

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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**REP21/FFP**

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**Forty-fourth Session**

**8-13 November 2021**

**REPORT OF THE 35<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS**

**By correspondence, 20 September – 25 October 2021**

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## SUMMARY AND STATUS OF WORK

Responsible Party	Purpose	Text/Topic	Para(s)
Members / Observers  CCEXEC81 / CAC44	Information	Interest in the possibility of developing relevant Codex guidance on seaweed safety.	14
EWG (The Philippines / European Union)  CCCFP36	Review / Update	To support the evaluation if the <i>Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products</i> (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species <i>S. lemuru</i> (Bali Sardinella) in the list of Sardinella species under Section 2.1	40-43
Members / Observers  EWG	Information	<p>The Committee selected the following laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intertek ITALIA S.p.A, Italy</li> <li>• Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), Portugal</li> <li>• AENOR Internacional, Spain</li> </ul> <p>Intertek ITALIA S.p.A was selected as the leading laboratory to coordinate the sensory evaluation and prepare the report of the sensory evaluation</p> <p>The Committee agreed to compare <i>Sardinella lemuru</i> with the following species in the sensory evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> / European Pilchard</li> <li>• <i>Sardinella aurita</i> / Round Sardinella</li> <li>• <i>Sardinella maderensis</i> / Madeiran Sardinella</li> </ul> <p>In the absence of <i>S. maderensis</i>, <i>S. gibbosa</i> would be an alternate species for <i>S. maderensis</i> in the sensory evaluation</p>	29-30; 34-35

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CRD	Conference Room Document
CCEXEC	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCFFP	Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products
CCFICS	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems
CCGP	Codex Committee on General Principles
CCMAS	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling
EU	European Union
EWG	Electronic Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMA	Fisheries Management Areas
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NSMP	National Sardines Management Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TOR	Terms of Reference
WHO	World Health Organization

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) held its thirty-fifth session from 20 September to 25 October 2021 working by correspondence using the Codex online forum, in agreement with the host country, Norway. Ms. Vigdis Synnøve Veum Møllersen, Specialist Director, Norwegian Food Safety Authority, chaired the Session, which was attended by 53 Member Countries, one Member Organization, and one observer organization.
2. The list of participants is contained in Appendix I. Appendix II provides a verbatim report of the discussions during CCFFP35.

## OPENING OF THE SESSION<sup>1</sup>

3. Mr. Odd Emil Ingebrigtsen, Minister of Fisheries and Seafood of Norway opened the meeting and welcomed the participants recalling the crucial role of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in protecting consumer health and facilitating fair practises in food trade. He further stressed the importance of aquatic food for food security and nutrition, noting its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to the development of sustainable food systems.
4. Ms. Ingunn Midttun Godal, Director General of the Norwegian Food Safety Authority, highlighted the important work of the Committee in setting global standards for fish and fishery products.
5. Ms. Esther Garrido Gamarro, FAO Fishery Officer, on behalf of FAO and WHO, also addressed the Committee.
6. The Chairperson asked for the Committee's collaboration when it came to the working method reminding delegates that participants working by correspondence could respond to or build on comments made by other participants, much like in a plenary discussion in real time.

## Division of competence

7. CCFFP35 noted the division of competence between the European Union and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II of the Procedure of the CAC.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)<sup>2</sup>

8. CCFFP35 adopted the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda Item 2)<sup>3</sup>

9. The Codex Secretariat presented CCFFP35 with relevant information concerning the 43rd Session of the Commission (CAC43), the 80th Session of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC80), the 32nd Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP32), the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS25), and the 41st Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS41).

## Conclusion

10. CCFFP35 noted the relevant information from CAC43, CCEXEC80, CCGP32, CCFICS25 and CCMAS41.

## INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF CCFFP (Agenda Item 3)<sup>4</sup>

11. The Representative of FAO, on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced the item providing CCFFP35 with a summary of the information contained in CX/FFP 21/35/3 and stressed the importance of addressing existing and new food safety issues associated with aquatic products.
12. Interest was expressed by Members, in particular on microplastics and on development of guidance on seaweed safety.

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<sup>1</sup> CRD3

<sup>2</sup> CX/FFP 21/35/1 Rev.1

<sup>3</sup> CX/FFP 21/35/2

<sup>4</sup> CX/FFP 21/35/3; CRD2 (comments of the Philippines)

13. One Member suggested waiting for the background document under preparation by FAO and WHO on food safety hazards linked to the consumption of seaweed and aquatic plants before commencing work to develop relevant Codex guidance. The Member also requested to consider which Codex Committee would progress work on seaweed safety.

### Conclusion

14. CCFFP35 noted:
- the information on activities of FAO and WHO relevant to the work of CCFFP and expressed its support to these activities.
  - with interest the possibility of developing relevant Codex guidance on seaweed safety.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE STANDARD FOR CANNED SARDINES AND SARDINE-TYPE PRODUCTS (CXS 94-1981) (Agenda item 4)<sup>5</sup>

15. The CCFFP Chairperson introduced this item emphasizing that the *Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products* would be applied as the basis for discussion on the proposed amendment of the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products* (CXS 94-1981). She also highlighted the need for a sensory evaluation based upon the comments received from Members and observers prior to the session.
16. The Chairperson informed CCFFP35 about the proposals from the Philippines for the species to be compared with the candidate species *Sardinella lemuru* and the laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation as described in CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.1 Rev.1:
- *Sardinella aurita* or Round Sardinella, *Sardinella maderensis* or Madeiran Sardinella, *Sardina pilchardus* or European Pilchard, and *Sardinella gibbosa* or Goldstripe Sardinella.
  - Sensory and Marketing Spain (Spain), Eurofins Sam Sensory and Marketing Morocco (Morocco), Intertek ITALIA S.p.A. (Italy), AENOR Internacional (Spain), AGRIBIOECO SRL (Italy), and Intertek Test Hizmetleri A.Ş. (Turkey).
17. The Chairperson further referred to the proposed criteria for selecting the three laboratories and three species as described in CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2 Rev.1. She reminded the Committee that species to be compared with *S. lemuru* should be the most representative species of the market and that laboratories should ideally be from different Codex regions, preferably excluding the proposing Member's. When possible, the laboratories should be chosen from countries where the products were mainly consumed.
18. Regarding the establishment of the Electronic Working Group (EWG), the Chairperson reminded the Committee about the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) and; that the objective of the EWG established by CCFFP35 was to support the evaluation if the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products* (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of *Sardinella* species under Section 2.1, by:
- i) overseeing the sensory evaluation of the candidate species, i.e. *S. lemuru* in accordance with the inclusion procedure of the Procedural Manual, in particular sections 2.3, 3.3 and 4.
  - ii) preparing a report to the CCFFP36 on its findings, conclusions and recommendations.
19. The Chairperson drew the attention of the Committee that the Philippines was willing to chair the EWG, that the proposed working languages of the EWG would be English and Spanish, and that the EWG should start working immediately following the end of CCFFP35 and with the aim of finishing its work by 1 October 2022.

### Discussion

#### Laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation

20. CCFFP35 was informed that the Portuguese Institute for the Sea and the Atmosphere (IPMA) was also a candidate laboratory as proposed by delegations.
21. CCFFP35 considered this laboratory as well as the other six laboratories proposed, namely AENOR Internacional (Spain), Intertek ITALIA S.p.A (Italy), Intertek Test Hizmetleri A. Ş. (Turkey), Eurofins Sam Sensory and Marketing Morocco (Morocco), Sensory and Marketing Spain (Spain), AGRIBIOECO SRL (Italy), as well as a possible alternative laboratory from another region.

