



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Seventy-seventh Session
WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, 1 – 5 July 2019**

**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 Codex Committees having met in April and May 2019, Committees working by correspondence, and TFAMR will be addressed in Add. 1 to this document.

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 is being piloted this time to improve readability and give more prominence and emphasis on information and insights from the Chairpersons.

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 document CX/EXEC 19/77/5.

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: Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

Appendix 2: Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

Appendix 3: Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

Appendix 4: Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Appendix 5: Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

Appendix 6: Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

Appendix 7: Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

Appendix 1

1. General

Committee	Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)		
Host	Australia	Chairperson	Fran Freeman
Session reported on	CCFICS24	22-26 October 2018	
Next Session	CCFICS25	27 April - 1 May 2020	
Report	<u>REP19/FICS</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments: The work of the Committee is overall on track and the various tasks are likely to be delivered on time. The workload is reasonable. The Committee has been constructive and successful in finding compromises and reaching consensus. Some issues being discussed at CCFICS24, such as food fraud and emerging issues, are of cross-cutting nature and need to be brought to attention and possible discussion in CAC and/or other committees.

CCFICS24 was conducted efficiently and smoothly and preparations for CCFICS25 are well underway.

Chairperson's comments: CCFICS24 was my first opportunity to Chair a Codex committee along with the new Australian and Codex Secretariat teams. The meeting was well supported by Codex member states and provided a great opportunity to establish solid working relationships. The CCFICS survey results have been very encouraging and we will take them into account as we continue to implement improvements.

There were a number of side events which aided the understanding and progress of work including paperless trading, third party assurance and food integrity and food authenticity.

Progress was made during the meeting with third party assurance moving to Step 5. This was assisted by members being amenable to an in-session working group being held to revise the document that was then re-considered and agreed to by the plenary.

The proposed draft guidance on the recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems and the work to revise existing guidance on the implementation of paperless electronic certification did not make any formal progress. While disappointing, particularly given the good work done by the EWGs and PWGs in the lead up to CCFICS24, the slow progress highlights the difficulties sometimes in reaching consensus. Often the issues are complex and challenging for each member given their own regulatory arrangements. CCFICS24 played an important role in allowing views to be heard and areas of commonality to be identified and progressed for future consideration.

The food integrity and authenticity paper also engendered constructive conversations, with universal agreement from member countries that CCFICS should progress this important work. Next steps include clarifying the scope of Codex related food fraud matters and then informing other committees as relevant. This work has commenced.

Also from my experience of CCFICS and Codex more generally, I feel the Codex family should be encouraged to explore options that seek to maximize and help members participate. All members face increasing budget restrictions and time challenges. Our Codex work risks going backwards if we don't consider using new technologies to enhance how we work together. This is why I was so taken by the possibilities that webinar technology presents to the Codex family. The practical use of this technology is a work in progress and represents a significant opportunity for greater participation by more members to progress the important work of Codex.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) Programmes	N27-2017	2020	5
2. Project document for new work on the consolidation of Codex Guidelines related to equivalence	-	Within 3 or 4 sessions of CCFICS	1/2/3
For monitoring			
3. Proposed Draft Guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates (Rev of GL for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates)	N26-2017	2020	2/3
4. Proposed Draft Guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS)	N25-2017	2020	2/3
For information			
5. Discussion paper on role of CCFICS with respect to tackling food fraud in the context of food safety and fair practices in food trade	-	-	-
6. Outcome of the assessment of the experimental approach for Intersessional PWGs (trial) combined with webinar technology	-	-	-
7. Review and update - list of emerging global issues	-	-	-

4. Specific comments

<p>1. Proposed Draft Principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes, Para 53, Appendix III</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The work is progressing well and smoothly consistent with the envisaged timeframe. The format and presentation as well as language is in good shape and will be further adjusted in the next phase. An EWG has been set up with the possibility of convening physical working groups, including immediately prior to CCFICS25, chaired by the United Kingdom and co-chaired by Canada and Mexico, working in English and Spanish, to consider comments submitted at Step 6 as well as all outstanding issues, including comments made at CCFICS24</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: A productive working group meeting led to a strong discussion at CCFICS24, enabling recommendation for adoption at Step 5.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that there needs to be flexibility in the Principles and Guidelines to meet the needs of Members.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the guidance becoming mandatory rather than voluntary. The wording of the guidance was discussed to ensure it was clear that this work was intended to be voluntary in nature and should not replace official government inspection.</p> <p>With the EWG established and the possibility of a PWG prior to CCFICS25 this will ensure work continues on the outstanding issues.</p>
<p>2. Project document for new work on the consolidation of Codex Guidelines related to equivalence, Para 32 (ii), (iii), Appendix II and</p> <p>4. Proposed Draft Guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS), Para 32 (i), (iii)</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFICS24 considered the <i>“Proposed Draft Guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS)”</i>; and observed the significant overlap between the proposed draft and existing two Codex Texts on equivalence. In this regard, CCFICS noted the need to merge the existing Codex Guidelines (CAC/GL 53-2003 and CAC/GL 34-1999) and the new draft Guidance on the Use of Systems Equivalence to create a single unified and updated Guidance on the use of equivalence.</p> <p>For purposes of ensuring clarity and transparency around the complex work related to consolidation, CCFICS agreed: to submit a project document for new work on updating and consolidating Codex guidelines on equivalence; and the proposed new work on consolidation would go in parallel with ongoing work on systems equivalence.</p> <p>The consolidation of all Codex guidance on equivalence (existing guidance and the draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of NFCSs) will be helpful for national authorities, including developing countries, and will also help ensuring fair practices in food trade. The work is relevant and amenable to standardization, and is likely to be accomplished within a few years.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: A robust discussion was held at CCFICS24 and as the Chair, I agree with the comments made by the Codex Secretariat.</p> <p>While this body of work did not specifically advance in the step process at CCFICS24, the discussion served to clarify the scope, a process better undertaken earlier in the step procedure rather than later causing blockages. The committee should also be commended for still aiming to meet the original deadline set out in the project document.</p>
<p>3. Proposed Draft Guidance on Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates (Revision of Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates, CXG 38-2001), para 39</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee agreed to return the proposed draft guidance to Step 2 for redrafting, re-establish the EWG, chaired by the Netherlands, co-chaired by Australia and working in English only, to continue the drafting for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCFICS25, and convene a PWG immediately prior to CCFICS25.</p> <p>The work is within the envisaged time-frame (approved in 2017).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: CCFICS continued work on the 'Draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates'. There has been significant progress made since the preliminary discussion of this issue started in 2014. This work is intended to provide a tool to help build confidence and enable countries to go</p>

<p>paperless. Considerations were made about current paper-based models and existing experiences reflecting on the processes among the Codex Member Countries.</p> <p>The work will continue via an EWG and PWG before CCFICS25.</p>
<p>5. Discussion paper on role of CCFICS with respect to tackling food fraud in the context of food safety and fair practices in food trade (paras 57-58)</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFICS continued the discussion on Food Fraud and agreed that: the topic is broad; cross-cutting in nature; and relevant to many others Codex Committees, and thus warrant a broader attention in Codex. The Committee agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the EU and the Islamic Republic of Iran, working in English only. China has since expressed interest in also becoming a co-chair, which is supported by the EWG Chair/Co-chairs.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: In terms of policy issues the committee is dealing with, food fraud is certainly a cross-cutting issue that will involve other Codex committees and I look forward to chairing this important piece of work. This issue is of significance both within and across Codex member countries and the work of CCFICS in this area will provide valuable guidance to member countries grappling with food fraud issues. I welcome China as an additional co-chair to the EWG</p>
<p>6. Outcome of the assessment of the experimental approach for Intersessional PWGs (trial) combined with webinar technology (paras 69-78)</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFICS informed CCEXEC that webinar technology has potential to enhance participation and inclusiveness in Codex meetings; and there was a need to understand the barriers to participation.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: There is a need to support new webinar technologies and the use of these technologies, while possibly challenging, also provides for greater participation in Codex matters at potentially lower costs in the long run.</p>
<p>7. Review and update - list of emerging global issues</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The CCFICS list of emerging global issues aims at facilitating forward-looking strategic discussion on emerging current and future global issues including challenges and advances; with a view to position the Committee to consider new work and/or revise Codex Standards. It is standing Agenda Item.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: CCEXEC and CAC should note that the custodianship for the list of emerging global issues rotate among CCFICS members on a meeting by meeting basis.</p>

Appendix 2

1. General

Committee	Food Hygiene (CCFH)		
Host	United States of America	Chairperson	Emilio Esteban
Session reported on	CCFH50	12-16 November 2018	
Next Session	CCFH51	4-8 November 2019	
Report	<u>REP19/FH</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments: The Committee has a manageable workload and work is on schedule except for the work on histamine sampling plans which has been put on hold pending the work on sampling plans in CCMAS.

