFV21 for further consideration by CCFFV22.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Firstly, the discussion in the plenary, was focused on maintaining a standard for the two products, onions and shallots, or a different standard for each one. It was agreed to remain as drafted, considering there are Codex standards covering more than one product, and these can be differentiated throughout the document.</p> <p>The draft was reviewed section by section exhaustively, and some sections were modified. As there still existed several concerns from the delegations regarding the correct differentiation of the products, it was considered that the draft standard was not ready for its advance in the step process, so it was returned to step 2 for its review through an electronic working group chaired by Iran and co-chaired by India and its subsequent consideration by CCFFV22.</p>
<p>7. Proposed draft standard for berry fruits, Para. 96</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The new work was approved by CAC41. CCFFV21 noted there were some fundamental concerns in several provisions of the proposed draft standard and these concerns required further review and therefore the standard was not ready for advancement in the Step process. CCFFV21 agreed to return the proposed draft standard to Step 2 for redrafting. CCFFV21 furthermore agreed to establish an EWG chaired by Mexico and co-chaired by Argentina, to consider the critical issues identified by the Committee and prepare a revised proposed draft standard for further consideration by CCFFV22.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The feasibility of an horizontal standard on berries, and which products should be included, was mainly discussed. The general aspects of the standard were reviewed, and there was an agreement to continue the standard horizontally as approved in the project document. As there were concerns about the different commercial varieties of berries, the preliminary draft was returned to step 2, and a EWg chaired by Mexico was established to solve the definition of the product covered by the standard, as well as the other uncompleted sections.</p>
<p>8. Discussion paper on glossary of terms used in the layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables, Para. 99</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFFV21 agreed to the proposal of the USA to consider the Item at its next session, as this would enable the review of all comments received at CCFFV21 and that the USA would continue with the development of the discussion paper taking into account all comments.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Due to the lack of time and the established schedule for the work, the United States of America proposed to consider the discussion on the glossary of terms, at the next CCFFV22, and all the comments received during the CCFFV21 will be reviewed in CCFFV22 plenary.</p>

Appendix 5

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH51)		
Host	United States of America	Chairperson	Dr Jose Emilio Esteban
Session reported on	CCFH51	4 – 8 November 2019	
Next Session	CCFH52	16 – 20 November 2020	
Report	<u>REP20/FH</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

The Committee had a productive session with good progress and the work is on schedule. Three Codex texts were advanced for possible adoption by the Commission. The revision of the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (GPFH) and its HACCP annex, and the drafting of a Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators have been completed ahead of schedule. In particular the work on the revision of the GPFH and its HACCP annex has benefitted from extensive discussion in EWGs and PWGs and through the efforts and collaboration of Chairpersons (geographically representative) of these working groups. The work on management of biological foodborne outbreaks is a cross-cutting topic.

The Committee is requesting scientific advice from FAO/WHO (JEMRA) regarding Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in raw beef, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, fresh leafy vegetables, and sprouts to support the continued work on Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing *E. coli* (STEC) in Raw Beef, Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses, Fresh Leafy Vegetables, and Sprouts.

In order to manage its work plan efficiently, the Committee continues to maintain its forward workplan.

Chairperson's comments:

The Committee has been working expeditiously to revise the General Principles of Food Hygiene (GPFH) for the last few meetings. The GPFH is a foundational document for the operation of CCFH. It had not been updated in decades. The CCFH embraced this work wholeheartedly. The work had six co-chairs representing different geographic regions. During the 51st session, the work was completed and advanced for accelerated adoption at Step 5/8 (ahead of schedule). I'm proud to say that timely completion of this revision would have been impossible without the dedication of member countries, focus on consensus, and flexibility of opinion. We used every tool available, including novel approaches, all within the boundaries of the Codex *Procedural Manual*, to complete this work. We learned a lot about working together and can use this experience as a model for future difficult discussions.

In addition to GPFH, the Committee also found time to complete other work, also sent for adoption to the CAC. Very importantly, we dedicated time to make updates to our forward workplan. While this is usually an item committees don't place too much emphasis on, as Chair, I find that clarity and consensus on this item is key to the success of the Committee. The forward workplan is where seeds are planted for the discussions that will be embraced in the immediate future. Clarity at this stage, is an absolute key to success later on.

Very proud to say the the members of CCFH in collaboration with the Secretariat, FAO and WHO representatives make the work fun and successful.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Draft Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators	N05-2018	2021	8
2. Proposed draft revision of the <i>General Principles of Food Hygiene</i> (CXC 1-1969) and its HACCP annex	N03-2016	2021	5/8
3. Proposed Draft Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks	N06-2018	2021	5
4. New work on Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production	-	2024	1/2/3
For monitoring			
5. Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in raw beef, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, fresh leafy vegetables, and sprouts	N02-2019	2024	2/3
For information			
6. Scientific advice on STEC in raw beef, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, fresh leafy vegetables and sprouts	Scientific advice requested		
7. Discussion paper on revision of the <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood</i> (CXG 73-2010)	For further development		
8. Discussion paper on revision of the <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food</i> (CXG 79-2012)	For further development		