<sup>5</sup> CX/FFP 21/35/4; CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.1-Rev.1; CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2-Rev.1; CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.3; CRD4 (Morocco)

22. In response to the request for clarification about the selection process for the proposed laboratories, the Philippines referred to (a) credibility and track record; (b) proximity of the laboratories to the fishing grounds where the three reference species shall be collected; and (c) service fee.
23. As for clarification about technical competence in the field of organoleptic evaluation, laboratory accreditation according to the ISO / IEC standard 17025, and usage of standards relevant to sensory testing, the Chairperson reminded the Committee that detailed information was provided in CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2 Rev.1.
24. It was noted that to ensure independency among laboratories, preferably only one laboratory should be chosen from the "Intertek" group.
25. With regard to the designation of the laboratory in charge of coordinating the assessment and preparing the report of the sensory evaluation, while one delegation expressed its support for IPMA, CCFFP35 agreed to designate Intertek ITALIA S.p.A. to have this role.
26. It was suggested that in addition to proposed sample types, frozen whole fish, thawed whole fish and cooked/steamed fish fillets, also canned fish should be included as the subject of the proposed amendment concerns the standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products (CXS 94 -1981). It was also suggested that these canned samples would be prepared under the same conditions of processing. One delegation clarified that canning could interfere with the sensory attributes of the fish. However, the decision on the sample types to be included in the sensory evaluation would be further discussed by the EWG, once established.
27. It was clarified that the sampling and sensory evaluation protocols should be based on the *Guidelines for the Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Shellfish Laboratories* (CXG 31-1999). The three chosen laboratories would collect samples of the identified three species from the Mediterranean Sea while the Philippines would ship *S. lemuru* to the laboratories. Moreover, the sample to be used for sensory evaluation should be Individually Quick Fresh Frozen after the sample collection.
28. The Chairperson recalled that the EWG, once established, would further consider details regarding sampling and sensory evaluation protocols.

### Conclusion

29. CCFFP35 selected the following laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:
  - Intertek ITALIA S.p.A, Italy
  - Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), Portugal
  - AENOR Internacional, Spain
30. Intertek ITALIA S.p.A was selected as the leading laboratory to coordinate the sensory evaluation and prepare the report of the sensory evaluation.

### Species to be compared with the candidate species

31. Delegations expressed support to include *Sardina pilchardus*, *Sardinella gibbosa*, *Sardinella aurita*, and *Sardinella maderensis*. Some support was also noted for *Sardinella brasiliensis*, *Sardinella longiceps*, and *Clupea harengus*.
32. It was however noted that *Sardinella gibbosa* did not originate in the main catching waters around the Mediterranean area, and that *Sardinella maderensis* had a "vulnerable" status on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list.
33. CCFFP35 noted that *Sardinella gibbosa* should preferably be excluded from the reference species as it was not commonly used as a raw material for canning and was also highly seasonal and may not be present during the scheduled sample collection activities. Moreover, *S. gibbosa* was normally landed from a different fishing ground, making it more logistically impractical. It was also noted that *S. maderensis* could be used as samples for sensory evaluation, which is a research purpose, irrespective of the IUCN status. Hence, *S. gibbosa* could be an alternate species for *S. maderensis* should there not be enough samples available of *S. maderensis*.

### Conclusion

34. CCFFP35 agreed to compare *Sardinella lemuru* with the following species in the sensory evaluation:
  - *Sardina pilchardus* / European Pilchard
  - *Sardinella aurita* / Round Sardinella
  - *Sardinella maderensis* / Madeiran Sardinella
35. In the absence of *S. maderensis*, *S. gibbosa* would be an alternate species for *S. maderensis* in the sensory evaluation.

Establishment of an EWG to oversee the sensory evaluation

36. While there was a general support for the proposed ToR, CCFFP35 also recommended French to be added as a working language of the EWG. The Codex Secretariat further clarified that Members could post their comments in English, French or Spanish and use the Google translate function as embedded in the online forum platform for translation during the discussion. The report of the EWG would be made available in all three working languages.
37. The Philippines invited the EU to be a co-chair, which the EU agreed to, and which also was supported by delegations.
38. The Chairperson clarified that the ToR, which referred to section 2.3. of the *Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products* of the Codex Procedural Manual, included a review of the documentation provided by the proposing Member.
39. In response to a question regarding the sustainability of *S. lemuru*, the Philippines introduced the National Sardines Management Plan (NSMP) implemented in the twelve Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) in the Philippines, which led to three goals for the management of the stocks in the natural environment; (1) Improved Science-based indicators for the sustainability of sardine stocks; (2) Improved distribution of benefits among sardine fisherfolk communities; and (3) Strengthened science-based management for sustainable sardine fisheries.

**Conclusion**

40. CCFFP35 agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by the Philippines and co-chaired by the EU, working in English, French and Spanish, with the following ToR:
41. To support the evaluation if the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products* (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of *Sardinella* species under Section 2.1, by:
  - i. overseeing the sensory evaluation of the candidate species, i.e. *S. lemuru* in accordance with the inclusion procedure of the Procedural Manual, in particular sections 2.3, 3.3 and 4.
  - ii. preparing a report to the CCFFP36 on its findings, conclusions and recommendations.
42. Translation will be embedded in the online forum platform to be used. The report from the EWG will be available in English, French and Spanish.
43. The EWG would start working immediately following the end of CCFFP35 and with the aim of finishing its work by 1 October 2022.

**OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 5)**

44. CCFFP35 noted that there was no other business to discuss.

**DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda item 6)**

45. CCFFP35 noted that CCFFP36 was tentatively scheduled to take place in early 2023, pending the outcome of the work of the EWG, and the final arrangements being subject to confirmation by the Host Country in consultation with the Codex Secretariat.



**Appendix I****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS  
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## VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF CCFFP35

## DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM 1

## Provisional Agenda

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Distinguished delegates,

Before proceeding with the adoption of the formal Agenda, I would like to make a short announcement. The European Union is participating in this Session in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article II of the FAO Constitution and Rule II of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. I have been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Union and its Member States is contained in document CRD 1 "EU repartition of competence", which has been published in English, French and Spanish on the CCFFP35 page on Codex website. I would draw the attention of the participants of CCFFP35 to this declaration.

Now, I would like to open Agenda item 1. Members are invited to propose amendments to the provisional Agenda as contained in CX/FFP 21/35/1 Rev.1.

Members are reminded that this committee has been reactivated to work by correspondence to evaluate if the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of Sardinella species under section 2.1.

Agenda item 1: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexaliment ... \\_rev1e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexaliment..._rev1e.pdf)

Timetable

- Agenda item 1 is open for comments between 12:00 CET 20. September and 12:00 CET 21. September 2021.
- Agenda item 1 will be closed on 21. September 12:00 CET
- The Chairpersons conclusion will be presented 21. September at 14:00 CET.

Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen

Chairperson

**Codex Secretariat:**

Thank you, Madame Chairperson, for your message. The Codex Secretariat does not have any comments and echoes your message inviting participants to share their observations if any. Many thanks.

**Mauritius:**

Thank you Madam Chair

No comments from us as well.

**The Philippines:**

The Philippine deligation supports the Provisional Agenda with no further suggestions.