Chairperson's comments: The CCFH is operating quite efficiently. There are no major procedural issues or conflicts to note. The most significant challenge continues to be the integration of the full complement of nations into active discussion, between committee meetings. While discussion is active, sometimes passionate, while in plenary, we need to further enhance the participation in the electronic working groups. Would like to highlight that this is not meant to suggest an ongoing deficiency, rather, an opportunity to do even better work.

At this time, I do not see any complications or operational matters that would conflict with delivery of documents according to the proposed timelines.

We have one very large active challenge in revising our core document for Principles of Food Hygiene and its annexes. The significance of this document makes the contributors very passionate and this requires active dialogue to bring consensus. We have a drafting group that provides materials for the e-working group, that in turn will provide material for an in session physical working group. It is my hope that this approach will facilitate arriving at a consensus when we meet in plenary.

We did stall on submitting for adoption recommendations for sampling for histamine. I feel that the issue is not scientific as much as it is commercial in nature. Looking back at my performance last year, I should have been better prepared to facilitate the discussion. I feel that once the committee picks up this issue again, the outstanding concerns regarding appropriate sampling strategies will be easily handled.

The Committee is operating effectively, and I see no major hurdles at this time.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Alignment of the <i>Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products</i> (CXC 52-2003) with Histamine Control Guidance	N02-2016	2020	8
2. Proposed Draft Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators	N05-2018	2021	5
3. New work on development of guidelines for the control of Shiga toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in beef, unpasteurized milk and cheese produced from unpasteurized milk, leafy greens, and sprouts	(2019)	2024	1/2/3
For monitoring			
4. Proposed Draft Revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene and Its HACCP Annex	N03-2016	2021	2/3
5. Guidance for the management of (micro)biological foodborne outbreaks	N06-2018	2021	2/3
For information			
6. Postponement of the development of sampling plan for histamine in eleven commodity standards for fish and fishery products	-	-	-
7. New work proposals / Forward Workplan	-	-	-
8. Request to FAO/WHO for Expert consultation on risk assessment of food allergens relating to the work of CCFH	-	-	-

4. Specific comments

<p>1. Alignment of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CXC 52-2003) with Histamine Control Guidance, Para 38 and App. II</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFH50 agreed that the newly adopted histamine guidance should be a separate section in the Code located directly after Section 9 (Processing of Fresh, Frozen and Minced Fish) and to forward the consequential amendments to other sections of CXC 52-2003 for adoption by CAC42 (Appendix II).</p> <p>The alignment and amendments are consistent with the Codex mandate, decisions of the Commission and existing Codex texts, and there is consistency as regard format, presentation and language.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: No comment. Work is being presented for adoption at Step 8.</p>
<p>2. Proposed Draft Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators, Para 56 and App. III and</p> <p>8. Request to FAO/WHO for Expert consultation on risk assessment of food allergens relating to the work of CCFH, Para 56</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFH50 agreed to forward the proposed draft code for adoption at Step 5. CCFH50 also agreed to seek the advice of CCFL on the following: a. the appropriateness of the use of a precautionary allergen labelling statement and the related definition; b. the list of foods which cause allergic reactions, and to submit the food labelling provisions to CCFL for endorsement. CCFH50 further agreed request FAO/WHO convene an expert consultation to provide scientific advice and inform CCFL of this request.</p> <p>The work is in line with the envisaged time frame.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: No issues to report. Look forward to getting feedback from CCFL.</p>
<p>3. New work on development of guidelines for the control of Shiga toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in beef, unpasteurized milk and cheese produced from unpasteurized milk, leafy greens, and sprouts, Para 76</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFH50 agreed to, subject to the approval of the Commission, start new work and that the guidelines should be developed using a step-wise approach and that beef and leafy greens could be the first priorities. CCFH50 also agreed that the term "unpasteurized milk" should be replaced with the term "raw milk" to avoid confusion with milk that may have received thermal treatment but not pasteurization.</p> <p>CCFH50 agreed to establish an EWG, co-chaired by Chile and the United States of America, to prepare, subject to the approval of the Commission, the proposed draft guidelines for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCFH51.</p> <p>A revised project document in line with the agreements at CCFH50 has been submitted to the Codex Secretariat, which adheres to the procedures.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: This work is very important and we are expecting the activity to proceed expeditiously. We will probably need FAO Expert consultation(s) and multiple sessions to complete this work.</p>

<p>4. Proposed Draft Revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene and Its HACCP Annex, para 32</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFH50 agreed to return the proposed draft document to Step 2 for redrafting; establish an EWG, chaired by the United Kingdom and co-chaired by France, Ghana, India, Mexico and the United States of America, to review and revise the texts; and establish a PWG, chaired by the United Kingdom and co-chaired by France, Ghana, India, Mexico and the United States of America, to be held immediately prior to CCFH51, to consider all comments received and to prepare a revised proposal for consideration by CCFH51.</p> <p>The work is in line with the envisaged time frame.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: The revision of the General Principles document is progressing in a methodical, deliberate manner. There is full participation from the committee. My hope is that we will deliver this document within the timeframe suggested.</p>
<p>5. Guidance for the management of biological foodborne outbreaks, para 68</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee agreed to return the proposed draft document to Step 2 for redrafting; establish an EWG, chaired by Denmark and co-chaired by Chile and the European Union, , to review and revise the texts and provide a revised version for consideration at CCFH51.</p> <p>The work is in line with the envisaged time frame.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: The guidance for management of foodborne outbreaks, needed some refocusing and redrafting. This is not a complicated document and we fully expect the output will supplement the INFOSAN work and other global efforts to communicate between competent authorities. We would like for this document to clearly NOT supplant, but rather supplement or complement WHO work.</p>
<p>6. Postponement of the development of sampling plan for histamine in eleven commodity standards for fish and fishery products, Para 47</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: In view of the lack of consensus, CCFH50 agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to postpone consideration of the work until such time as CCMAS had completed its amendments to the <i>General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004)</i>; • to inform CAC that the Committee had difficulty to agree on sampling plans for histamine at this time; and • to inform CCMAS of the challenges faced by the Committee in developing sampling plans for histamine in fish commodities that achieved an acceptable balance between consumer protection, feasibility and practicality, with the view that they could take this into consideration in the revision of CXG 50-2004.
<p>Chairperson's comments: The results from CCMAS work will facilitate completion of this work. The Chair is of the opinion that consensus was within the grasp of the committee. CCMAS work, of course, will help us get there, but eventually consensus will be reached and this is not an insurmountable issue. We just have to find the balance between practicality and health protection, while preventing commercial issues from hindering the discussion.</p>
<p>7. New work proposals / Forward Workplan, paras 78-80, Appendix IV</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFH50 agreed to move the work on principles for the safe use of water in food processing to the top of the table following its evaluation against the criteria for new work priorities, and include the Guidelines on the Application of <i>General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Listeria monocytogenes in Foods (CXG 61-2007)</i> in response to information from recent outbreaks.</p> <p>CCFH50 noted the need for a discussion paper on principles for the safe use of water in food processing to progress this work and welcomed the offer of Honduras, with the support of Chile, EU, India and Denmark, to prepare a discussion paper on this subject for consideration by CCFH51.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to endorse the revised forward workplan; request the Codex Secretariat issue a Circular Letter requesting proposals for new work; and establish a PWG on CCFH Work Priorities, to be held in conjunction with CCFH51, working in English, French and Spanish, and chaired by the United States of America.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: The work on safe water is key to many other documents and crucial for the production of safe food. This work will require careful wording and active engagement with activities and documents generated by FAO/WHO. We think that the eventual conclusion of this work will be fundamental to many other Codex texts.</p>

Appendix 3

1. General

Committee	Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)		
Host	Germany	Chairperson	Anja Brönstrup (Chair) and Hilke Thordsen-Böhm (Vice-Chair)
Session reported on	CCNFSDU40	26-30 November 2018	
Next Session	CCNFSDU41	24-29 November 2019	
Report	<u>REP19/NFSDU</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments: The Committee continues to have a full work programme and many of the items are rather complex and sensitive in nature. Many of the items on the agenda will require extensive discussion if it is to meet the deadlines for completion of work (e.g. follow-up formula – 2019; and ready to use therapeutic foods – 2020). The next CCNFSDU has been extended to a 6 day meeting which will hopefully contribute to progressing this work. CCNFSDU has also agreed to develop a prioritization mechanism in response to a request from CCEXEC75 and in future this mechanism will assist the Committee to manage its work programme in a more systematic way.

However, issues related to referencing in particular WHO guidelines and WHA resolutions remain and will be part of the discussions in the work on Follow-up Formula and Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods in the next session.

Chairperson's comments: CCNFSDU continues to have a full work programme. The projects are often complex, require scientific advice and are in general politically sensitive. Interest to participate has constantly risen over the past years. This requires quite some time for discussions and to hear all interested member states and stakeholders.

The main focus lies on the revision of the Standard for Follow-up Formula, which has been divided into different sections to structure the comprehensive review. Another focus is on the guidelines for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods, for which discussions on some aspects are controversial, too. Only one item (NRV-NCD for EPA und DHA) has been removed from the agenda at this point in time.