4. Specific comments

1. Adoption of the Draft Code of Practice on food allergen management for food business operators at step 8, Para 26, Appendix II
Secretariat's comments:
<p>The work has progressed well since CCFH50 and the adoption by CAC41 of the draft Code of practice (COP) at Step 5. CCFH50 had agreed to request that FAO/WHO convene an expert consultation to provide scientific advice and to request advice from the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) on the appropriateness of the use of precautionary allergen labelling. CCFH51 noted that the COP could be revised in the future once FAO/WHO had completed its scientific advice and CCFL had completed its work on precautionary allergen labelling. Thus, text related to precautionary allergen labelling was deleted throughout the COP. CCFH51 agreed to forward the draft COP to CAC43 for adoption at Step 8; to inform CCFL of the status of the work; and that the COP could be revised upon completion of the work on precautionary allergen labelling in CCFL and advice from FAO/WHO.</p> <p>The work is ahead of schedule and the format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style. The process for endorsement by CCFL was followed, i.e. CCFL endorsed relevant labelling provisions.</p>
Chairperson's comments:
<p>Given the documented increase in allergen induced reactions, this is a very important code of practice. CCFH limited its work to hygiene aspects, and referred to CCFL precautionary labeling issues. There was significant discussion, but the CCFH felt it best to adopt the guide at Step 8, while we wait for FAO/WHO to</p>

gather information and a recommendation for CCFL to consider. We expect that any revision to the Code of Practice will be managed expeditiously once CCFL completed their work. The CCFH felt that the current Code sent for adoption is a positive step for immediate guidance that needs to be available while the precautionary labeling discussion is resolved.

2. Adoption of the proposed draft revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969) and its HACCP annex at Step 5/8, Para. 88, Appendix IV

Secretariat's comments:

The work has progressed well since CCFH50 and is ahead of the envisaged timeframe. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style.

CCFH51 agreed to forward the proposed draft revision of the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC1-1969) to CAC43 for adoption at Step 5/8; and agreed to continue work on the diagram to the decision tree.

Chairperson's comments:

The CCFH used all potential means to progress this work--electronic Working Groups, physical Working Groups, drafting groups, meetings before plenary, discussions during plenary, multiple conference calls, informal conversations, etc. The CCFH really took on this work with an open mind and sense of purpose. The Chairmanship of the workgroup evolved through at least three managers over the course of the work, but the members' dedication and focus let us arrive at consensus. During the discussions, we received substantial input from one observer organization, ISO, that required some clarifications and revisions of the text. In our eagerness to complete the work, one parenthetical statement was not corrected. As a result, there is a small technical amendment the Chair will want to raise during the adoption. It is a simple deletion of an extra example that may confuse the user of the guide.

3. Proposed Draft Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks at step 5, Para. 103, Appendix III

Secretariat's comments:

The work has progressed well since CCFH50 and is according to the envisaged timeframe. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style.

The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft Guidance to CAC43 for adoption at Step 5. A PWG, will meet immediately prior to CCFH52, to facilitate the discussions at CCFH52.

Chairperson's comments:

No significant observations. Given the recent experience with Coronavirus, the Chair would like to finish this development of this document at the next session. While COVID-19 is not a foodborne virus, the fact is that some of the most relevant foodborne illnesses are caused by virus. Having a Codex document that complements all the other great guidance that WHO and FAO have available will only improve the response and coordination of any contamination event.

4. Approval of New work on Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production, Para. 116, Appendix V

Secretariat's comments:

CCFH50 had agreed to move the work on principles for the safe use of water in food processing to the top of its forward workplan table.

CCFH51 extensively discussed a project document on Guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production and agreed to forward the project document to CAC43 for approval as new work.

The work is relevant especially in the light of the revision of *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969) where a different approach to use of water is taken. The new work will take into account published and future JEMRA work on water.

The Guideline would only cover biological hazards, but considering the importance of chemicals in the context of safe use and reuse of water in food production, the Committee agreed to inform the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) of this new work.

The new work proposed and its project document is according to the Codex Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities, though amenability to standardization and work undertaken by other bodies were not specifically addressed. The proposed timeframe (five years with envisaged adoption by CAC47) is realistic.