**Togo:**

Bonjour Présidente

Merci pour tout

Pour le point 1 nous n'avons pas de commentaire.

Merci

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

Thank you for your comments and support. This agenda item will now be closed for comments.

Conclusion

The committee has agreed to adopt the provisional agenda as contained in CX/FFP/35/1 as its agenda.

Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen

Chairperson

## DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM 2

### Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other subsidiary bodies

#### CCFFP Chairperson:

Dear delegates,

I would now like to open agenda item 2 for comments and invite the Codex secretariat to introduce the document.

Timetable

- Agenda item 2 is open for comments between 12:00 CET 21 September and 12:00 CET 23 September 2021.
- Agenda item 2 will be closed on 23 September 12:00 CET
- The Chairperson's conclusion will be presented on 23 September before 14:00 CET.

Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen

Chairperson

#### Codex Secretariat:

Dear delegates,

I would like to draw your attention to matters for information from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other subsidiary bodies as stated below, which is contained in CX/FFP 21/35/2.

[http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexaliment ... 35\\_02e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexaliment...35_02e.pdf)

#### CAC43

Procedural aspects and meetings of subsidiary committees

- CAC43 recommended a) that CCEXEC80 share its recommendations based on the report of the sub-committee on Codex and the Pandemic – Strategic Challenges and Opportunities with all subsidiary bodies for their information and further consideration as appropriate; and b) to all subsidiary bodies and Members and Observers to make full use of existing remote working mechanisms such as Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) and Circular Letters (CLs) and to plan their virtual committee meetings in such a manner as to optimize the possibility to complete their agendas.

#### CCEXEC80

- CCEXEC80 recognized that CAC43 had agreed on the possibility of holding virtual meetings in 2021 and endorsed the proposals from the sub-committee on Codex and the pandemic to operationalize this decision, noting that this did not at present require any change to formal Codex procedures.

#### CCGP32

Procedural Guidance for Committees Working by Correspondence (CWBC)

- CCGP32 agreed to forward the draft Procedural Guidance for CWBC to CAC44 for adoption and inclusion in the Codex Procedural Manual, preferably in section III.

#### CCFICS25

Proposed Draft guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud

- CCFICS25 agreed to: i. Start the new work and forward the project document on the development of guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud to CAC44 for approval; and iii. To keep other relevant Codex Committees informed of the progress of the new work.

#### CCMAS41

Revision of the General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004)

- CCMAS41 agreed to inform other relevant Codex Committees of the ongoing work on the revision of the General Guidelines on Sampling and invite any comments as relevant.

Review/update of methods of analysis in the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999)

- CCMAS41 confirmed its continued liaison with other Codex committees on the use of the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999) as the single reference for methods of analysis and sampling as requested by CCEXEC77.

**South Africa:**

Dear Madam Chair, South Africa takes note of the information provided by the CAC, CCEXEC and the Subsidiary Committees and have an interest in the work of some Subsidiary Committees.

Thank you Madam Chair

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

I would like to thank those that have provided their comments on both agenda item 1 and 2, however I note that comments so far on agenda item 2 has been very few.

Agenda item 2 will be closed at 12:00 CET 23 September, however based on what has happened so far, I would like to present my draft conclusion:

CCFFP35 has noted the relevant information from CAC43, CCEXEC80, CCGP32, CCFICS25 and CCMAS41. Is there any objection to this conclusion?

I would also like to remind members that working by correspondence means that members and observers can respond or build comments made by other Members, much like in a plenary conersation in real time. This would be particularly important for the coming agenda items.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Vigdis

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

Thank you for your support. This agenda item will now be closed for comments.

Conclusion

CCFFP35 noted the relevant information from CAC43, CCEXEC80, CCGP32, CCFICS25 and CCMAS41.

Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen

Chairperson

### **DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM 3**

#### **Information on activities of FAO and WHO relevant to the work of CCFFP**

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

I would now like to open agenda item 3 for comments and invite FAO/WHO to introduce their document. For your information we also have CRD2 with comments from the Philippines for this agenda item.

Timetable

- Agenda item 3 is open for comments between 12:00 CET 22 September and 12:00 CET 24 September 2021.
- Agenda item 3 will be closed on 24 September 12:00 CET
- The Chairperson's conclusion will be presented on 24 September before 14:00 CET.

Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen

Chairperson

**Mauritius:**

We take note of the activities and in particular, express our interest on FAO's work on microplastics and food safety.

**FAO Representative:**

Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to share with you information on activities FAO and WHO relevant to the work of CCFFP. Since the last committee, several activities have been carried out, the most relevant for the fisheries and aquaculture sector are summarized in the document (CX/FFP 21/35/3).

Key areas of work of relevance to the Committee:

1. The issue of Ciguatera poisoning (CP) was raised at CCCF11 (2017) and the CCCF requested scientific advice from FAO/WHO to allow the development of appropriate risk management options. In particular, the requested scientific advice to FAO/WHO entailed:

- full evaluation of known CTXs (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment), including geographic distribution and rate of illness; congeners; methods of detection; and
- based on this, guidance for the development of risk management options

Based on this request, FAO and WHO convened an expert meeting on November 2018 that resulted in the Joint FAO-WHO Report of the Expert Meeting on Ciguatera Poisoning in 2020.

While, due to the existing data gaps, it was not possible to carry out a full risk assessment, the Expert Meeting did outline valuable risk management options.

2. CCFFP33 and the FAO Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COFI-FT) supported the development of international guidance by FAO/WHO for implementation of bivalve mollusc sanitation programmes within the framework of the Section 7 of the Codex Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP). The Joint FAO-WHO Technical Guidance is regularly updated. However, the lack of guidance on biotoxins monitoring has been highlighted. In this regard, FAO is developing guidance on biotoxins monitoring to support countries in the production of safe bivalve molluscs and to promote trade of this important commodity. Building on this work, jointly with IOC-UNESCO, FAO is developing a background document that will provide the basis for evaluation as to whether a risk assessment for marine biotoxins in water from desalination plants is needed; the development of a Joint FAO-IAEA-IOC Technical Guidance for the Implementation of Early Warning Systems for Harmful algal blooms that are affecting food safety for aquatic products is also underway.

3. New evidence has become available regarding risks and benefits of fish consumption. For this reason, FAO and WHO will update the Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption. This will be done through an expert consultation that will set a framework for assessing the net health benefits or risks of fish consumption and that will also provide guidance to the Codex Alimentarius Commission in their work on managing risks, taking into account the existing data on the benefits of eating fish.

4. The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) noted the importance of water quality in food production and processing and requested FAO and WHO to provide guidance for those scenarios where the use of "clean water" was indicated in Codex texts, including clean seawater, and on the safe reuse of processing water. To facilitate this work, and to build on previous work in this area that resulted in the publication of a Joint FAO-WHO Meeting Report on Safety and Quality of Water Used in Food Production and Processing, FAO and WHO established a group of experts to develop of a fit-for-purpose concept and decision support system approach to safe water use within different sectors, including fisheries and aquaculture. The report of the on-going meeting will be published in the coming months.

5. New evidence has become available regarding microplastics in all commodities. FAO is developing a background document that compiles information on the occurrence of microplastics in all commodities, microplastics contamination along food value chains, and plastic migration from food contact materials and packaging, as well as a review of the existing literature on the toxicity of the most common plastic monomers, polymers, and plastic additives. This process will set up the basis to evaluate if a risk assessment exercise is needed and whether the information can be used for the provision of risk management options. This new report builds on the FAO Report on "Microplastics in fisheries and aquaculture".