To achieve progress, the 41st session will exceptionally be extended by a full meeting day. However, further means need to be explored to increase efficiency. In response to the request of CCEXEC75, CCNFSDU agreed to consider a forward work plan to prioritize and manage its overall work on a longer term basis. The Chairs are confident that a prioritization mechanism, which may appear a time-consuming discussion item in the first place, will ultimately help the Committee to assess new projects in a more systematic way and to identify the most relevant tasks that require consideration by CCNFSDU.

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> (CX 156-1987): Proposed draft Scope, Description and Labelling for follow-up formula for older infants	N07-2013	2017	5
2.Provisions for monosodium tartrate (INS 335(i)), monopotassium tartrate (INS 336(i)) and dipotassium tartrate (INS 336(ii)) in the <i>Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children</i> (CXS 74-1981)	-	-	Revocation
3.NRV-NCD for EPA and DHA long chain omega-3 fatty acids (CXG 2-1985)	N06-2015	2016	Discontinuation
For monitoring			
4.Review of the <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i> (CX 156-1987): Essential composition requirements for follow-up formula for older infants and [product] for young children	N07-2013	2017	7
5.Review of the <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i> (CX 156-1987): Product definition and labelling for [product] for young children	N07-2013	2017	4
6.Proposed draft Guideline for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods	N05-2016	2020	4
7.Proposed draft Definition for Biofortification	N05-2015	2016	4
8.Claim for “free” of trans fatty acids (TFAs)	N12-2010	2014	4
For information			
9.Risk management possibilities for the reduction of TFAs	-	-	-
10.NRV-R for older infants and young children	-	-	-
11.Harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in foods and dietary supplements	-	-	-
12.Alignment of food additives in CCNFSDU standards with the GFSA	-	-	-
13.General guidelines on nutrient profiles	-	-	-
14.Prioritization mechanism to better manage the work of CCNFSDU	-	-	-

4. Specific comments

1. Review of the *Standard for Follow-up Formula (CXS 156-1987): Proposed draft Scope, Description and Labelling for follow-up formula for older infants, para 57 and Appendix III and*

4. Review of the *Standard for Follow-up Formula (CXS 156-1987): Essential composition requirements for follow-up formula for older infants and [product] for young children, para 33 and Appendix II and*

5. Review of the *Standard for Follow-up Formula (CXS 156-1987): Product definition and labelling for [product] for young children, para 57 and Appendix IV*

Secretariat's comments: The Committee agreed to advance Section A: follow up formula for older infants to Step 5 for adoption by CAC42 (Appendix III); send the labelling provisions for follow up formula for older infants to CCFL45 for endorsement; retain the essential requirements for follow-up formula for older infants and for [product] for young children at Step 7 (Appendix II); and defer discussion on Section B: product definition and labelling of [product] for young children (Appendix IV), the structure of the Standard(s) and preamble(s) for discussion at CCNFSDU41.

The work is consistent with the envisaged time-frame.

Chairperson's comments: Good progress has been achieved for Section A of the draft revised Standard for Follow-up Formula for older infants. The electronic working group chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by France and Indonesia excellently paves the way for informed discussions in the Committee. There is confidence that the few outstanding issues in Section A can be solved at the 41st session. The upcoming session will benefit from an extra meeting day which will largely be dedicated to this draft Standard.

However, the most challenging parts are yet to be addressed. There are still complex and highly sensitive outstanding issues to be considered in depth (e.g. scope, definition, name and labelling requirements for product for young children, structure of the standard, preamble for the standard).

Although the Committee appreciated the advice from CCEXEC75 with respect to the inclusion of WHO/WHA documents in the draft Standard, some delegations have voiced the need for more specific guidance on the matter.

At CCNFSDU36 it was stated that the continuation of the work on this Standard risked creating conflict with some WHO policies. The Committee thoroughly discussed the issue and agreed to proceed work on this Standard. However, completion of the work will depend on the willingness to collaborate and compromise, requiring the support not only of the member states, but of all organizations involved.

For the time being, the timeline for completion of this work is on track.

2. Provisions for monosodium tartrate (INS 335(i)), monopotassium tartrate (INS 336(i)) and dipotassium tartrate (INS 336(ii)) in the *Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (CXS 74-1981), para 10*

Secretariat's comments: In response to the recommendation from CCFA50, the Committee agreed to revoke the provisions for monosodium tartrate (INS 335(i)), monopotassium tartrate (INS 336(i)) and dipotassium tartrate (INS 336(ii)) in the *Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (CXS 74-1981)* due to the lack of JECFA specifications.

Chairperson's comments: There was unanimous agreement in the Committee on this topic.

3. NRV-NCD for EPA and DHA long chain omega-3 fatty acids (CXG 2-1985), para 94

Secretariat Comments: The Committee agreed to discontinue the work. This decision would not preclude any member from bringing a new work proposal should new scientific evidence become available in the future.

Chairperson's comments: The majority of the Committee supported discontinuation of this topic acknowledging the absence at present of a scientific basis for the setting of NRVs-NCD for EPA and DHA. This was not necessarily foreseeable when the work proposal was discussed at CCNFSDU36.

6. Proposed draft Guideline for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods, para 75 (b) and Appendix V

Secretariat's comments: The Committee agreed to re-establish an EWG, chaired by South Africa and co-chaired by Senegal and Uganda, and working in English and French to continue developing Section 5.2.2 (Food additives) and Section 6.2 (Proteins), for circulation for comments and consideration at its next

<p>session; and hold the rest of the text at Step 4 (Appendix V) and to consider the remaining recommendations of the PWG at its next session.</p> <p>The work is consistent with the envisaged time-frame.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: Progress was made on the proposed draft guideline for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF), also because of the physical working group that took place before CCNFSDU40.</p> <p>Some aspects of more general nature were brought up in the context of this very specific therapeutic food, e.g. as regards a maximum limit for the intake of sugars. Other impediments stem from fears of a possible displacement of locally produced foods by industrially produced RUTF.</p> <p>The draft guideline is expected to benefit from the further work of the electronic working group chaired by South Africa and co-chaired by Senegal and Uganda.</p> <p>For the time being the timeline for completion of this work is on track.</p>
<p>7. Proposed draft Definition for Biofortification, para 84 and Appendix VI</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee, while holding this work at Step 4, agreed to forward the definition to the CCFL, and request CCFL to consider if the definition would meet their intended needs and to clarify the intended use of the definition and where the definition would be best placed.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: This agenda item was discussed vividly and intensely. Minor changes were done to the proposed definition.</p> <p>As regards the request of CCEXEC70 to clarify how the definition would be used and where it would be best placed, the Committee recalled that the request to develop the definition originated from CCFL. Delegations were of the view that it is the responsibility of CCFL to indicate how and where the definition would be used. Therefore, the Committee agreed to hold this work and to refer the definition to CCFL for clarification of these issues.</p>
<p>8. Claim for "free" of trans fatty acids (TFAs) and</p>
<p>9. Risk management possibilities for the reduction of TFAs, para 111 and Appendix VII</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee decided to suspend the discussion on the proposed draft condition for a claim for "free" of TFAs, but that Canada would prepare a discussion paper on different risk management possibilities for the reduction of TFAs within the mandate of Codex for consideration by its next session.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: The Committee generally agreed that reducing TFAs in foods is an important public health goal. The Committee's decision to suspend work on conditions for a claim "free" of TFAs followed recognition of the different views in the Committee on the concrete conditions and on the formulation of a claim versus other possible options for the reduction of TFAs. The Committee agreed that further information is needed to make a more informed decision. To be able to do so at its next session, Canada kindly consented to prepare a discussion paper on different risk management possibilities for the reduction of TFAs within the mandate of Codex.</p>
<p>10. NRV-R for older infants and young children, para 122</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee agreed to re-establish an EWG chaired by Ireland, and co-chaired by Costa Rica and the United States of America, working in English and Spanish, to continue the work.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: There was unanimous agreement in the Committee to pursue work on NRVs-R for older infants and young children following completion of the revision of NRVs for the general population and as already outlined in ALINORM 08/31/26, Appendix VII.</p> <p>A timeline for completion of the work has not yet been discussed. Such a decision depends in particular on further information by WHO on its planned update of the nutrient requirements of infants and young children.</p>
<p>11. Harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in foods and dietary supplements, para 145</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee agreed that Argentina should redraft the discussion paper for consideration at its next session elaborating further on the sections on scope, definition as well as health and trade concerns in particular.</p>

