

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5, 6, 7, 12, 13

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Forty-seventh Session

Gatineau, Canada

15 – 19 May 2023

Comments from Guyana

Agenda Item 5

CX/FL 23/45/5- Food allergen labelling

Position: Guyana supports the proposed revisions to the GSLPF and the draft guidelines for the use of precautionary allergen labelling (PAL) are also supported for advancement.

Rationale: The revised draft includes a list of regional allergens, which will allow national authorities to determine declaration of allergens, based on their risk assessment. Further inclusion of the principle for education programs of PAL is also highly recommended. The guidelines will educate consumers and the food inspecting authority to ensure continued national development and understanding of terminologies and practices.

Agenda Item 6

CX/FL 23/47/6- Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Provision of Food Information for Prepackaged Foods offered via E-commerce

Position: Guyana agrees with the use of the amended WTO definition of “e-commerce since this definition captures the essence of the meaning and speaks specifically of food products. Guyana supports the clause for the inclusion of the minimum durability period and small unit exemptions as suggested in sentence 5.3 in square brackets.

Rationale: Competent authorities have importation requirements in which there is a minimum durability period that products must satisfy for their import into the local market. This information is vital for these requirements to be met.

Agenda Item 7

CX/FL 23/47/7 - Guidelines on the use of technology to provide food information: Amendment to the general standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods.

Position: Guyana supports the continuation of work on this topic.

Rationale: Cellular phones, tablets, and computers give consumers access to online food products. Given, that the advent of technology is on the rise, digitalization will accelerate the business of our local food producers/processors. Consumers are steadily moving away from traditional means, with many now shopping from the comfort of their homes. Access to information can occur by merely scanning barcodes, link to websites, or QR codes, where all nutritional information is listed. The advancement of this work will provide sufficient guidelines for use internationally.

Agenda Item 12

CX/FL 23/47/12 - Discussion paper on sustainability labelling claims

Position: Guyana supports the beginning of new work on sustainability-related labelling.

Rationale: Consumers, demand accountability from food businesses. A sustainability labelling claim will bring awareness about the origin of food produced locally. This will aid in demand for international labelling standards and promote local food production for exports, which, by extension, will promote Codex's mission; to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in food trade. Guyana has also most recently, engaged in the promotion of One Health, that being, the integration human health, animal health and the environment. The development of these guidelines will facilitate this approach, involving both human health and the environment.

Agenda Item 13

CX/FL 23/47/13 - Discussion paper on future work and direction of CCFL

Position: Guyana supports the beginning of new work on the “added sugars” definition. Sugars added during processing and sugars obtained naturally should be declared separately, especially for beverages. A lack of a distinction may mislead consumers about their intake of sugars.