6. Increased cultivation and utilization of seaweed are expected to be important pillars of sustainable food security and a robust aquatic economy in the near future. Many factors can affect the presence of hazards in

marine macroalgae and seaweed. However, legislation and guidance documents on seaweed production and utilization are generally still lacking. In this regard, FAO and WHO are developing a background document that identifies food safety hazards (chemicals, pathogens and toxins) linked to the consumption of seaweed and aquatic plants. The document will be published early 2022. This will provide the basis for undertaking further work in this area. FAO and WHO consider that there may be value in developing relevant Codex guidance on this subject and is presenting this issue to evaluate the interest from the Committee.

Having informed the committee about these activities, FAO and WHO would like to:

- Have your feedback about the resources developed since our last committee in 2015 and described in detailed in the CX/FFP 21/35/3
- Receive indications about possible follow up actions
- Know if CCFFP would consider developing relevant Codex guidance on seaweed safety; and
- Understand if there are new requests by the committee

**Codex Secretariat:**

The Codex Secretariat compliments FAO and WHO for preparing this very informative document that provides us all with a timely, excellent and helpful overview of very important topics.

We encourage the participants to share their views on the issues raised and how you see the role of Codex in the further work on these.

Is there one or more issues that you would expect CCFFP to take on board?

Many thanks

**Norway:**

Dear Madame Chairperson,

Norway would like to thank FAO/WHO for the useful information provided regarding activities during the last years on important areas related to seafood.

We look forward to updates on ongoing work and to participate in future discussions on relevant topics, including food safety on seaweed.

Norway supports the proposal from FAO/WHO to consider developing relevant Codex guidance on seaweed safety.

Åsne Sangolt

Norway

**Australia:**

Dear Madame Chairperson,

Australia acknowledges and thanks the FAO/WHO for their good work on a number of highly topical issues.

With regards to seaweed, we note the FAO and WHO are developing a background document that identifies food safety hazards (chemicals, pathogens and toxins) linked to the consumption of seaweed and aquatic plants. Unless there are immediate food safety concerns identified, Australia suggests waiting for the FAO and WHO document before commencing work to develop relevant Codex guidance. There may also need to be consideration as to which Codex committee would progress this work.

Mark Phythian

Australia

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

I would like to thank FAO and WHO for their very interesting and informative paper and those that have provided their comments. I interpret the silence as agreement with the proposals, however the agenda item is still open for comments until 12:00 CET 24 September

Based on what has happened so far, I would like to offer the following draft conclusion:

*CCFF35 noted with thanks the timely and good information on activities of FAO and WHO relevant to the work of CCFFP and expressed its support to these activities. CCFF35 supports the proposal that Codex guidance on seaweed safety be developed.*

Is there any objection to this conclusion?

I would also like to remind members that working by correspondence means that members and observers can respond or build comments made by other Members, much like in a plenary conversation in real time. This would be particularly important for the coming agenda items.”

Thank you,

Vigdis

**The Philippines:**

Comments on Information on activities of FAO and WHO relevant to the work of CCFFP, CX/FFP 21/35/3

Sec. 1-2. FAO/WHO Report of the Expert Meeting on the Ciguatera Poisoning

The Philippines supports the call of FAO and WHO on conducting further research on Ciguatera Poisoning (CP) to provide science-based risk management options. Being an archipelagic country and at risk to CP, the country imposed a regulatory limit on CP based on the limited scientific studies. However, it is recommended to include research studies on the use of a more sensitive and quantitative detection method to cope up with the changes in the ecological makeup. This will be a strong basis for regulatory standards to mitigate, manage, and address this public health concern.

Sec. 3-8 FAO's Work on bivalve mollusc sanitation

The Philippines supports the development of international guidance in implementing bivalve mollusc sanitation programs. This will serve as uniform guidance to be followed globally that can further enhance and standardize existing shellfish sanitation programs.

Sec. 9-10 FAO's work on early warning systems for harmful algal blooms

The Philippines supports the work of FAO on early warning systems for harmful algal blooms (HAB). The marine water dynamics are constantly changing. On-site sample collection as a basis for regulations may not always be feasible and expensive if conducted monthly. These early warning systems will greatly aid HAB management strategies and food safety measures once implemented.

Sec. 11. Joint FAO/WHO's work on seaweed safety

The Philippines supports the initiative of the FAO/WHO on developing a guidance document that identifies food safety hazards that are linked to the consumption of seaweeds and aquatic plants. Seaweeds is one of the major fisheries commodities and top major export products of the Philippines.

This guidance document will assist in addressing the issues and concerns that may be experienced by the country's seaweed industry. Furthermore, this will help establish guidelines on the assessment of the quality and safety of seaweeds and seaweed-based products developed.

Sec. 12. FAO's work on microplastics and food safety

The Philippines supports the desire of COFI-FT to have an exposure assessment that includes other relevant food commodities. At present, there are limited published studies on risk assessment regarding microplastic as food contaminants. Having information on the occurrence of microplastics in all commodities, microplastics contamination along food value chains, plastic migration from food contact materials and packaging, and toxicity of the most common plastic monomers, polymers, and additives, could help mitigate the potential threat to human food safety and security.

Sec. 13. FAO's work on marine biotoxins in water from desalinization plants

The Philippines has no comment.

Sec. 14. FAO's publication on Food Safety and Climate Change

The Philippines supports FAO's publication on the effects of climate change on food safety, especially by highlighting its environmental impacts in our ecosystems. We support the movement of creating public awareness on the food safety issues associated with various climate change-related drivers. However, we also suggest the inclusion of specific effects of food safety hazards to human health such as foodborne diseases and risks of toxic contamination. Climate-sensitive risk factors and illnesses will be among the largest contributors to the global burden of food-related diseases and mortality including under-nutrition, communicable and non-communicable diseases. Aside from food safety, food security is of utmost concern since a diminished supply of raw materials for food processing will cause an imbalance in the food system. We are convinced that knowledge on specific public health risks will help raise awareness on a consumer level and will also create ways to combat future challenges associated with climate change.

Sec. 15. FAO's Risk profile - Group B Streptococcus (GBS) - Streptococcus agalactiae sequence type (ST) 283 in freshwater fish"

The Philippines supports the initiative of FAO on Risk profiling of Group B Streptococcus (GBS) - Streptococcus agalactiae sequence type (ST) 283 in freshwater fish". Being one of the biggest producers of farmed and captured freshwater fishes in the Southeast Asian region, the country is prone to the Group B Streptococcus (GBS) disease since it is linked with the consumption of raw freshwater fish. The country supports the initiative of FAO and WHO to produce data on patterns of fish consumption and consumer demographics since it is relevant for the country. Thus, the call for action of FAO is suitable for the Philippines to adopt to carry out studies on GBS S283, specifically microbiological risk assessment, that is significant for risk management to ensure public health safety.

Sec. 16. Joint FAO/WHO work on advances in science and risk assessment tools for Vibrio parahaemolyticus and V. vulnificus associated with seafood

The Philippines supports the initiative of FAO and WHO in conducting a microbiological risk assessment of Vibrio spp. to support management and control. These microorganisms have been observed to contaminate seafoods in tropical regions. In fact, the country has initiated studies on Vibrio spp. in bivalves and growing areas including Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Microbiological risk assessments will also be carried out in the future. Hence, the call for action of FAO and WHO is currently being done and adopted by the country. These studies will contribute to the mitigation, management, and control, thus ensuring food safety to public health.