<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This is very important work. Water is a key element in food production and we need consistency and clarity on the use of terminology, actual use, and scope of hazards. CCFH will limit its work to biological contaminants, but cannot ignore the relevance of chemical hazards; as such, we will inform CCCF of our work. Key to the success will be the ability to integrate the work from JEMRA into our discussions and arrive at a consensus regarding terms (clean, potable, safe) and the type and time of use for each of these types of water. CCFH will hopefully be approved by the Commission, to proceed with this activity.</p>
<p>5. Redrafting Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of Shiga ToxinProducing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in Raw Beef, Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses, Fresh Leafy Vegetables, and Sprouts at step 2/3 Para. 109</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The work has progressed well since CCFH50 and the approval by CAC41 of new work on this topic. The work is according to the envisaged timeframe, but will benefit from scientific advice. CCFH51 agreed to return the proposed draft document to Step 2/3 for redrafting and circulation for comments; and establish an EWG, chaired by Chile and co-chaired by France, New Zealand and the United States of America to further the work prior to CCFH52, including taking into account JEMRA feedback (see below).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This activity is progressing, but will definitely require inclusion of work currently being conducted by JEMRA. Work previously conducted by CCFH on Salmonella, used a similar approach very successfully. The EWG has been working very effectively and a good amount of progress has been made. It is imperative that we include JEMRA advice. Given the current work environment, we will have to more actively engage in the electronic forum. The JEMRA consultation is key and likely some adjustments to the timeline may be required. Discussions are ongoing.</p>
<p>6. Scientific advice on STEC in raw beef, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, fresh leafy vegetables and sprouts, Para. 107</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFH51 agreed to request scientific advice from JEMRA on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the most appropriate application point(s) of specific interventions, including decontamination treatments; -any other additional interventions for control of STEC in raw beef, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, fresh leafy vegetables, and sprouts; -verification, based on the available data, of the efficacy of the interventions in terms of STEC reduction; -advice, with some level of confidence, to the extent possible, on the quantifiable level of reduction that interventions achieve; -advice on the practicality and feasibility of proposed interventions to be applied on commercial scale, and therefore reasonably likely to be adopted by FBOs and appropriate to include in the Codex guidelines.
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>As stated above, work is progressing and the EWG modality will need to be enhanced so as to not lose momentum given the current situation.</p>
<p>7. Discussion paper on revision of the <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood</i> (CXG 73-2010), para. 118</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>Japan, with support from New Zealand, will review the forthcoming JEMRA report (2020) on <i>Vibrio</i> and prepare a discussion paper on the possible revision of the <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood</i> (CXG 73-2010).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>As part of the CCFH forward workplan will take initial steps to prepare a discussion paper. Given our history with these two delegations and the superb quality of prior work, I expect the CCFH will be ready to discuss the relevance and ranking of this new work proposal at its next session. The original guidelines are over 10 years old and we have learned much more about <i>Vibrio</i> sp. Look forward to this activity.</p>
<p>8. Discussion paper on revision of the <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food</i> (CXG 79-2012), para. 118</p>

Secretariat's comments:

Canada, with support from The Netherlands, will prepare a discussion paper on the possible revision of *Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food* (CXG 79-2012) due to new information which has come to light.

Chairperson's comments:

As part of the CCFH forward workplan will take initial steps to prepare a discussion paper. I expect the CCFH will be ready to discuss the relevance and ranking of this new work proposal at its next session. Foodborne illness caused by virus is most relevant worldwide and an update to our current text is called for. Also look forward to engaging in this activity.

Appendix 6

1. General

Committee	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNE10)		
Host	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Chairperson	Mr Mohammad Hossein Shojaee
Session reported on	CCNE10	11-15 November 2019	
Next Session	CCNE11	Approximately two years following CCNEA10	
Report	<u>REP20/NE</u>		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The Committee had a productive and constructive session with a high level of participation (even though the meeting had to be held in Rome rather than in the Region) and engagement during the meeting despite challenges in advance in receiving input for the preparation of some of the meeting documents. There were good discussions on cross-cutting issues. The committee was able to complete its agenda. The issue on whether to develop a regional standard for halal products remained unresolved. One regional draft Codex standard was advanced for possible final adoption, work on one regional Codex standard was discontinued, and one new work proposals was agreed to.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>It was a successful meeting with good participation and beneficial side event. The keynote lecture was useful, although it could have been even more of a benefit to the participants if the topic had been more narrow. We had engaging discussions with the members. To improve the quality of regional standards in general and faster adoption, I propose external expert assistance by FAO/WHO whenever required, especially regarding criteria for test methods and preparation of the specification tables. We were able to finalize all agenda items with consensus. Halal remained the most important and sensitive issue. We were split almost in the middle on how to proceed; while half of the Member countries wanted to proceed, the others were against taking further steps. I proposed to keep the topic for the next meeting, but I do not see any possibility to resolve the differences within the region. In addition, although all members of the Near East region are Muslim countries, the number of Muslim countries outside the region is higher and therefore the potential Codex standard can not be considered regional.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision			
1. Draft regional standard for mixed zaatar	N13-2013	2017/ext.2019	8
2. Proposal for the development of a regional standard for maamoul	-	2024	New work
3. Draft regional standard for labneh	N12-2013	2017	Discontinuation
For information			
4. Food additive provisions – Regional standard for Doogh		For further development	
5. Discussion Paper on a Codex text for ready-to-eat pre-packaged salads		For further development	
6. Discussion Paper on the development of a standard for Halal products		For further discussion	

