



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS
Twenty-Seventh Session
Virtual, 18 - 26 October 2021
Opening remark from YB Khairy Jamaluddin, Minister of Health**

Representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation of the United Nations, Dr. Markus Lipp and Dr. Francesco Branca,

Yang Berusaha Ms Norrani Eksan, Chairperson of the Codex Committee on Fats & Oils,

Codex Secretary, Mr. Tom Heilandt,

Codex Secretariat,

Yang Berusaha Mr. Mohd. Salim Bin Dulatti, the Senior Director of Food Safety and Quality, Ministry of Health Malaysia,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, on behalf of the Government of Malaysia and the Ministry of Health, it is a pleasure to welcome you to the 27th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO). It is most heartening that all of us have made it a priority to be here at this meeting despite the varying time zones.
2. Today we have all recognised that development of international standards and guidelines through Codex is crucial as it promotes harmonisation of measures that encompass consumer protection and fair trade, thereby reducing trade barriers. This importance is reflected through the recognition of Codex standards as the reference point in international food trade by the WTO.
3. Fats and oils play an indispensable role in the daily diets of population groups all over the world, meeting their energy and other physiological needs for better nutrition. Since they are traded and used globally for a variety of purposes, it is important to establish their safety, quality and authenticity. In this regard, the CCFO has developed standards and codes of practice for the use of fats and oils from animals, vegetables and marine origins. These standards and codes of practice have facilitated global trade, serving both exporting and importing countries.

Distinguished guests,

4. The total world trade for the 17 major edible fats and oils was estimated to be 215 million tonnes for 2020, of which palm oil and soybean production were 68 million tonnes and 54 million tonnes respectively, accounting for 55% of the total world production. Over the last ten years, the total production of fats and oils has grown by over 40%. The world average per capita consumption has also increased progressively each year during the last decade, from 23kg in 2007 to 29kg in 2020. This demand for fats and oils is expected to continue to rise.
5. As such the role of the CCFO remains pertinent. Since its inception in 1964, CCFO has developed standards covering more than 30 vegetable oils, six fish oils and all types of fat spreads, margarine and animal fats. Nevertheless, a great deal remains to be done. Increasing demand for healthier fats and oils, the need to ensure authenticity in addressing various other challenges including climate change, change in food systems, production in new geographical locations and technological advancements are all likely to keep CCFO busy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. As all of you are aware, the work within Codex has both its challenges and successes; consensus building in Codes hasn't always been easy. This year marks the fifteenth year of the CCFO being helmed by Malaysia. I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Madam Noraini Othman, the former CCFO Chair who led the first CCFO in Malaysia for ten years until the 26th CCFO in 2019. A decade of CCFO under her leadership has not only extended the legacy of CCFO but more importantly paved the way for Malaysia's excellence in Codex through her passion, vast experience and

strong leadership.

7. In this session, Malaysia is pleased to present a new Chair for CCFO, Ms Norrani Eksan from the Food Safety and Quality Programme under the Ministry of Health Malaysia. I am confident that under her leadership, with strong support from the Codex Secretariats, the prevailing spirit of cooperation among Members of the CCFO and efforts to resolve differences will continue.

Distinguished guests,

8. It is unfortunate that this year's delegates will not be able to experience Malaysia as before. For those of you who have been able to visit Malaysia in previous CCFOs, you may this year miss out on everything good that we have to offer here. To first time delegates, I encourage you to explore Malaysia virtually. COVID-19 has taken much away from us, but it has also strengthened our resolve to find new ways of going about our daily lives. I hope we all have the chance to meet in person in future CCFO sessions, so you can all experience a real taste of Malaysia.
9. With that, I wish all delegates a successful and fruitful session. I am positive there is much you will achieve. On this note, it gives me great pleasure to officially declare open the 27th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils. Thank you.