<p>Chairperson's comments: The subject was discussed in the light of information required by the Committee for a decision on whether and at which pace this proposal for new work would be accepted. With this in mind, the proposing member state was requested to redraft the discussion paper for consideration at CCNFSDU41.</p>
<p>12.Alignment of food additives in CCNFSDU standards with the GFS, paras 140-141</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee noted that with the finalisation of the CCFA guidance document on the alignment of food additive provisions in commodity standards, CCNFSDU was now in a position to proceed with the alignment of food additive provisions in standards under its purview. However, there was no interest in leading this work. Chair encouraged members to consider leading this important work and the Committee agreed to consider this matter again at its next session.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: At CCNFSDU40 no member state volunteered to lead this work. Consequently, the topic was deferred to CCNFSDU41. The Chairs are confident that the Committee will be in a position to start work on this subject already at its next session.</p>
<p>13.General guidelines on nutrient profiles, para 154</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee agreed that Costa Rica and Paraguay would undertake the stock-take of nutrient profiles and further develop the discussion paper with support of the United States of America for consideration by its next session.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: The proposal was discussed taking into account the scope of this work and activities by WHO. In the light of the upcoming discussion on prioritizing its work considering the various proposals for new work, the Committee decided to re-discuss the proposal at CCNFSDU41. In the meantime, a stock-take of nutrient profile models building on the work of WHO would also benefit CCFL's activities on "Front-of-pack nutrition labelling".</p>
<p>14.Prioritization mechanism to better manage the work of CCNFSDU, para 159</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee agreed that the host country would prepare a paper summarizing the work completed so far, some of the previously identified work that had not gone forward in the Committee, the currently ongoing work; and emerging issues to assist the Committee in prioritizing its future work. The paper would also incorporate the proposals for work on prebiotic guidelines and protein supplements for bodybuilding, which were not discussed at the current session due to time constraints.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: The Committee welcomed the request of CCEXEC75 to consider a forward work plan to prioritize and manage its overall work on a longer term basis. Taking into account similar strategic and prioritization approaches discussed by other Codex Committees (i.e. CCFH, CCFICS, CCFL and CCFO), the Chairs are looking forward to a first discussion at CCNFSDU41. A paper by the host country to inform this discussion is in preparation.</p>

Appendix 4

1. General

Committee	Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)		
Host	India	Chairperson	M. R. Sudharshan
Session reported on	CCSCH4	21-25 January 2019	
Next Session	CCSCH5	21-25 September 2020	
Report	<u>REP19/SCH</u>		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat's comments: The work of the Committee is overall on track, and six (6) proposed draft standards (4 spices and 2 culinary herbs) were advanced in the Step Process. This outcome was due to the constructive and successful approaches to finding compromises and reaching consensus including the use of in-session working groups to move forward with some of the agenda items. The Food additives provisions of all the proposed draft standards except for dried or dehydrated ginger have been endorsed by CCFA. The status of endorsement of Labelling provisions will be reported under the report of CCFL.</p> <p>The Committee is gradually moving towards using Group standards and the layout template for group standards is being updated to this effect.</p> <p>Due to a generally heavy workload in CCSCH, the Committee decided to hold two new proposals for new work (cardamom and dried and dehydrated turmeric).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: The Committee is evolving from session to session, and the efficiency has been increasing with the experience as evidenced by the number of documents handled in the last session. The eWG Chairs have been given responsibility of finding compromises during the breaks in the session, which has yielded very good results. The Committee is in the transition phase moving towards Group standards, and with this approach, the Committee could handle more documents in the forthcoming sessions and complete its work in a short span of time. The non-exhaustive list of spices and culinary herbs compiled by the Committee contain about 112 commodities, out of which, about 30-40% of them are generally traded across the world and hence may require elaboration of worldwide standards. The Committee has so far elaborated 3 standards and was considering 8 others, and with the adoption of Group standards format, the rest of the spices and culinary herbs could be covered in a few sessions.</p> <p>The progress of the Committee has been good. The work is on track and could deliver the results in time. The Committee, which could handle only four documents each in its second and third sessions, managed to handle eight (8) documents in its fourth session by adopting the group standard concept. The group standard format is being updated and with this, the Committee could handle more documents in the forthcoming sessions. However, to give sufficient time to each of the documents under discussion, either in-session working or one day Physical Working Group (PWG) should be considered. To this end, the Host Government has agreed to convene a one-day PWG, without interpretation, the day prior to the start of CCSCH5. Uniformity in reporting by various eWGs has been an issue, and this is being sorted out by giving them necessary guidelines and formats. It is difficult to verify the values assigned to some parameters (specifically chemical characteristics) during the sessions, hence eWGs have to take more responsibility in this regard and recommend only science-based values. Consensus building has been a challenge as in the case of other Codex Committees, however with in-session discussions and eWG Chairpersons taking active participation during the sessions this issue is being addressed.</p> <p>The Food Additives provisions, Labelling and the Methods of Analysis and Sampling have been discussed frequently and the endorsement/guidance from the relevant committees are sought as appropriate.</p> <p>Overall, the work of the Committee has been satisfactory so far as the Committee could finalize standards for one culinary herb and two spices, advanced proposed draft standards for 4 spices and 2 culinary herbs in the step process, in just four sessions.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1.Proposed draft standard for dried or dehydrated garlic ¹	N04-2017	2021	5/8
2.Proposed draft standard for dried oregano ²	N06-2014	2017	5
3.Proposed draft standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs — dried or dehydrated ginger ¹	N02-2017	2021	5
4.Proposed draft standard for dried basil ²	N05-2017	2021	5
5.Proposed draft standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves ¹	N08-2017	2021	5
6.Proposed draft standard for saffron ¹	N06-2017	2021	5
For monitoring			
7.Proposed draft standard for dried chili pepper and paprika ¹	N03-2017	2021	2/3
8.Proposed draft standard for dried nutmeg ¹	N07-2017	2021	2/3
For information			
9.Continuation with the task of updating the template to be used for individual and group standards	-	-	-
10.Clarification on the Format for Codex Commodity Standards in the Procedural Manual whether Codex Codes of Practice e.g. CXC74-2014 can be referenced under the provisions for contaminants	-	-	-

¹Spice²Culinary Herb

4. Specific comments

<p>1. Proposed draft standard for dried or dehydrated garlic¹, para 47 Appendix IV</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The work has been finalized within the envisaged time frame. The format and presentation as well as language is aligned with Codex procedures. The Committee agreed to forward the provisions on food additives, labelling and methods of analysis to the relevant Committees for endorsement.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: The committee discussed thoroughly the proposed draft standard for dried or dehydrated garlic, an important spice, and after resolving all the outstanding issues, with general consensus, decided to recommend the draft standard for adoption at step 5/8. This is well within the proposed time frame.</p>
<p>2. Proposed draft standard for dried oregano², para 30 Appendix II</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee agreed to ask CAC42 for extension of the timeline for completion until CCSC5. The format and presentation as well as language is in good shape and will be further adjusted in the next phase. The Committee agreed to forward the provisions on food additives, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling to the appropriate committees for endorsement. The Committee agreed to re-establish an EWG, chaired by Turkey and working in English only, to review Sections: 2.1, Product definition, and 8, Labelling, and those outstanding issues as indicated within square brackets (Appendix II).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: Oregano is an important culinary herb traded across the world. There were consensus issues regarding the genus and species to be included, and the Committee has spent lot of time and resources on this commodity. However, in the fourth session most of the issues have been sorted out and it is opined that the draft standard could be finalized by the next session (CCSC5). Hence, it is recommended to consider extension of time line until CCSC5. The eWG has been given the task of finding compromises and come out with an acceptable document for consideration by the Committee in its next session.</p>
<p>3. Proposed draft standard for dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs — dried or dehydrated ginger¹, para 39 Appendix III</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The work is progressing well within the envisaged timeframe. The format and presentation as well as language is in good shape and will be further adjusted in the next phase. The Committee agreed to forward the provisions on food additives, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling to the appropriate committees for endorsement. The Committee agreed to re-establish an EWG, chaired by Nigeria and working in English only.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: Ginger is an important spice traded across the world. The work is progressing well and there is general consensus on most of the parameters in the document. A few issues need to be resolved. The work could be completed within the proposed time line.</p>
<p>4. Proposed draft standard for dried basil², para 66 Appendix V</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The work is progressing well within the envisaged time frame. The format and presentation as well as language is in good shape and will be further adjusted in the next phase. The Committee agreed to forward the provisions on food additives, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling to the appropriate committees for endorsement. The Committee agreed to re-establish an EWG, chaired by Egypt and working in English only.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: Work on basil, an important herb, is progressing well with consensus on most of the issues. A few issues need to be addressed and the work could be completed within the proposed time line.</p>
<p>5. Proposed draft standard for dried floral parts – dried cloves¹, para 88 Appendix VI</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The work is progressing well within the envisaged time frame. The format and presentation as well as language is in good shape and will be further adjusted in the next phase. The Committee agreed to forward the provisions on food additives, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling to the appropriate committees for endorsement. The Committee agreed to re-establish an EWG, chaired by Nigeria and working in English only.</p>