Sec. 17. Joint FAO/WHO work on safety and quality of water used in food production and processing

The Philippines supports the provision of risk-based guidance stated by FAO/WHO regarding the safe use and reuse of processing water. We also support amending the paragraph referring to water requirements in CXC 52-2003 (Code of Practice for fish and fishery products) so as not to duplicate the information from General Principles of Food Hygiene. The fishery business operators may include in their HACCP plans/programmes the risk assessment or risk reduction measures on the reuse of water in the fish processing establishments referring to the applicable hygienic practice.

Sec. 18. New food sources and production systems

The Philippines supports the concern of FAO/WHO on the spurring of food innovations, particularly on the "new food sources and production systems" (NFSPS). The objective of these innovations must not just dwell on how to feed the growing global population but must also consider the risks associated, as well as all food safety and quality concerns to protect public health.

Sec. 19. Joint FAO/WHO work on risks and benefits of fish consumption

The Philippines supports the FAO and WHO work on risks and benefits of fish consumption in the light of new and recent evidence. However, the Philippines recommends using updated references as almost all of the references used are already over a decade.

Sec. 20-21. WHO's work on dioxin and dioxin-like compounds

The Philippines supports the initiative of the WHO to harmonize the toxic equivalency factors (TEFs) for dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. However, in the Philippines, limited laboratories can test and analyze the toxic compound. Thus, the country can contribute data regarding TEFs through the relative potencies (REPs) database by 2025.

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

Thank you for your support. This agenda item will now be closed for comments.

Conclusion

CCFF35 noted with thanks the timely and good information on activities of FAO and WHO relevant to the work of CCFFP and expressed its support to these activities. CCFF35 noted with interest the possibility of developing relevant Codex guidance on seaweed safety.

Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen

Chairperson

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM 4****Proposed amendment of the *Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981)*****Part I****CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear participants,

For this agenda item we have documents: CX/FFP 21/35/4, CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.1-Rev.1, CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2-Rev.1 and CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.3. For this agenda item we also have CRD4 from Morocco.

After the new work proposal and the project document was issued, two rounds of comments through Circular letters have been completed to clarify Member's views. The comments received have shown that there is a need for a sensory evaluation. Thus, this Committee will apply the Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products as contained in the Procedural Manual, in short, the Inclusion Procedure or IP.

I suggest that the Committee first address the proposed species and laboratories, before proceeding with the discussion regarding the establishment of an Electronic Working group (EWG) to oversee the sensory evaluation.

Therefore, according to the IP, the Committee shall decide:

- which are the three laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation and designate the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the assessment and preparing the report of the sensory evaluation and
- which are the three species to be compared with the candidate species, i.e. *S. lemuru*.

A proposal for the laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation and the three species to be compared with the candidate species, i.e. *S. lemuru*, is contained in CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.1, Rev.1. Four species and six laboratories are proposed for the Committee's consideration. The basis for proposing the species is that they are the most representatives species of the market to be compared with the candidate species (reference to IP paragraph 2.1 bullet 3). The laboratories should ideally be from different Codex regions, preferably excluding the proposing Member's. When possible, the laboratories shall be chosen from countries where the products are mainly consumed.

I would like to draw your attention to CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2-Rev.1 which provide additional comments from the Philippines on the criteria for choosing the three laboratories and three recommended species. I open the floor for comments on:

- which are the laboratories to be selected to perform the sensory evaluation and
- which are the species to be selected to be compared with the candidate species

I would like to remind participants that working by correspondence means that Members and observers can respond or build comments made by other participants, much like in a plenary discussion in real time. This will be particularly important for us to successfully arrive at a conclusion within the set timeframe.

Timetable regarding Agenda item 4 part I "species and laboratories"

- This part of agenda item 4 is open for comments between 12:00 CET 27 September and 12:00 CET 30 September 2021.
- A proposed conclusion on species and laboratories will be posted before 2 pm 1. October

Timetable regarding Agenda item 4 part II "EWG terms of reference and host/co-host(s)" for the EWG

- This part of agenda 4 item will be open for comments between 4. October at 12:00 CET until 12:00 CET on 7. October. The Committee will then address the proposed EWG terms of reference that delegations
- The Chairperson's conclusion on this part of agenda item will be presented before 2 pm CET 7 October

Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen

Chairperson

Madam Chair,



**European Union:**

The EU would like to thank for the opportunity to comment on the selection of laboratories and the reference species for the sensory evaluation.

To start with, we would appreciate some clarification from the Philippines about the selection process for the proposed six laboratories as some countries were not aware of their potential candidacy for the laboratory selection.

As we already indicated in our reply to CL 2021/67-FFP, we would propose the inclusion of the Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA) to the list of laboratories proposed for the sensory evaluation. The relevant technical information for IPMA is attached.

Concerning the reference species, we would support the inclusion of *Sardina pilchardus* in the list. We are not in favour of including *Sardinella gibbosa* as this species does not originate in the main catching waters around the Mediterranean area.

Best regards,

Risto Holma

DG Health and Food Safety

European Commission

	ISO 8586							
ISO 13299	(Selection, training & monitoring of selected and expert assessors)	Products for sensory for sensory evaluation	Sample collection	Sensory Evaluation	Panel Recruitment, Selection and Training	Miscellaneous (Fees, Courier, etc)	Total	Track Record
<b>Quantitative Descriptive</b>	One panel leader and 10 trained panelists	Frozen Fish						
<b>Analysis:</b> Sensory Profile;	on fish/seafood products	Thawed Fish	5,000.00 €	8,413.20 €	5,000.00 €	2,000.00 €	20,413.20 €	1. Accredited by ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for chemical and microbiological methods on fish/shellfish products since 2002
Statistic analysis (Anova)	evaluation	Cooked (steamed) Fillets						2. 30 years of experience on sensory evaluation of fish/seafood products
<b>CAC/GL 31-1999</b> (Sensory evaluation for fish and shellfish in laboratories)								

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Thank you to the EU commission for your comment,

We have now added your proposed laboratory to the list of laboratories:

1. Sensory and Marketing Spain
2. EUROFINS SAM SENSORY AND MARKETING MOROCCO
3. Intertek ITALIA SpA
4. AENOR Internacional
5. AGRIBIOECO SRL
6. Intertek Test Hizmetleri A.Ş
7. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA)

As regards the species, the following are proposed:

1. *Sardinella aurita* or Round Sardinella
2. *Sardinella maderensis* or Madeiran Sardinella
3. *Sardina pilchardus* or European Pilchard (this species has been suggested by Cuba)
4. *Sardinella gibbosa* or Goldstripe Sardinella
5. *Clupea harengus*

The list now contains 7 laboratories and 5 species, from which this committee should choose three laboratories and at least three species.

I would like to encourage members to provide their comments on both laboratories and species.

Vigdis

Chairperson

**Mauritius:**

Hello

Thank you for the additional information. Can you please inform us about the proposed laboratories' status of accreditation and usage of standards relevant to sensory testing e.g ISO

Dr (Mrs) Shalini A. Neeliah

Codex Contact Point

Mauritius

**Morocco:**

Madame la présidente

Pour pouvoir choisir les laboratoires, Le Maroc souhaite avoir plus de détails sur les laboratoires proposés surtout pour les critères suivants :

- La compétence technique dans le domaine de l'évaluation organoleptique
- L'accréditation du laboratoire selon la norme ISO/CEI 17025 « Exigences générales concernant la compétence des laboratoires d'étalonnages et d'essais » (les essais descriptifs, discriminatifs et les essais hédoniques ...).