4. Specific comments

1. Adoption of the Draft regional standard for mixed zaatar, para. 87, Appendix IV
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The work progressed well at the session and is now on time following the decisions of CAC40 (2017) to extend the timeline for completion of the work until 2019 and considering the postponement of the RCCs from 2018 to 2019. CCNE10 agreed to forward the draft regional standard for mixed zaatar to CAC43 for adoption at Step 8. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style. The food additive, labelling and methods of analysis provisions will be forwarded to CCFA, CCFL and CCMAS respectively for endorsement. CCNE10 requested the EWG on alignment of food additive provisions in CCNE regional standards with the GSFA to also undertake the alignment of the standard for mixed zaatar after its adoption.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>There are no specific comments.</p>
2. Discussion paper on the development of a regional standard for maamoul, para. 109
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCNE10 agreed to start the new work on developing a regional standard for maamoul and confirmed that the product was produced and exported by several Members from the Region. However, CCNE10 also considered that this was not adequately reflected in the current project document and agreed to prepare a revised project document to be submitted to the Codex Secretariat at least three months in advance of the relevant CCEXEC/CAC meetings. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, some delays have been experienced in revising the project document.</p> <p>CCNE10 also agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by Saudi Arabia, working in English and Arabic, to prepare, subject to the approval of CAC, the proposed draft regional standard for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCNE11.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The project document of new work on a regional standard for maamoul prepared by Saudi Arabia has been sent to members of the region for comments. Due to the ongoing situation of COVID-19, some respected members of the region have requested to extend the deadline for comments.</p>
3. Discontinue the work on a draft regional standard for labneh, paras. 42-45
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The proposed draft regional standard for labneh had remained frozen at Step 4 since CCNE8 (2015) awaiting the advice of CAC on the possible amendment of the <i>Standard for Fermented Milks</i> (CXS 243-2003), which included labneh as an example. However, a technical justification regarding removal of the reference to labneh in that standard was still pending and therefore the CAC had not been in a position to provide advice. Lebanon explained that they were still investigating whether the provisions for sorbic acid, proportion of powdered milk and related microbiological specifications in CXS 243-2003 were appropriate for labneh. CCNE had also agreed that work on the technical provisions specific to labneh would continue, but no progress had been made in this regard either.</p> <p>In this context, CCNE10 noted that since labneh as a fermented milk product was covered by the <i>Standard for Fermented Milks</i> (CXS 243-2003), it did not consider it necessary to develop a separate standard at this time and therefore proposed discontinuation of the work. The Committee could consider future work on labneh should there be sufficient interest by Members and a new work proposal presented.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>There are no specific comments.</p>
4. Food additive provisions – Regional standard for Doogh

<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The standard for Doogh had been adopted by the Commission noting that the food additive provisions were still to be developed. While a proposal for the food additive provisions for the standard for Doogh was presented to CCNE10, Members noted the ongoing work on alignment of the food additive provisions in CXS 243-2003 with the GSFA and also that there was a lack of specific food additive expertise at the meeting to consider the proposal. The Committee therefore did not consider it in a position to take a decision on food additive provisions for doogh at this session. CCNE10 therefore agreed that further work on the food additive provisions for doogh should be undertaken at a future session, once the alignment of the food additive provisions for CXS 243-2003 with the GSFA was completed.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>There are no specific comments.</p>
<p>5. Discussion Paper on a Codex text for ready-to-eat pre-packaged salads, para. 91</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The discussion paper had been considered at CCNE9 and was revised and a project document also prepared for CCNE10. The committee was reminded that proposals for new work need to carefully consider the relevance of existing standards, the relevant criteria on the establishment of work priorities and guidance on the preparation of draft standards as set forth in the Codex Procedural Manual. As all of these aspects had not been considered in the discussion paper, CCNE10, encouraged Members interested in the development of a standard for pre-packaged salads to assess, with the support of FAO and WHO, the extent to which existing Codex standards already covered food safety and quality concerns related to the product. If needed, then a proposal for a new work item could be presented at a future session of CCNE.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>There are no specific comments.</p>
<p>6. Discussion Paper on the development of a standard for halal products, para. 98</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>There is a long history discussions on the possible development of a standard for halal products within Codex and this issue is now back in CCNE. Based on the discussion paper prepared for CCNE10, the Committee deliberated on whether it would be appropriate to proceed with new work on halal products. CCNE10 acknowledged the importance of having clear rules for halal in international trade; that halal was a faith-based issue rather than a science-based food safety and quality issue; that halal was a TBT rather than a SPS issue and in this regard Codex would not have a special status; the existence of SMIIC halal standards; that halal was not a regional issue and regional approaches could adversely affect harmonized international regulation of halal products.</p> <p>This is a sensitive issue and it was not possible to identify a clear way forward. Members were willing to further reflects on the points raised in the discussions. Therefore, CCNE10 deferred the discussion to the next session.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The development of a Halal Standard has been extensively discussed during three consecutive sessions, namely CCNE8, CCNE9 and CCNE10, without reaching consensus. It should be reminded that Halal Standards are related to all Codex member countries rather than to the members of the Near East region. Furthermore, Codex is not a right platform to develop religious standards, while the right platform is the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), which is affiliated to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).</p> <p>It should be mentioned that the existing standards developed by SMIIC (OIC/SMIIC 1:2019 - General Requirements for Halal Food) ensure fair practices in international food trade with regards to halal food products and it could serve as a basis for a Codex standard in this area if required. In this respect, more cooperation between two organization could be envisaged to avoid duplications of the work. SMIIC is recognized as the technically competent and authorized platform for the halal issues and mandated to work in the area of all kind standards and related issues for the OIC Member States. SMIIC's technical works are open to all stakeholders all over the world. Duplicative works and possible inconsistency among different international texts could lead to confusion in international trade; as halal issues need religious competency. This kind of standardization work should also include representations of all the different sectarians in Islamic Countries.</p>