<p>Chairperson's Comments: Work on cloves, an important spice, is progressing well and could be completed within the proposed time line. There are no contentious issues. The eWGs are capable of building consensus.</p>
<p>6.Proposed draft standard for saffron¹, para 95 Appendix VII</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The work is progressing well within the envisaged timeframe. The format and presentation as well as language is in good shape and will be further adjusted in the next phase. The Committee agreed to forward the provisions on food additives, labelling and methods of analysis and sampling to the appropriate committees for endorsement. The Committee agreed to re-establish an EWG, chaired by the Islamic Republic of Iran and working in English only.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: The work on proposed draft standard for saffron has been progressing well. However, the values for some of the chemical parameters could not be agreed upon in the session, and these need to be addressed in the next step process. The work could be completed within the proposed time line.</p>
<p>7.Proposed draft standard for dried chili pepper and paprika, para 54</p> <p>No comments.</p>
<p>8.Proposed draft standard for dried nutmeg, para 78</p> <p>No comments.</p>
<p>9.Continuation with the task of updating the template to be used for individual and group standards, para 98</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee considered the updated template to be used for individual and group standards alike. It requested the United States of America to continue with the task of updating the template, taking into account the various recommendations made at the current session under different agenda items.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: Updating the template for group standards in a not-so-homogeneous group of spices and culinary herbs is a challenge. Once the template is updated, the task of elaborating standards becomes easy. The Committee is at it with the help of some members.</p>
<p>10.Clarification on the Format for Codex Commodity Standards in the Procedural Manual whether Codex Codes of Practice e.g. CXC74-2014 can be referenced under the provisions for contaminants, para 26</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: When discussing the Proposed Draft Standard for Oregano, the Committee noted concerns regarding the potential need to address pyrrolizidine alkaloid contamination from weeds and agreed that a provisional reference to the <i>Code of Practice for Weed Control to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed (CXC 74-2014)</i> may be relevant. However, the Procedural Manual was not clear on how such Codes of Practice could be referenced under the provisions for contaminants.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: This needs to be clarified.</p>

¹Spice

²Culinary Herb

Appendix 5

1. General

Committee	Fats and Oils (CCFO)		
Host	Malaysia	Chairperson	Noraini binti Dato' Mohd Othman (until CCFO26)
Session reported on	CCFO26	25 February-1 March 2019	
Next Session	CCFO27	22-26 February 2021	
Report	<u>REP19/FO</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments: The Committee worked on a relatively heavy agenda and completed revisions and amendments to various sections of CXS 210-1999 and in particular the addition/inclusion of six new oils (i.e. palm oil with a higher content of oleic acid (OxG); Almond oil, Flaxseed (linseed) oil; Hazelnut oil; Pistachio oil; and Walnut oil (content), as well as revisions to sections on food additives in various commodity standards arising from matters referred by CCFA. CCFO further agreed on the work management. The Committee also agreed to continue working on; the inclusion of the provisions for avocado oil in CXS 210-1999; and the revision of the essential composition of sunflowerseed oils in the same standard. As a consequence the target year for completion of the work on these two items will require extension to CAC44 (2021). The work related to the Amendment to the *Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk* - (RCP 36- 1987), Appendix II, list of acceptable previous cargo, will continue as it is a standing agenda item.

Chairperson's comments: Recently, there were many items on the agenda , and with several contentious issues being discussed in the Codex Committee for Fats and Oils including this session. Effort have been taken in order to ensure CCFO progress in its work for this session. The Committee fully utilized the various opportunities made available to it, for example, two (2) in-session working groups as well as three (3) sessions of informal consultations were held to arrive at agreements. The continued support from the Codex Secretariat is also an essential factor contributing to the successful and smooth conduct of the session.

With the effort undertaken by the Committee, the work of CCFO is progressing well and CCFO26 managed to forward seven (7) documents for adoption.

The Committee was able to deliberate on all the agenda items during this session and managed to conclude on time. The agenda concluded includes:

- a. The draft standard for five new oils i.e. almond oil, hazelnut oil, flaxseed oil, pistachio oil and walnut oil
- b. Applicability of fatty acid composition of vegetable oils to their crude forms.
- c. Proposed draft standards for palm oil with a higher oleic acid and sunflowerseed oils
- d. Proposed draft revision for Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils
- e. Alignment of food additive provisions; and several other proposed amendments to existing standards.

With regard to the issue related to the scientific advice, CCFO26 agreed to reiterate to FAO/WHO that the evaluation of the 23 substances on the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes is a matter of urgency for CCFO.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Addition of Palm Oil with a higher content of Oleic Acid (OXG)	N10- 2015	2019	8
2. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Replacement of acid value with Free Fatty Acid for Virgin Palm Oil and Inclusion of Free Fatty Acid for Crude Palm Kernel Oil	N10-2017	2019	5/8
3. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Inclusion of Almond oil, Flaxseed (linseed) oil; Hazelnut oil; Pistachio oil; and Walnut oil	N12- 2017	2019	5/8
4. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Amendment to the values of the Refractive Index and Apparent Density of Palm Superolein at 40°C	-	-	Adoption
5. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Applicability of the fatty acid composition of other oils listed in Table 1 in relation to their corresponding crude form and consequential deletion of an equivalent note for rice bran oil	-	-	Adoption
6. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Inclusion of Free Fatty acids as quality characteristic criteria for refined rice bran oil	-	-	Adoption
7. Amendment to the sections of food additives provisions to: CXS 19-1981 (Section 3.3, 3.4 & 3.5); CXS 211- 1999 (Section 4.2 & 4.4); and CXS 256-2007 (Section 4.1 & 4.7)	-	-	Adoption
For monitoring			
8. Proposed Revision to the <i>Standard for Olive Oils and Pomace Olive Oils</i> (CXS 33-1981): Revision of Sections 3, 8 and Appendix	N11-2017	2021	1,2,3
9. Proposed revision of the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Essential composition of sunflowerseed oils	N09-2017	2019 (extension to CAC44, 2021)	4
10. Proposed revision of the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Inclusion of avocado oil	N12- 2017	2019 (extension to CAC44, 2021)	2,3
11. Amendment to the <i>Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk</i> -(RCP 36-1987), Appendix II, list of acceptable previous cargo	Ongoing	-	-
For information			
12. Monitoring on the implementation of the Standard for Fish Oils	-	-	-
13. Food fraud in oils	-	-	-
14. CCFO work management	-	-	-

4. Specific comments

<p>1. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Addition of Palm Oil with a higher content of Oleic Acid (OXG), Para 21 and Appendix II Part B-1</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: The CCFO arrived at consensus on the product definition that would take into account the relative level of oleic acid; and agreed to the following product definition - '<i>Palm oil with a higher content of oleic acid is derived from the fleshy mesocarp of hybrid palm fruit OxG (<i>Elaeis oleifera</i> x <i>Elaeis guineensis</i>)</i>'. Consequentially the title of the approved work also changed to reflect this.</p> <p>Noting that all the outstanding issues had been resolved, the Committee agreed to forward the draft revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999): Addition of palm oil with a higher content of Oleic Acid (OXG) (Appendix II, Part B-1) to CAC42 for adoption at Step 8.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: This work was thoroughly discussed since 2015. The main argument since then is the naming of product either as high or mid oleic acid palm oil (OxG). This issue had been resolved during CCFO26. The consensus was reached where most of the Delegates agreed with the new proposed name; Palm Oil with a higher content of oleic acid; as this is to further explain the content of oleic acid in such oil and not intended as a claim.</p>
<p>2. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Replacement of acid value with Free Fatty Acid for Virgin Palm Oil and Inclusion of Free Fatty Acid for Crude Palm Kernel Oil, Para_67 and Appendix II Part C-1</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFO agreed to forward the proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Replacement of Acid Value with Free Fatty Acid for Virgin Palm Oil and Inclusion of Free Fatty Acid for Crude Palm Kernel Oil (Appendix II, Part C-1) and the method for the determination of FFA to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5/8.</p> <p>The method for the determination of FFAs and Acid Value are subject to endorsement by CCMAS.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: There is full consensus from Committee on the values of FFA for Virgin palm oil, 5.0% (as palmitic acid) and Crude palm kernel oil, 4.0% (as lauric acid).</p>
<p>3. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Inclusion of Almond oil, Flaxseed (linseed) oil; Hazelnut oil; Pistachio oil; and Walnut oil, Para_88 and Appendix II Part C-2</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFO agreed to forward the proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of Almond oil, Flaxseed (linseed) oil; Hazelnut oil; Pistachio oil; and Walnut oil (Appendix II, Part C-2) to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5/8.</p> <p>CCFO agreed to return the proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of Avocado oil, for further consideration at Step 2/3. This part of the work needs an extension of the original envisaged timeframe with CAC adoption 2019 to 2021 following CCFO27.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: CCFO26 achieved remarkable success in concluding the draft standard for these five new oils; i.e. almond oil, hazelnut oil, flaxseed oil, pistachio oil and walnut oil, with full consensus by the Committee.</p>
<p>4. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Amendment to the values of the Refractive Index and Apparent Density of Palm Superolein at 40°C, Para 60 and Appendix II Part A-1</p> <p>No comments.</p>
<p>5. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Applicability of the fatty acid composition of other oils listed in Table 1 in relation to their corresponding crude form and consequential deletion of an equivalent note for rice bran oil, Para 137 and Appendix II Part A-2</p> <p>No comments.</p>
<p>6. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Inclusion of Free Fatty acids as quality characteristic criteria for refined rice bran oil, Para 140 and Appendix II Part A-3</p> <p>No comments.</p>