Dr Oleya EL HARIRI

Head of Moroccan Delegation

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates, please find the requested information in the published documents to this agenda item, especially

- CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2 Rev.1: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexaliment...\\_rev1x.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexaliment..._rev1x.pdf) which contains detailed information on several proposed laboratories
- Comments from the EU with information regarding Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA) (nr 7)

Vigdis

Chairperson

**Thailand:**

Madam Chair,

First and foremost, Thailand would like to commend the Philippines for the excellent work of preparing all necessary information of the sensory evaluation for consideration at the CCFFP35.

Following the above, Thailand wishes to provide our comments under Agenda item 4 as follows;

1. Proposal for species to be compared with the candidate species:

Based on the current list of proposed species, Thailand suggested the following species to be included:

- (1) Sardinella gibbosa
- (2) Sardinella aurita
- (3) Sardina pilchardus

2. Proposal for laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:

In view of Codex Procedural Manual (IP), Thailand is of the view that three laboratories should be chosen from different regions. Therefore, the following laboratories are suggested for performing sensory evaluation:

- Either "AENOR Confia (Spain)" or "INTERTEK ITALIA S.p.A (Italy)" should be selected.
- "Intertek Test Hizmetleri A.S. Food Testing Services (Turkey)" is agreeable.
- "Eurofins SAM Sensory and Marketing (Morocco)" is proposed to be included. Otherwise, CCFFP35 may consider an alternative laboratory from the rest of regions.

3. Sampling protocol and sample for submission and 4. Samples for sensory evaluation:

Thailand noted that three types of samples (i.e., frozen whole fish, thawed whole fish, and cooked/steamed fish fillets) will be provided for the sensory evaluation, as per CX/FFP21/35/4 Add.2 Rev1.

To ensure that all samples will be prepared under the same standardized conditions, Thailand wishes to seek greater clarifications on the following:

- (1) Should the further explanation of the flowchart for sampling protocols will be provided to CCFFP35 for consideration?
- (2) Should the detailed protocols for frozen, cooking and streaming will be provided by the lead country?
- (3) Should the canned sample be included in the sensory evaluation? If so, we suggested that the canned samples of all 4 species should be prepared under the same condition and treatment.

Best regards,

Codex Contact Point of Thailand

**Morocco:**

Bonjour

Le Maroc propose les espèces suivantes pour la comparaison avec l'espèce candidate

- Première espèce proposée : Le Maroc suggère de retenir *Sardina pilchardus* pour la comparer avec l'espèce candidate *Sardinella lemuru*. Étant donné qu'il faut retenir les espèces les plus représentatives du marché et elle est la référence de la norme en question ;
- Deuxième espèce proposée : Le Maroc propose de choisir une espèce parmi celles proposées par les Philippines à savoir soit *Sardinella aurita* ou *Sardinella maderensis*;
- Troisième espèce proposée est *Clupea harengus*.

**The Philippines:**

Madam Chair,

This summarizes the Philippines' position on the proposed amendment of the standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products (CXS 94-1981).

Best regards,

Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero

Department of Agriculture

Philippines

Philippines

Agenda Item No. 4: Part 1: Species and Laboratories  
CX/FFP 21/35/4

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

20 September to 25 October 2021

Proposed Amendment of the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981)

This summarizes the Philippines' position on the proposed amendment of the standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products (CXS 94-1981).

**POSITION ON THE LABORATORIES TO PERFORM THE SENSORY EVALUATION:**

Previous documents submitted to the Codex Committee (CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2 Rev. 1) reflected five laboratories who submitted proposals for the conduct of the sensory evaluation. Additional proposal from, Agri-Bio Eco from Rome (as shown below) was received on September 24, 2021.

No.	Company and Location	ISO Guidance Documents and other related Standards			Products for sensory evaluation	Sample collection Fees (€)	Sensory Evaluation Fees (€)	Panel recruitment selection and training(€)	Miscellaneous (Travel, Taxes, Courier, etc)	TOTAL (€)	Track Record
		ISO 8589 (Facilities or test rooms)	ISO 13299 (Sensory Analysis/Evaluation Method)	ISO 8586 (Selection, training & monitoring of selected and expert assessors)							
6	Agri-Bio-Eco Rome	10 sensory booths	Quantitative Descriptive Analysis - Sensory Profiling; Statistical Analysis (one-way and two-way ANOVA)	8 - 10 trained panelists followed	Frozen Fish Thawed Fish Cooked Fillets					16,236.00	1. Provide services on sensory evaluation

**Out of the seven laboratories that submitted their proposals, we suggest the following laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:**

- (1) INTERTEK ITALIA S.p.A., Milano Italy
- (2) Portuguese Institute for the Sea and the Atmosphere (IPMA)
- (3) Agri-Bio-Eco, Rome

#### REASON/ JUSTIFICATION

The proposed laboratories were recommended based on (1) credibility and track record; (2) proximity of the laboratories to the fishing grounds where the three reference species shall be collected; and (3) service fee, as summarized in CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2 Rev. 1

#### POSITION ON THE SPECIES FOR SENSORY EVALUATION:

Originally, five species were recommended as reference species for the sensory evaluation of *Sardinella lemuru*.

**Out of the five reference species, the Philippines recommends the following:**

- (1) *Sardinella aurita*
- (2) *Sardinella maderensis*
- (3) *Sardina pilchardus*

#### Sampling protocol:

The three chosen laboratories shall do the sample collection of the identified three species from the Mediterranean Sea while the *S. lemuru* will be shipped from the Philippines. Moreover, the sample to be used for sensory evaluation should be Individually Quick Fresh Frozen after the sample collection.

#### Sensory Evaluation:

The samples to be evaluated for sensory evaluation shall be (a) frozen whole fish, (b) thawed whole fish, (c) steamed fish fillets. For steaming of sardines, it is recommended to steam first the whole fish and then, remove/dissect the edible portion as fillet.

The sampling and sensory evaluation protocols, as recommended by the Philippines, are based on the Guidelines for the Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Shellfish Laboratories (CAC-GL 31-1999).

#### REASON/ JUSTIFICATION

The three recommended species are available in the Mediterranean Sea (<https://www.fishbase.de>) where the proposed laboratories are located. Only *S. lemuru* shall be provided by the Philippines. Moreover, the sampling

protocol recommended by the Philippines shall ensure a harmonized sampling strategy to maintain the freshness of the samples for sensory evaluation that will be observed by the Philippines and the chosen laboratories.