Appendix 7

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU41)		
Host	Germany	Chairperson	Dr Anja Brönstrup
Session reported on	CCNFSDU41	24 – 29 November 2019	
Next Session	CCNFSDU42	23 - 27 November 2020	
Report	<u>REP20/NFSDU</u>		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The Committee had a productive and constructive session with good progress. Overall the work is on schedule. However, the workload remains large, and many items are complex and sensitive in nature and required extensive discussion, which is why the CCNFSDU41 took place over 6 days as opposed to the normal 5 days and still part of the work on the review of the Standard for Follow-up Formula had to be deferred to the next session. Two Codex texts were advanced for possible adoption at Step 5 and two food additive provisions forwarded for adoption by the Commission, whereas work on two issues were proposed to be discontinued.</p> <p>The Committee has agreed to a prioritization mechanism, to use it on a pilot basis in order to better manage its work and to respond to emerging issues. The Committee has also agreed on a mechanism/framework for considering technological justification of food additives, which will facilitate its work on food additives in relation to requests for new food additives in standards under its purview or for its work on alignment with the Codex <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA).</p> <p>Some parts of the work on follow-up formula and RUTF has relied on scientific advice from FAO and also the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU), while the work on NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months might require scientific advice from FAO/WHO in the future.</p> <p>Issues related to referencing in particular to WHO guidelines and WHA resolutions remain, and will continue to be part of discussions on Follow-up Formula and Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods in the session.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>With close to 400 participants in its 41st session, CCNFSDU remains a Committee of high interest. The Committee had an intense session in which good progress was made. The session benefitted from a high degree of participation and exchange and a constructive atmosphere. Participants strove for consensus to achieve progress in matters that had been discussed at length in previous sessions. Delegations and observers appreciated that more time could be dedicated to complex and sensitive matters, yet it was clear that 6-day meetings of CCNFSDU will only remain an exception.</p> <p>Though the agenda continues to be comprehensive, there is a chance that the outstanding issues of more controversial nature, among which is the revision of the standard for follow-up formula, can be solved in the upcoming session(s). It is the impression of the Chairs that the Committee is dedicated to finish this and other tasks. Furthermore, it is evident that the Committee also wishes to address new tasks. To this effect, the new prioritization mechanism is expected to be useful in helping the Committee to carefully reflect on new work proposals based on common assessment criteria.</p> <p>The scientific advice provided by JEMNU is much appreciated, and it remains to be shown how the scientific advice on the nitrogen-to-protein conversion factors is being used for risk management decisions. The Committee is highly interested in making science-based decisions; therefore, it is very important that scientific advice is provided in a timely matter in order to enable participants to take the advice into consideration when they draft their positions. Similarly, it would be helpful for the discussions of the Committee to receive written comments and other input by the delegations well ahead of a session.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Review of the <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i> : Section B: Proposed draft scope, definition and labelling	N07-2013	2022 (previously 2019)	5
2. Proposed Draft Guideline for Ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF)	N05-2016	2020	5
3. Provisions for xanthan gum (INS 415) and pectins (INS 440)	-	-	Adoption
4. Condition for a claim for “free of” TFAs	-	-	Discontinuation
5. Definition for biofortification	N05-2015	-	Discontinuation
For monitoring			
6. NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months		2025	2/3
Review of the <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i> : Section A: Scope, description and labelling; and Essential composition requirements for Section A and Section B (see point 1)	N07-2013	2022	7
Review of the <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i> : remaining sections (see point 1)	N07-2013	2022	4
For information			
7. Prioritization mechanism	For further refinement and use on a pilot basis		
Mechanism / Framework for considering technological justification of food additives	Completed and published as an Information Document for internal use by CCFNSDU		
Discussion paper on guidelines to establish nutrient profiles	For further development		

4. Specific comments

<p>1. Review of the <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i>, Paras. 28, 49, 85, 86, App. II, III, IV and V</p> <p>Secretariat’s comments:</p> <p>The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style and the endorsement processes are being followed.</p> <p>The work entails development of requirements for two distinct products for two different age groups, namely, follow-up formula for older infants (Section A) and another for product for young children (Section B).</p> <p>The work is being conducted in stages, therefore different parts of the work are at different steps in the process so that the standard once completed can be sent for final adoption in its entirety.</p> <p>Work has been completed on the essential composition requirements for both sections A and B, and the scope, description and labelling for Section A, which are being held at Step 7. Consensus was reached on the provisions related to the prohibition of cross promotion, which was a sticking point at the last session.</p> <p>Good progress was made on the scope, definition and labelling section of Part B, which has been forwarded to Step 5 for adoption by CAC43. Consensus was reached on these sections through extensive discussions both in plenary and in <i>ad hoc</i> discussions during the session. A stumbling block in the past was how to define these products, i.e. whether these products should be considered breastmilk substitutes in line with the WHO Guideline; and how to name them. The Committee agreed to remain silent in this regard while acknowledging that in different jurisdictions, these products are considered breastmilk substitutes; and to provide two options for the name of the product.</p> <p>The relevant labelling provisions will be sent to CCFL for endorsement and an EWG will continue to work on the definition and other remaining aspects.</p> <p>The remaining sections of the work which entails other quality requirements, and the general sections related to food additives, contaminants and methods of analysis will be considered by the next session.</p>

Due to the technical and sensitive nature of the work, especially with regards to aligning with WHO Guidelines and WHA resolutions, the work has required extensive discussion to reach consensus, including several rounds of discussion in EWGs, an extended session of CCNFSDU and lots of opportunity during the last session for informal discussion in an attempt to reach consensus. The Committee has also taken into account the advice of CCEXEC75 and CCEXEC77 in relation to alignment with FAO and WHO policies. The next session of the Committee will complete the remaining sections. The structure of the Standard and the proposed preamble will be considered once all remaining sections have been completed.

The Committee has requested that the deadline for completion of work should be extended to adoption by CAC in 2022 in line with the request from CCEXEC77.