<p>7. Amendment to the sections of food additives provisions to: CXS 19-1981 (Section 3.3, 3.4 & 3.5); CXS 211- 1999 (Section 4.2 & 4.4); and CXS 256-2007 (Section 4.1 & 4.7), Para 113 (a) (i) (ii) and Appendix III Part A-B</p> <p>No comments.</p>
<p>8. Proposed Revision to the <i>Standard for Olive Oils and Pomace Olive Oils</i> (CXS 33-1981): Revision of Sections 3, 8 and Appendix, para 55-56 and Appendix V</p> <p>Secretariat's comments: CCFO26 noted that several provisions required further discussion and/or clarification and agreed to return the proposed draft sections 3, 8 and Appendix to Step 2 for redrafting by an EWG chaired by Spain, and co-chaired by Argentina and Canada, working in English only. CCFO26 also agreed to convene a physical meeting prior to CCFO27 and if possible convene an inter-session physical working group within a year of CCFO26.</p> <p>The Committee noted the kind offer by the observer from IOC to organise the inter-session physical working group meeting at the headquarters of IOC including the provision of interpretation and facilities; and their willingness to support any studies deemed necessary.</p> <p>Chairperson's comments: There was active participation from Member during EWG and PWG. However, some of the issues that had been resolved during pWG were raised again in plenary due to the absence of some members during pWG.</p> <p>There were some issues that had not been proposed during EWG but proposed during pWG and plenary under Section 3, 8 and Appendix.</p> <p>The key challenge noted was some members opening up the discussion despite the Chairperson having concluded an given issue and this caused unnecessary delay for the discussion on other issues, i.e. removal of ordinary virgin olive oil.</p>
<p>9. Proposed revision of the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Essential composition of sunflowerseed oils, para 76</p> <p>Secretariat's comments: The target year for completion of the work will require extension to CAC44 (2021) to enable the Committee to finalize this work.</p>
<p>10. Proposed revision of the <i>Standard for Named Vegetable Oils</i> (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Inclusion of avocado oil, para 88</p> <p>Secretariat's comments: The target year for completion of the work will require extension to CAC44 (2021) to enable the Committee to finalize this work.</p>
<p>11. Amendment to the <i>Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk</i> (RCP 36- 1987), Appendix II, list of acceptable previous cargo, para 93</p> <p>Secretariat's comments: FAO/WHO is encouraged to prioritize the evaluation of the 23 substances on the List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes as this is a matter of urgency for CCFO.</p>
<p>12. Monitoring on the implementation of the Standard for Fish Oils and</p> <p>13. Food fraud in oils, para 126</p> <p>Secretariat's comments: 1) CCFO agreed that no further monitoring on the implementation of the Standard for Fish Oils was needed and that use of Fatty Acids profiles did not present a problem for identification.</p> <p>2) On the concerns related to traceability and fraud of fish oil, the Committee agreed to refer to CCFICS the request expressed by Chile related to food fraud in oils in general and related to concerns about fish oil in particular, noting that the current format of commodity standards does not allow inclusion of traceability.</p> <p>Chairperson's comments: 1) CCFO26 concluded that there was no need to further monitoring the implementation of the newly adopted standard for fish oils based on response by Members. Though the number of responses to the CL issued by CCFO i.e. 6 Codex Members, may seem to be small, it should be noted that major producing and processing countries did provide comments, and the quantity of fish oil covered by the comments is significant.</p> <p>2) The need of appropriate traceability tools to certify the origin of fish oils and the question whether fatty acid profiles alone are sufficient to prove the origin of oil is more appropriate to be discussed in CCFICS.</p> <p>CCFO noted that, currently, CCFICS had established an EWG to tackle the challenge of food fraud in the context of food safety and fair practices in the food trade; and conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing relevant Codex texts within and outside of CCFICS to avoid overlapping or intrusion onto the mandate of</p>

other Codex general subject or commodity committees, noting that a number of related Codex texts existed within and outside of CCFICS.

14. CCFO work management, para 132

Secretariat's comments: CCFO agreed on the mechanisms related to the better management of its work.

Chairperson's comments: This CCFO session successfully deliberated on the agenda related to the better management for the work of the Committee and it is believed that this will greatly contribute towards achieving the goal of Codex.

Appendix 6

1. General

Committee	General Principles (CCGP)		
Host	France	Chairperson	Jean-Luc Angot
Session reported on	CCGP31	11-15 March 2019	
Next Session	CCGP32	23-27 March 2020	
Report	<u>REP19/GP</u>		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee met again after a pause for two years and with a new Chairperson. The agenda for CCGP31, which initially seemed limited, created a lot of good and constructive and forward-looking discussions. Some issues brought up in the Discussion paper on Emerging and Future Issues of Relevance to CCGP was considered beyond the scope of CCGP, but nevertheless stimulated reflections on cross-cutting and broader issues and how CCGP work may support these. The Committee was constructive and successful in finding compromises and reaching consensus.</p> <p>CCGP31, which was well attended, was conducted efficiently and smoothly. Preparations for CCGP32 are well underway.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: CCGP 31 was the first session of the Committee organized in France's countryside, with the view to better put in perspective the task of the Committee with the realities of food production in the field.</p> <p>This setting created a very nice and constructive atmosphere among the delegates and the attendance of the session was historically high.</p> <p>The discussions allowed to clarify the role of CCGP in the elaboration of tools designed to effectively support the work of the whole Codex community. In particular, the Committee pursued reflections related to the use of new communication tools to support the work of Codex committees working by correspondence only.</p> <p>An extensive "horizon-scanning" for CCGP also took place, which was highlighted by an on-going CCEXEC-led discussion related to the elaboration of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Even if the precise tasks that fall under remit of CCGP in the implementation of the current and future Codex Strategic Plan are still subject to sometimes slightly different views, there was consensus to ask CCGP to deepen the analysis on cross-cutting issues such as the SDGs and the monitoring of the implementation of Codex standards.</p> <p>This forward-looking agenda could be undertaken gradually, through more regular sessions of the Committee.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For information			
<p>1. Guidance for Committees working by correspondence:</p> <p>a. Develop criteria to identify work appropriate to be undertaken by committees working by correspondence and develop procedural guidance for such committees based on and consistent with relevant guidance in the Procedural Manual (including decision making, reporting) and in keeping with the values of the Commission; and</p> <p>b. Consider, and make recommendations as appropriate, whether procedural changes related to committees working by correspondence are necessary.</p>	-	-	-
2. Guidelines for Electronic Working Groups	-	-	-
3. Food fraud	-	-	-
4. Discussion paper on monitoring Codex results in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	-	-	-
5. Discussion paper on monitoring the use of Codex standards	-	-	-
6. Document on the format and structure of the Codex Procedural Manual	-	-	-
7. Discussion paper on revisions/amendments to Codex texts	-	-	-

4. Specific comments

<p>1. Guidance for Committees working by correspondence, para 26</p> <p>Secretariat's comments: CAC41 (2018) requested CCGP to formulate procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence based on and consistent with relevant existing guidance in the Procedural Manual. Based upon a background document prepared by the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO, CCGP31 had a rich and constructive discussion. The Committee agreed to set up an EWG, chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by the United States of America, Germany and Japan, working in English only, with the following Terms of Reference (TOR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop criteria to identify work appropriate to be undertaken by committees working by correspondence and develop procedural guidance for such committees based on and consistent with relevant guidance in the Procedural Manual (including decision making, reporting) and in keeping with the values of the Commission; and b) Consider, and make recommendations as appropriate, whether procedural changes related to committees working by correspondence are necessary. <p>The EWG will finalize its work by 16 December 2019, in time to prepare the documents for CCGP32 discussions. This timeframe seems realistic.</p> <p>Chairperson's comments: The Committee demonstrated a very strong interest in the option for Codex to take the lead as a pilot UN program addressing new tools from a procedural perspective. It appeared that CCGP overall considered that work conducted mainly by correspondence could lead to improvement of the Codex efficacy.</p> <p>This issue is sensitive as it raises important legal aspects which are necessary to clarify in order to ensure the legitimacy of work undertaken by correspondence. However, having explored the question in previous meetings, Codex members have acquired expertise on the subject. It is therefore expected that the EWG will be able to fulfill its terms of reference in the proposed timeframe.</p>
<p>2. Guidelines for Electronic Working Groups, para 63</p> <p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee agreed that CCGP should await the completion of the implementation of the recommendations of the 2016/17 regular review by the Codex Secretariat before considering to propose new work to review the <i>Guidelines for Electronic Working Groups</i>.</p> <p>Chairperson's comments: The need for improvements of Codex guidelines for EWG was recognized. However, some disagreement emerged regarding the actual role CCGP should assume at the moment.</p>
<p>3. Food fraud, para 70</p> <p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee noted the information regarding the work of CCFICS on Food Fraud and encouraged members to participate in the CCFICS EWG on Food Fraud.</p> <p>Chairperson's comments: Concerns about food fraud and possible lack of Codex definition/guidance related to this issue were also widely shared and it is the view of the Chair that CCGP is in an appropriate position to address this issue.</p>
<p>4. Discussion paper on monitoring Codex results in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), para 67</p> <p>5. Discussion paper on monitoring the use of Codex standards, para 81</p> <p>Secretariat's comments: The Committee noted that the Delegation of France would prepare a discussion paper on each of these topics for consideration at CCGP32.</p> <p>Chairperson's comments: Discussions were based on a discussion paper on emerging and future issues of relevance to CCGP prepared by France as host-country of CCGP, aiming at fulfilling the request by CCEXEC to all Codex committees to improve their horizon-scanning. Discussions overall underlined the need for addressing several issues in a cross-cutting perspective as they are of interest of many committees.</p> <p>The Chair also expects that the topic "Monitoring Codex results in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" will lead to important discussions in the future and will become key in ensuring the relevance of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.</p>