**Morocco:**

Bonjour

Le Maroc souhaite proposer les trois laboratoires pour réaliser l'évaluation sensorielle :

- IPMA, I.P. Lab. of Sensory Analysis, DivAV, Portugal, Lisbon
- Intertek ITALIA SpA
- AENOR Confia (Espagne)

Merci

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

I would like to thank those delegations that have provided their comments so far. Based on these comments, I would offer the following proposal for your consideration:

The following three species are proposed for comparison

1. *Sardina pilchardus* /European Pilchard: Has been proposed by Cuba and supported by Morocco, EU, Thailand and the Philippines
2. *Sardinella aurita* /Round Sardinella: Supported by Morocco, Thailand and the Philippines
3. *Sardinella maderensis* /Madeiran Sardinella: Supported by Morocco and the Philippines

The following three laboratories are proposed for comparison

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA: Supported by Thailand, Morocco and the Philippines
2. Intertek Test Hizmetleri A.Ş: Supported by Thailand.
3. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA): Supported by the EU, Morocco and the Philippines

Please find for your information credentials for these laboratories in CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2 Rev.1 (Intertek) and in comments made by the EU (IPMA). Furthermore, please note the intervention from the Philippines on proposed criteria for choosing the laboratories

(1) credibility and track record;

(2) proximity of the laboratories to the fishing grounds where the three reference species shall be collected; and

(3) service fee, as summarized in CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2 Rev. 1

If there are any objections to the proposed species and laboratories please provide the reason. I would also like to reiterate that I interpret silence as agreement with the proposals.

Vigdis

Chairperson

**Brazil:**

Dear Madam Chair,

First of all, Brazil appreciates the opportunity to express our comments in this forum, as we are one of the main importers of sardines in the world.

We appreciate the work done by the Philippines to present all the useful preliminary information.

With regard to the proposal to compare species with the candidate species, Brazil suggests the following species based on our production, market value and taking into account species that can account for the most part of the world waters:

- (1) *Sardinella brasiliensis*

- (2) *Sardinella aurita*
- (3) *Sardina pilchardus*
- (4) *Sardinella longiceps*

With regard to the proposal that laboratories carry out sensory assessment and in accordance with the Codex Manual of Procedure, we agree with Thailand's proposal. If possible from different regions of the world.

Best regards,

Lucio Akio Kikuchi

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply from Brazil

**Cuba:**

Cuba corrobora lo respondido en la carta circular: CL 2020/61/OCS REV-FFP de Enero 2021y está de acuerdo totalmente con la propuesta que hace Filipinas del establecimiento del Grupo de trabajo por medios electrónicos para evaluar el proyecto de enmienda de la Norma para las sardinas y productos análogos en conserva (CXS 94-1981) para, utilizando el Procedimiento de la inclusión de especies adicionales en las normas del Codex para el pescado y los productos pesqueros, evaluar la inclusión en el apartado 2.1 de la Norma, la especie "SardinellaLemuru" (Sardinela de Bali).

En el documento circulado se explica que la Secretaría del Codex y Noruega, en su calidad de Gobierno hospedante del Comité del Codex sobre Pescado y Productos Pesqueros (CCFFP) aplazado sine die en ese momento, examinaron la propuesta y consideraron muy completo el expediente presentado.

En el documento se planteó que para la futura inclusión de la especie propuesta como sardina se tenga en cuenta el cálculo de las poblaciones presentes en el medio natural y si estaba disponible para su procesamiento, solicitándose observaciones sobre lo que se propone de realizar una evaluación sensorial de este producto por lo cual el país que hace la propuesta de inclusión (Filipinas) debe proponer tres especies para la comparación o el estudio (se piensa que son especies de las que están en el apartado 2.1 de la Norma CODEX (CXS 94-1981), así como tres laboratorios para la realización de los análisis de este producto, con lo cual estamos de acuerdo y recordamos que cuando nuestro país, Cuba propuso la inclusión de la especie machuelo como la sardina de Cuba ("Ophistonema oglinum") se utilizó el mismo procedimiento.

Por todo lo antes expuesto Cuba está de acuerdo con que el país Filipinas que se autoproponió para presidir el Grupo de Trabajo temporal sea quien presida este trabajo para lograr que el trabajo progrese de manera más eficaz y se facilite el debate sobre las cuestiones técnicas. Se plantea que se trabajará solo en inglés y Cuba está interesada en formar parte del grupo no para copresidir sino como participante técnico.

Se propone también que entre las especies de sardina a intervenir en la comparación sensorial esté la sardina española (*Pilchardus*) que es la especie original de sardina.

**The Philippines:**

Dear Madam Chairperson Vigdis,

The Philippines appreciates the support from the member countries who adopted our proposals on Agenda Item 4 Part 1. Furthermore, we support and agree to the amended proposal by the committee Chair without further revisions.

Thank you very much.

**Indonesia:**

Madam Chair,

Indonesia would like to express its gratitude to Philippines for the excellent work preparing all information needed.

Indonesia would like to propose three species in the list that in the same genus with candidate species *S. lemuru*:

- *Sardinella gibbosa*
- *Sardinella aurita*
- *Sardinella mederensis*

Thank you

**Morocco:**

Bonjour tout le monde,

Tout d'abord, Le Maroc apprécie le travail accompli par les Philippines pour présenter toutes les informations préliminaires et on se félicite de la richesse des échanges par les différents pays dans le respect du manuel des procédures.

L'examen du document présenté par les philippines (CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2 Rev. 1 et son complément en date du 29 Septembre 2021 montre que :

« lors de l'évaluation sensorielle, les échantillons à utiliser doivent être :

- du poisson entier congelé,
- du poisson entier décongelé,
- des filets de poisson cuits à la vapeur ».

Le Maroc propose d'ajouter aussi le poisson à l'état conserve,

Justification : l'objet de la proposition d'amendement concerne la norme pour les sardines en conserve et les produits de type sardine (CXS 94-1981) ; c'est pour cela que le Maroc propose que l'évaluation sensorielle concerne aussi le poisson l'état conserve et il est suggéré que ces échantillons en conserve soient préparés dans les mêmes conditions de traitement.

Meilleures salutations,

Dr Oleya EL HARIRI

Chef de la Délégation Marocaine

**Morocco:**

Madame la présidente

Le Maroc vous remercie et tien à exprimer son avis concernant les trois laboratoires proposés pour comparaison et qui sont :

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA :Soutenu par la Thaïlande, le Maroc et les Philippines
2. Intertek Test Hizmetleri A.Ş : Soutenu par la Thaïlande.
3. Institut portugais de la mer et de l'atmosphère (IPMA) : soutenu par l'UE, le Maroc et les Philippines

Il est constaté que deux laboratoires proposés appartiennent au même groupe « INTERTEK »

Selon le manuel des procédures, parmi les critères de choix des laboratoires c'est l'indépendance.

Le Maroc propose de choisir des laboratoires n'appartenant pas au même groupe et le Maroc réitère sa proposition qui est la suivante :

- IPMA, IP Lab. of Sensory Analysis, DivAV, Portugal, Lisbonne
- Intertek ITALIA SpA
- AENOR Confia (Espagne)

Meilleures salutations,

Dr Oleya EL HARIRI

Chef de la Délégation Marocaine

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

Thank you to those delegations that have provided their support both in interventions and by silence, I would like to make some general comments to what has been proposed:

Technical details on sampling will be dealt with by the EWG, according to the Inclusion Procedure, who will oversee the sensory evaluation.

I see from comments received, that there is support for the three species as already proposed.

Regarding the laboratories, the IP states that ideally they should be from different Codex regions and that the region of the proposing Member (in this case Asia) preferably should be excluded. In light of this, the fact that 6 out of 7 proposed laboratories are from Europe, the comments received, and the criteria provided by the Philippines, I would like to ask the Committee to support the following proposal.

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA
2. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA)
3. AENOR Confia Internacional

I will have to come back to you with a proposal for which laboratory should be the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the assessment.