Chairperson's comments:

Some challenging issues for Section A of the draft revised Standard for Follow-up Formula for older infants have been solved and good progress has been achieved for Section B: Proposed draft scope, definition and labelling of Drink/product for young children with added nutrients or Drink for young children. The Committee managed to successfully address some controversial issues, like the definition of and name for the product for young children. However, further challenging aspects remain, such as the finalization of the definition in Section B as well as the structure of and the preamble for the revised standard(s). Thus, it is hoped that the strong will for consensus and the good progress experienced in the 2019 session will also help to agree on these and less sensitive issues in the upcoming session(s).

2. Proposed Draft Guideline for Ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF), Para. 122, App. VI

Secretariat's comments:

The work is progressing well. The work is slightly behind schedule as the deadline was adoption by CAC in 2020; and the format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style. CCNFSDU41 agreed to forward the draft Guidelines for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods to Step 5 for adoption by CAC43, to forward the labelling provisions to CCFL for endorsement, and to forward the food additive provisions to CCFA for endorsement.

Chairperson's comments:

The Committee was able to agree on many outstanding issues and to sufficiently advance the draft Guidelines for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods. In addition to content-related work, some issues of procedural or general nature had to be solved, e.g. how to deal with food additive provisions in Codex guidelines and to what extent the ongoing work of WHO on RUTF might affect the draft Codex guidelines. The target date for finalization will not be met, but a major delay in completing the work is not expected.

3. Provisions for xanthan gum (INS 415) and pectins (INS 440), Para. 166, App. VIII Part B

Secretariat's comments:

CCNFSDU41 agreed to forward to CAC43 for adoption the provisions for xanthan gum (INS 415) and pectins (INS 440) as thickeners in the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants (CXS 72-1981)*.

The Committee used the "mechanism / framework for considering the technological justification of food additives" to first take a decision on the technological need for the two food additives. The decision to include the two food additives in the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants (CXS 72-1981)* follows a request from CCFA49.

Chairperson's comments:

After agreeing on the framework for considering the technological justification of food additives, the Committee used the new mechanism for assessing whether the use of xanthan gum and pectins in infant formula is technologically justified. Discussions on the technological justification of further food additives will show whether adherence to the framework will prove useful also in cases where the use of food additives in foods for special dietary uses is more controversially discussed among delegations.

4. Condition for a claim for "free of" Trans Fatty Acids (TFA), Para. 131

Secretariat's comments:

CCNFSDU41 agreed to discontinue work on the claim for "free" of TFAs and to inform CCEXEC79 and CAC43 accordingly. CCNFSDU41 agreed to inform CCFL of the Committee's decision to discontinue the work on the condition for a claim for "free" of TFAs and to consider possible actions in CCFL, and inform CCFO of the Committee's discussions and to consider work in CCFO on possible ways to reduce TFAs or

eliminate PHOs. It was noted that any member could make proposals to other Codex committees for new work to address the issue of TFAs and take necessary actions at the national level taking into account the work of WHO.

There was full consensus on the decision of CCNFSDU41 to discontinue this work.

The above decisions follows many discussions over several sessions on a claim for “free of” TFAs, following an initial request from CCFL41. However CCNFSDU could not reach consensus on proposed options. CCNFSDU40 therefore agreed to explore other more suitable risk management options to address TFAs and a discussion paper on such possible options was considered by CCNFSDU40.

Chairperson’s comments:

The Committee’s proposal to discontinue work on conditions for a claim for “free of” trans fatty acids can be considered an informed decision taken after lengthy discussions on the matter and after carefully considering other risk management possibilities for the reduction of trans fatty acids, which is generally considered an important public health goal. In this respect, the intense discussions in the Committee contributed to better understand the various risk management possibilities that may serve a similar purpose.

5. Definition for biofortification, Para. 138

Secretariat’s comments:

CCNFSDU40 held the proposed draft definition at Step 4 and requested CCFL to consider whether the definition would meet their intended needs, and to clarify the intended use of the definition and where it would be placed. CCNFSDU41 considered the recommendation of CCEXEC77, i.e. to clarify how a definition would be useful in the context of Codex work and to consider discontinuation of this work if no use was identified. In addition, CCNFSDU41 noted the view of CCFL that the “*there was no need for a definition on biofortification in the context of food labelling*”. The Committee therefore agreed to discontinue the work and to inform CCEXEC79 and CAC43 accordingly. Full consensus was reached on this decision. The Committee noted that any member could, in future, present a proposal for work in this field to any other Codex Committee taking into account the work and conclusion of CCNFSDU.

Chairperson’s comments:

Taking into account the feedback received from CCFL that there was no need for a definition on biofortification in the context of food labelling, it was inevitable for the Committee to propose that this work be discontinued. An important finding from this experience is that it is essential to discuss and scrutinize a request/proposal for new work in depth and to get a full understanding of its purpose and use within the context of Codex work. In this respect, a regular exchange between Committee Chairs on interlinking aspects may also prove helpful and should be supported.

6. Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs)-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months, Para. 150, App. VII

Secretariat’s comments:

Work on NRVs for persons aged 6 – 36 months forms part of the overall work on NRVs-R in the Committee (see project document in ALINORM 08/31/26, Appendix VII). The work on NRVs-R for the general population was completed in 2017 with the adoption of the NRVs-R for vitamins E and D. CAC42 agreed to discontinue work on NRVs-NCD for EPA and DHA.