5. Document on the format and structure of the Codex Procedural Manual, para 87 and

6. Discussion paper on revisions/amendments to Codex texts, para 92

Secretariat's comments: The Committee noted that the Codex Secretariat will present a document for CCGP32 on the format and structure of the Procedural Manual and that the Codex Secretariat would submit a discussion paper on this subject for CCGP32.

Chairperson's comments: The topics "format and structure of the Codex Procedural Manual" and "revisions/amendments to Codex texts" are part of the regular Procedural Manual housekeeping. Discussions on these topics are very much welcome to guarantee the accessibility and user-friendliness of the Procedural Manual taking into account each Codex stakeholder's needs.

Appendix 7

1. General

Committee	Food Additives (CCFA)		
Host	China	Chairperson	Yongxiang Fan
Session reported on	CCFA51	25-29 March 2019	
Next Session	CCFA52	2-6 March 2020	
Report	<u>REP19/FA</u>		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFA51 completed the consideration of its routine agenda items including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 155 provisions already in the Codex step procedure and/or already adopted and 102 proposed new and/or revised provisions, among which there were some pending provisions relating to colors; (ii) alignment of the food additive provisions of 23 commodity standards with those in the GSFA; (iii) the update (amendments) of the <i>Class Names and the International Numbering Systems of Food Additives</i> (CXG 36-1989); and (iv) preparation of the priority list of substances to be evaluated by JECFA. <p>Besides the above outcomes, CCFA51 made some good progress on the provisions for sweeteners. CCFA51 agreed with two alternative replacement notes to Note 161 in provisions for sweeteners. Subsequently, CCFA51 forwarded the revised provisions for sweeteners in different food categories for adoption. In addition, CCFA51 decided to (i) establish both ingoing and residue levels for nitrates and nitrites in the GSFA, and (ii) discontinue consideration on the use of the terms “unprocessed” and “plain” in the GSFA.</p> <p>CCFA51 noted that the new approach for simplifying the notes in Table 3 of the GSFA couldn't be implemented due to the lack of technological capacity on databases.</p> <p>CCFA52 will continue with its routine agenda items and report on the progress concerning identification of solutions to the technological issues with the GSFA database.</p> <p>The work of CCFA is manageable.</p> <p>After CCFA51, Iran expressed their interest in being co-chair of the EWG on INS. Iran did not attend CCFA51, but used to be the co-chair for this EWG. Belgium, as the Chair of the EWG, noted this request.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: The main focus of the CCFA work continues to be the GSFA, in particular the completion of consideration of the draft provisions and the alignment of the food additive provisions of commodity standards with those in the GSFA. Other work related to the GSFA includes: i) preparation of the priority list of substances to be evaluated by JECFA, ii) the adoption of the specifications for quality and purity prepared by JECFA, and iii) the update (amendments) of the <i>Class Names and the International Numbering Systems of Food Additives</i> (CXG 36-1989). It is delighted to see that after years of hard work from all members and observers during and between the previous seven sessions, two alternative notes to Note 161 in provisions for sweeteners has been agreed by CCFA51, which will accelerate the solving of this issue. CCFA current work is manageable and focuses on the GSFA, which when completed will become the “single authoritative Codex Standard for the use of food additives”. The current CCFA backlog includes the alignment of the food additive provisions of approximately 70 commodity standards (developed by non-active committees, in addition to the outstanding provisions of the GSFA). In its next session, CCFA will keep moving on the discussion on GSFA, alignment, INS, priority list, etc. efficiently.</p> <p>Regarding the request by Iran to be the Co-chair of INS EWG, the Chairperson is positive and is of the view that this request should be encouraged as it can improve the active participation of members in Codex work. However the procedure issue should be taken into consideration by CCEXEC.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Proposed draft <i>Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives</i> arising from the 86 th JECFA meeting	ongoing	-	5/8
2. Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives</i> (GSFA)	ongoing	-	8 and 5/8
3. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives</i> (CXG 36-1989)	ongoing	-	5/8
4. Revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of the thirteen standards for milk and milk products (ripened cheese), two standards for sugars, two standards for natural mineral waters, three standards for cereals, pulses and legumes and three standards for vegetable proteins	ongoing	-	Adoption
5. Revised food-additive sections of the thirteen standards for milk and milk products (ripened cheese), i.e. Standards for Cheddar (CXS 263-1966); Danbo (CXS 264-1966); Edam (CXS 265-1966); Gouda (CXS 266-1966); Havarti (CXS 267-1966); Samsø (CXS 268-1966); Emmental (CXS 269-1967); Tilsiter (CXS 270-1968); Saint-Paulin (CXS 271-1968); Provolone (CXS 272-1968); Coulommiers (CXS 274-1969); Camembert (CXS 276-1973); and Brie (CXS 277-1973)	ongoing	-	Adoption
6. Revised food-additive sections of the two standards for sugars and two standards for natural mineral waters, i.e. Standards for Honey (CXS 12- 1981); and Sugars (CXS 212-1999) and Standards for Natural mineral waters (CXS 108- 1981); and Bottled/package drinking waters (other than natural mineral waters) (CXS 227-2001)	ongoing	-	Adoption
7. Revised food-additive sections of the three standards for cereals, pulses and legumes and three standards for vegetable proteins, i.e. Standards for Wheat flour (CXS 152-1985); Couscous (CXS 202-1995); and Instant noodles (CXS 249-2006); and Wheat protein products including wheat gluten (CXS 163-1987); Vegetable protein products (VPP) (CXS 174- 1989); and Soy protein products (CXS 175-1989)	ongoing	-	Adoption
8. Revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of provisions for ASCORBYL ESTERS (ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304) and ascorbyl stearate (INS 305)) and the Standards for <i>Infant Formula and Formula for Special Dietary Purposes Intended for Infants</i> (CXS 72-1981) and <i>Follow-up Formula</i> (CXS 156-1987)	-	-	Adoption
9. Revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the replacement notes to Note 161	-	-	Adoption
10. Insertion of a footnote to the table entitled "References to Commodity Standards for GSFA Table 3 Additives" of the GSFA	-	-	Adoption

11. The revised table on “Justified use” in the food additive section of the <i>Standard for Mozzarella</i> (CXS 262-2006)	-	-	Adoption
12. Draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA (discontinuation)	-	-	Discontinuation
For information			
13. The replies on the necessity to develop a document similar to the Guidelines for the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks	-	-	-
14. The replies on the technological justification for the use of preservatives and anticaking agents for surface treatment of mozzarella with high moisture content covered by the <i>Standard for Mozzarella</i> (CXS 262-2006)	-	-	-
15. New proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA at Step 3 and Step 2	-	-	-
16. Technological issues with the GSFA online system on the approach of not listing relevant commodity standards under the column entitled “Acceptable including foods conforming to commodity standard column”	-	-	-
17. Priority List of Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA	-	-	-

4. Specific comments

<p>1. Proposed draft <i>Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives</i> arising from the 86th JECFA meeting, para 26, 146(ii), and App III, and App IX, part B</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFA51 agreed to forward the full specifications for food additives to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5/8 and make the consequential amendment to the <i>List of Codex Specifications for Food Additives</i> (CXM 6-2018) (deletion of the specification for Red 2G).</p> <p>This is a routine agenda item.</p> <p>Erratum: In appendix III, the following four substances should be listed under the subtitle "Flavouring agents considered for revision of specifications only" rather than under the subtitle "New Specification for flavouring agents (FAO JECFA Monographs 22, Rome, 2018)".</p> <p>974 p-Mentha-1,8-dien-7-ol</p> <p>975 p-Mentha-1,8-dien-7-yl acetate</p> <p>980 Formyl-6,6-dimethylbicyclo[3.1.1]hept-2-ene</p> <p>981 Myrtenol</p> <p>CCFA52 (2020) will consider for adoption the Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives prepared by the 87th meeting of JECFA (June 2019).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: Considering the adoption of food additive specification prepared by JECFA is one of the key and regular task of CCFA. The discussion and work on this agenda item is manageable.</p>
<p>2. Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the <i>General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)</i>, Para 137(i) and Appendix VI, part A</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFA51 agreed to forward to CAC42 the draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA, for adoption at Step 8 and Step 5/8.</p> <p>This a routine agenda item.</p> <p>CCFA51 agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by the United States of America to continue the development of the GSFA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: GSFA has been one of the pillars of CCFA. Prior to the CCFA51 plenary session, one and half day has been allocated for physical working group of GSFA to discuss the maximum use levels for individual food additives. It is a big progress to adopt 155 provisions, which makes it more convincing that when completed, GSFA will be the only reference on food additives in the Codex system.</p>
<p>3. Proposed draft revision to the <i>Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989)</i>, para 149(i) and App. IX, part A</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFA51 agreed to forward the proposed draft amendments to the INS to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5/8.</p> <p>This a routine agenda item.</p> <p>CCFA51 agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by Belgium (co-chaired by Iran, see <i>General /overall comments</i>) to continue the revisions.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: INS system is the third pillar of CCFA. It is a routine task and the work is manageable.</p>
<p>4. Revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of the thirteen standards for milk and milk products (ripened cheese), two standards for sugars, two standards for natural mineral waters, three standards for cereals, pulses and legumes and three standards for vegetable proteins, 57(ii)a and App.VI, part B1- B3</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: This is a routine agenda item.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: Consequential changes have been made in the GSFA in relation to the alignment work. There's nothing special to add. The work is manageable.</p>
<p>5. Revised food-additive sections of the thirteen standards for milk and milk products (ripened cheese), i.e. Standards for Cheddar (CXS 263-1966); Danbo (CXS 264-1966); Edam (CXS 265-1966); Gouda (CXS 266-1966); Havarti (CXS 267-1966); Samsø (CXS 268-1966); Emmental (CXS 269-1967); Tilsiter (CXS 270-1968); Saint-Paulin (CXS 271-1968); Provolone (CXS 272-1968); Coulommiers</p>

<p>(CXS 274-1969); Camembert (CXS 276-1973); and Brie (CXS 277-1973), Para 57(i)a and App.V, part A and</p> <p>6. Revised food-additive sections of the two standards for sugars and two standards for natural mineral waters, i.e. Standards for Honey (CXS 12- 1981); and Sugars (CXS 212-1999) and Standards for Natural mineral waters (CXS 108- 1981); and Bottled/packaged drinking waters (other than natural mineral waters) (CXS 227- 2001), Para 57(i)b and App.V, part B and</p> <p>7. Revised food-additive sections of the three standards for cereals, pulses and legumes and three standards for vegetable proteins, i.e. Standards for Wheat flour (CXS 152-1985); Couscous (CXS 202-1995); and Instant noodles (CXS 249-2006); and Wheat protein products including wheat gluten (CXS 163-1987); Vegetable protein products (VPP) (CXS 174- 1989); and Soy protein products (CXS 175-1989), Para 57(i)c and App.V, part C</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: This a routine agenda item.</p> <p>By applying the mechanism agreed by CCFA50, i.e. utilizing preparatory work undertaken by Codex observers and inviting Japan to participate as additional co-chair of the EWG on Alignment, CCFA51 completed an unprecedented amount of work on aligning commodity standards with the GSFA (23 commodity standards).</p> <p>CCFA51 agreed to establish an EWG chaired by Australia and co-chaired by the United States of America and Japan to further the work on alignment.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: Alignment is another pillar of CCFA, a half day was allocated for the physical working group on alignment of food additive provisions in the Codex commodity standards and in the GSFA, since the workload of alignment work has been increasing year after year. It is also noticed that with the completion of alignment of 23 commodity standards this year, there are approximately 70 commodity standards on the waiting list. The new mechanism is necessary to reduce this workload.</p>
<p>8. Revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of provisions for ASCORBYL ESTERS (ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304) and ascorbyl stearate (INS 305)) and the Standards for <i>Infant Formula and Formula for Special Dietary Purposes Intended for Infants</i> (CXS 72-1981) and <i>Follow-up Formula</i> (CXS 156-1987), Para 57(ii)b and App.VI, part B4</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: This is a routine agenda item.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: Consequential changes have been made in the GSFA in relation to the alignment work. There's nothing special to add. The work is manageable.</p>
<p>9. Revised food-additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the replacement notes to Note 161, Para 119(i) and App VI, part C</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFA51 agreed to forward to CAC42 for adoption the revised provisions for sweeteners, in different food categories, and to establish an EWG co-chaired by the European Union and the United States of America to continue the discussion related to Note 161.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: With the two alternative notes of Note 161 in provisions of sweeteners being adopted by CCFA51, it is expected that this work will be solved quickly in future.</p>
<p>10. Insertion of a footnote to the table entitled "References to Commodity Standards for GSFA Table 3 Additives" of the GSFA, Para 57(iii) and App.VI, part B5</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFA51 agreed to forward to CAC42 for adoption of a footnote to the table entitled "References to Commodity Standards for GSFA Table 3 Additives" of the GSFA to explain the relationship between commodity standards and the GSFA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: This change will make the Table 3 of GSFA more informative, and improve the transparency.</p>
<p>11. The revised table on "Justified use" in the food additive section of the <i>Standard for Mozzarella</i> (CXS 262-2006), para 69</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments: CCFA51 agreed to submit for adoption to CAC42 the revised table on "Justified use" in CXS 262-2006.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments: Agree with the explanatory notes by the Secretariat</p>

12. Draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA (discontinuation), Para 137(iii) and App. VIII
Secretariat's comments: CCFA51 agreed to discontinue work on a number of draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions of the GSFA.
Chairperson's comments: The work is manageable, please refer to the comments in the part of adoption of food additive provisions in GSFA.
13. The replies on the necessity to develop a document similar to the Guidelines for the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks, para 9
Secretariat's comments: CCFA51 noted that the existing risk-management tools currently used by CCFA (i.e. scientific advice from JECFA and associated guidelines on flavourings and processing aids) were adequate, and agreed that there was no need to develop separate guidelines for the management of foodborne crises/outbreaks caused by food additives at this time, but could consider this matter in the future should the need arise.
Chairperson's comments: Agree with the explanatory notes by the Secretariat.
14. The replies on the technological justification for the use of preservatives and anticaking agents for surface treatment of mozzarella with high moisture content covered by the <i>Standard for Mozzarella</i> (CXS 262-2006), para 68
Secretariat's comments: CAC40 requested CCFA address only the technological justification of the use of preservatives and anticaking agents for surface treatment of mozzarella with high moisture content covered by the <i>Standard for Mozzarella</i> (CXS 262-2006) in the framework of the alignment work of food additive provisions of CCMMP standards and those of the GSFA. CCFA51 completed the task and agreed to inform CAC42 that: (i) the use of anticaking agents in the surface treatment of high-moisture mozzarella was technologically justified only in the shredded or diced forms of the product; and (ii) the use of preservatives in the surface treatment of high-moisture mozzarella was technologically justified only when not packaged in liquid. CCFA51 submitted the revised table on "Justified use" in CXS 262-2006 for adoption by CAC42 (see above).
Chairperson's comments: Agree with the explanatory notes by the Secretariat.
15. New proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA at Step 3 and Step 2
No comments.
16. Technological issues with the GSFA online system on the approach of not listing relevant commodity standards under the column entitled "Acceptable including foods conforming to commodity standard column", paras 132 and 135
Secretariat's comments: CCFA50 adopted a new approach on how the notes attached to table 3 of the GSFA should be presented if the technical issues related to the GSFA online database could be resolved. The new approach is also linked to the acceleration of the Step Procedure. CCFA51 was informed that it had not been possible for the Codex Secretariat to resolve these issues in cooperation with the FAO in-house department due to the lack of capacity in that department. CCFA51 agreed to: (i) postpone implementation of CCFA50 decisions and a decision on the future of the GSFA online for another year to attempt finding a solution allowing maintenance of both the PDF and the searchable online version of the GSFA; (ii) include this matter in the agenda of CCFA52 and request the Codex Secretariat report the progress on this matter in line with the discussion above; and (iii) bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Committee. The Codex Secretariat is approaching the responsible department about this matter.
Chairperson's comments: The issue was brought to attention by CCFA50. In CCFA51, this issue was thoroughly discussed. Members has expressed their needs and concerns, and the technical obstacles has been clearly explained by the Codex Secretary.
17. Priority List of Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA, Para 159, App. X

Secretariat's comments: CCFA50 agreed to adopt the revised Circular Letter (CL) on priority and forward the amended Priority List of Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA for endorsement by CAC42 and to be followed-up by FAO and WHO.

CCFA52 (2020) will consider replies to the CL regarding proposals for additions and changes to the Priority List of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA (CL 2019/41-FA).

Chairperson's comments: The priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA is the fourth pillar of CCFA, more and more substances have been put on the priority list which need to be further prioritized considering the limit resources of JECFA.