Over several sessions of the Committee discussions continued on if and how to proceed with the work.

Following the introduction of a discussion paper on this topic and subsequent discussion, CCNFSDU41 agreed to continue its work on NRVs-R for persons aged 6 to 36 months and to inform CCEXEC79 of the revised timeline for completion of the work (adoption by CAC in 2025). The work will be carried out in stages. CCNFSDU41 reached agreement on the age group for which NRVs-R would be established (persons aged 6 – 36 months), and for list of nutrients (in order of priority) for which the NRVs-R would be established. CCNFSDU41 further agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by Ireland, and co-chaired by Costa Rica and the United States of America, to develop general principles to guide the establishment of NRVs-R for the age group in question.

CCNFSDU41 also noted there would be a need for scientific advice.

Chairperson’s comments:

During this and last year’s session, discussions of more general nature took place before the Committee decided to start work on NRVs-R for persons aged 6 to 36 months. The Committee highlighted the need to first agree on general principles to guide the establishment of NRVs-R for this age group before embarking on the actual derivation of NRVs-R for persons aged 6 to 36 months. It is expected that this task will require discussions at several sessions of the Committee and, presumably, also scientific advice.

7. Prioritization mechanism, Para. 176, App. IX

Secretariat's comments:

The discussion paper prepared by Germany, the host Secretariat, with a number of proposals for CCFNSDU to better manage its work, as had been requested by CCEXEC75, was well received by the Committee. CCFNSDU41 agreed to start the prioritization mechanism on a pilot basis to assess its usefulness, and to further discuss this at a physical working group immediately prior to the next session. Several discussion papers (proposals for new work) that was on the agenda of the Committee will be resubmitted in line with this proposed mechanism and assessed according to the procedure outline in the mechanism.

Chairperson's comments:

In general, the proposed prioritization mechanism was welcomed by the Committee. Therefore, it agreed to use the draft mechanism on a pilot basis, as has also been done in other Committees. Given the huge workload of CCFNSDU and the complexity of its tasks, a structured approach is indispensable when it comes to decide on new work. Once established it is expected that the prioritization mechanism will not only help the Committee to focus its work on the most important and emerging issues but will also shorten the discussions on new work proposals in the plenary.

Appendix 8

1. General

Committee	Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR7)		
Host	Republic of Korea	Chairperson	Yong Ho Park
Session reported on	TFAMR7	9 – 13 December 2019	
Next Session	TFAMR8	30 November – 5 December 2020	
Report	REP20/AMR		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The Task Force had a constructive session with good overall progress. Nevertheless, the work is behind the scheduled timeline as the issues are complex, sensitive in nature and has required extensive discussion in order to reach consensus. The revised <i>Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance</i> (CXC 61-2005) (COP) is being submitted for adoption at Step 5, while the Proposed draft Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance was returned for redrafting.</p> <p>It is envisaged that both work items can be finalized at the next (last) session of TFAMR in 2020. An extended session of TFAMR is planned for this purpose.</p> <p>Dr Park, the Chairperson of TFAMR, could not chair the session due to a health issue and Prof. Sangyeol Ryu kindly chaired the session on behalf of Dr Park.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Except for the most contentious issues, TFAMR7 successfully achieved substantive progress on the <i>Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance</i>, which will be submitted for adoption at Step 5. However, it was not able to send the <i>Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance</i> to the Commission for adoption at Step 5 due to lack of time.</p> <p>Physical working group meetings prior to the plenary session and one day extension of the plenary session were proposed to have more opportunities to discuss the two documents, to which the Task Force agreed. I believe this will facilitate decisions on critical issues in the plenary session, which in turn will allow finalization of these texts within the timeframe allocated to the Task Force by the Commission for completion of work.</p> <p>TFAMR8 will be crucial to advance the two documents for final adoption in the Codex Step Procedure and to provide guidance on the urgent global public health issue of AMR.</p> <p>The government of the Republic of Korea will provide the required arrangements for the additional two days of physical working group meetings and a one day extension of the plenary session of TFAMR8. This means the deadline of 2020 given by the Codex Alimentarius Commission will be kept.</p> <p>As the Chairperson of the Task Force, I believe an inclusive approach should be used for drafting the documents as level of AMR management differs between countries. In the future, documents can be revised as global resources and evidence permit.</p> <p>For fair practices in food trade of fundamental value of Codex, the Task Force should make sure that both documents are based on a flexible approach not to inappropriately generate barriers to trade by categorizing countries.</p> <p>Among sensitive issues, the Task Force needs to decide whether the definition of "therapeutic use" should be revised or included in the <i>Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance</i> as the definition plays an important role in limiting the range of antimicrobial use.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Proposed draft revision of the <i>Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance</i> (CXC 61-2005)	N28-2017	2020	5
For monitoring			
2. Proposed draft Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance	N29-2017	2020	2/3

4. Specific comments

1. Proposed draft revision of the <i>Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance</i> (CXC 61-2005), para. 126, Appendix II
Secretariat's comments: Although the work is slightly behind schedule as the deadline was adoption by CAC in 2020, substantial progress based on agreements on key provisions of the <i>Code of Practice to Contain and Minimize Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance</i> (CXC 61-2005) allowed the Task Force to submit the revised COP to CAC43 for adoption at Step 5; and to establish an EWG to address the few outstanding issues in square brackets with a view to finalizing the COP at the next session in 2020. However, It is important that TFAMR8 focus its discussion on the outstanding issues identified at its last session and avoid reopening provisions already agreed at previous sessions in order to complete the revision of the COP at its next session. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style.
Chairperson's comments: The remaining contentious parts, including the definition of "Therapeutic use", are expected to be resolved and agreed at the 8 th session. Drafting is going to be finished by the end of 2020 when the 8 th session will take place, and the document will be submitted to the Commission for final adoption in 2021. Among sensitive issues, TFAMR needs to decide whether the definition of "therapeutic use" should be revised or included in the document as the definition plays a large role in limiting the scope of antimicrobial use.
2. Proposed draft Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance, para. 132
Secretariat's comments: The Guidelines was returned to Step 2/3 for further redrafting due to lack of time to thoroughly discuss this document during TFAMR7. There was general support for the development and finalization of the Guidelines as one of the three core texts for foodborne AMR together with the <i>Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance</i> (CXG 77-2011) and the <i>Code of Practice to Contain and Minimize Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance</i> (CXC 62-2005) (under revision) and as such to prioritize the discussion of the Guidelines on the Agenda of TFAMR8 to ensure sufficient time for their consideration. Substantial progress was made at a physical working group meeting held prior to TFAMR7, which constitute the basis for discussion in the EWG established by TFAMR7 to further review the Guidelines focusing on those areas that were not considered by the PWG. In order to be able to finalize the development of the Guidelines, is important that the TFAMR at its next session focus its discussion on outstanding issues identified by the EWG established at its last session and do not reopen discussion on provisions common to both the COP and the Guidelines, which had already been agreed during the consideration of the COP. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style.
Chairperson's comments: Drafting is going to be finished by the end of 2020 when TFAMR8 will take place, and the document will be submitted to the Commission for final adoption in 2021.

In order to advance the document for final adoption, the Guidelines will be discussed first at the upcoming session to make sure that enough time would be allocated for the discussion.
The Task Force should make sure that the document is based on a flexible approach not to inappropriately generate barriers to trade by categorizing countries.

Appendix 9

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL) (working by correspondence only)		
Host	United States of America	Chairperson	Henry Kim

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

CCCPL was reactivated by CAC38 (2015) with the aim of developing a standard for quinoa and has been working by correspondence.

The draft standard was adopted at Step 8 by CAC41 (2018). However, the provisions for moisture content and grain size remained at Step 6 as these needed further consideration due to divergent views.

The provisions for moisture content was adopted by CAC42 (2019), while the section on grain size was returned to Step 6 for further consideration by CCCPL. CAC42 noted that if consensus could not be reached at the next session, the section on grain size would be removed.

Following CAC42, two rounds of consultations were held. As no consensus could be reached and following the recommendations of CAC42, CCCPL proposed removing the section on grain size from the *Standard for Quinoa*.

Based on the above, it is proposed that CAC43 consider removing the section on grain size from the *Standard for Quinoa*.

It is further proposed that CCCPL be adjourned *sine die*.

Chairperson's comments:

During two rounds of consultation in the past year, the majority of EWG members participated by providing comments in addressing the section on grain size of the standard. There were varied positions by member countries regarding the grain size section and consensus could not be reached. Therefore, under Matters for Action in the Matters Referred to the Commission by Codex Committees document for CAC43, the Chairperson is recommending removal of the section on grain size from the standard in accordance with the CAC42 notation that if consensus could not be reached at the next session, the section would be removed.

Overall, electronic engagement by members of the EWG was highly effective for providing comments and positions during development of the standard that resulted in adoption of the standard at Step 8 in 2 years (with the exception of the moisture content and grain size provisions). While the moisture content provision was adopted at Step 8 at CAC42, agreement could not be reached among Latin American countries, the major producers of quinoa, on whether to maintain or remove the section on grain size of the standard.

The EWG also referred to the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) a matter related to established maximum levels (MLs) for lead and cadmium in cereal grains that explicitly stated the MLs do not apply to quinoa in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995). The CCCF is currently addressing whether the MLs for lead and cadmium should apply to quinoa.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
The section on grain size in the <i>Standard for quinoa</i>	N17-2015	2019	Removal

4. Specific comments

The section on grain size in the <i>Standard for quinoa</i>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CAC41 (2018) adopted the Draft Standard for Quinoa at Step 8, with the exception of the provisions for moisture content and grain size, which were returned to Step 6.</p> <p>CAC42 (2019) adopted the section on moisture content and returned the section on grain size to Step 6 for further consideration.</p> <p>Following CAC42, USA as the host country of CCCPL, prepared the draft provision on grain size, which was issued for comments (CL 2019/92-CPL). Based on the comments received, USA proposed deleting Section 3.2.7 "Grain Size in the <i>Standard for Quinoa</i>. This proposal has further been circulated (CL 2020/25-CPL). Comments in response to CL 2020/25-CPL demonstrated that no consensus could be reached. Based on this, CCCPL proposed to remove the section on grain size from the <i>Standard for Quinoa</i>.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>During the past year, the issue of whether to maintain or remove the section on grain size in the standard was fully considered by the EWG. However, consensus could not be reached for maintaining or removing the grain size section and, therefore, the Chairperson is recommending removal of the grain size section from the standard.</p>