The chairperson's draft conclusion on this part of agenda item 4 part I will be as follows:

The committee selected the following species to be compared with *Sardinella lemuru*:

1. *Sardina pilchardus* /European Pilchard
2. *Sardinella aurita* /Round Sardinella
3. *Sardinella maderensis* /Madeiran Sardinella

The committee selected the following laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA
2. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA)
3. AENOR Confia Internacional

Is there any objection to this conclusion?

The agenda item will be closed at 12:00 CET 1. October

Thank you for your cooperation,

Vigdis

Chairperson

**Jamaica:**

Good Afternoon Colleagues,

The delete of Jamaica wishes to thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion and to submit our preference of capable laboratories and to select species even though we cannot determine the extent of consumption of such species in the various countries.

- a. AENOR Confia Internacional
- b. Intertek ITALIA SpA
- c. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA)

We would like to support the Kingdom of Thailand with these 3 proposed species also

- a. *Sardinella gibbosa* or Goldstripe Sardinella
- b. *Sardinella aurita* or Round Sardinella
- c. *Sardina pilchardus* or European Pilchard

We did not chose *Sardinella maderensis* because of its "vulnerable" status on the International Union for Conservation of Nature list

Regards

Dr. Wintorph Marsden

Head of Delegation

**The Philippines:**

Madam Chair,

I. The committee selected the following species to be compared with *Sardinella lemuru*:

1. *Sardina pilchardus* /European Pilchard
2. *Sardinella aurita* /Round Sardinella
3. *Sardinella maderensis* /Madeiran Sardinella



The Philippines supports the above-mentioned species to be compared with *Sardinella lemuru*. The three recommended species are available in the Mediterranean Sea (<https://www.fishbase.de>) where the proposed laboratories are located. Only *S. lemuru* shall be provided by the Philippines. We are recommending *Sardinella gibbosa* to be excluded from the reference species as it is not commonly used as a raw material for canning. *S. gibbosa* is also highly seasonal and may not be present during the scheduled sample collection activities. Moreover, *S. gibbosa* is normally landed from a different fishing ground, making it more logistically impractical.

We agree with the view of Jamaica on the status of *maderensis* under the IUCN. However, we request the leniency of the countries as we only need a very small volume of samples of *S. maderensis* for laboratory purposes. In the absence of *S. maderensis*, we recommend *S. gibbosa* as an alternate species for *S. maderensis*.

II. The committee selected the following laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA
2. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA)
3. AENOR Confia Internacional

The Philippines strongly recommends the following laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:

1. INTERTEK ITALIA S.p.A., Milano Italy: supported by Thailand and Morocco)
2. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and the Atmosphere (IPMA): supported by E and Morocco
3. Intertek Test Hizmetleri A.S.:

While we appreciate the proposal for AENOR Confia Internacional to be included, the three aforesaid laboratories are recommended by the Philippines based on (1) the credibility and track record; (2) proximity of the laboratories to the fishing grounds where the three reference species shall be collected; and (3) service fee. It should be noted that there are Intertek laboratories in the Philippines. As such, we can coordinate with the Intertek Laboratory in the Philippines to help expedite the transport of samples from the Philippines. We also recommended the three proposed laboratories due to them being more economical.

Thank you very much.

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

This agenda item has been held open one extra day to allow for more comments, and I recognise those delegations that have submitted their comments and those that have kept silent.

Based on the additional information from the Philippines I hereby close the agenda item with the following conclusion:

The Committee selected the following species to be compared with *Sardinella lemuru*:

1. *Sardina pilchardus* /European Pilchard
2. *Sardinella aurita* /Round Sardinella
3. *Sardinella maderensis* /Madeiran Sardinella

In the absence of *S. maderensis*, *S. gibbosa* would be an alternate species for *S. maderensis* in the sensory evaluation.

The Committee selected the following laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy
2. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), Portugal
3. Intertek Test Hizmetleri A.S, Turkey

Intertek ITALIA SpA will be asked to be the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the assessment and preparing the final report, however this will be subject to agreement between the selected laboratories.

Agenda item 4 part I, will now be closed for comments. Agenda item 4 part II on the setting up of an EWG will be opened Monday 4th October at 12:00 CET.

Vigdis

Chairperson

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

I apologize for closing this part of agenda item 4 (part I) before you had the chance to comment on my conclusion on the laboratories. I recognize the comment from Morocco on this and I would like to reopen this part of agenda item 4 for comments on my draft conclusion. This being said, and from the comments received by Morocco I would like to inform you that after having reached agreement on the laboratories, we will allow for some time to decide on the leading laboratory.

I would also like to underline that most delegates support the species as proposed in my draft conclusion and that I consider this part (species) of the discussion for finalized.

I return to my draft conclusion and ask delegations if there is any objection to the following conclusion:

The Committee selected the following laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy
2. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), Portugal
3. AENOR Confia Internacional

This draft conclusion is open for comments until 6th October 12:00 CET.

I would again apologize for closing too early and thank you for your cooperation.

Vigdis

Chairperson

**The Philippines:**

Dear Chairperson Vigdis,

The Philippines would like to provide comments on the wishes of Thailand to standardize the protocols on sampling and sensory evaluation.

"To ensure that all samples will be prepared under the same standardized conditions, Thailand wishes to seek greater clarifications on the following":

(1) Should the further explanation of the flowchart for sampling protocols will be provided to CCFFP35 for consideration?"

The following sampling and handling protocols are proposed by the Philippines:

**A. PHILIPPINES (for S. lemuru)****I. Collection of Fish Samples (FS)**

- Collect three (3) - 1 kilogram of freshly caught FS aboard the fishing vessel;
- Verify and identify species of collected samples by a Biologist or related expert;
- Select good quality FS with no detached scales and deformities;
- Transfer fish in an ice slurry made with 1:1 ratio of crushed ice and sea water until it reaches an internal temperature of 0oC to be measured using

a digital thermometer;

- Place samples in a polyethylene (PE) plastic bag (1 kg sardines pieces per bag);
- Contain packed samples in a foam box layered with a 1:1 fish to crushed ice ratio;
- Seal box and transport to the nearest Individual Quick Frozen (IQF) facility.

**II. Individual Quick Freezing and Shipment of FS**

- Submit samples to identified IQF facility. The individual quick freezing process shall not be regarded as complete unless the internal sardine

temperature has reached -18oC or colder at the thermal center after stabilization;

- Retrieve frozen FS after approximately 6 hours;
- Pack individually quick frozen FS in polyethylene (PE) plastic bags at 1 kg per bag. The same packaging could be used to pack the IQF sardines;

- Contain frozen samples in a foam box layered with a 1:1 fish to dry ice ratio;
- Secure in a carton box as final packaging;
- Transport to the courier facility for shipment;
- Confirm receipt of FS at the testing laboratory.

## B. REFERENCE LABORATORIES (for *S. aurita*, *S. philchardus* and *S. maderensis*)

### I. Collection of FS

- Collect three (3) 1- kilogram sample for a total of 3 kg of each species of freshly caught FS aboard the fishing vessel;
- Verify and identify species of collected samples by a Biologist or related expert;
- Select good quality FS with no detached scales and deformities;
- Transfer fish in an ice slurry made with 1:1 ratio of crushed ice and sea water until it reaches an internal temperature of 0oC to be measured using a digital thermometer;
- Place samples in a polyethylene (PE) plastic bag (1kg per bag x 3 bags per species x 3 species);
- Contain packed samples in a foam box layered with a 1:1 fish to crushed ice ratio;
- Seal box and transport to the nearest Individual Quick Frozen (IQF) facility.

### II. Individual Quick Freezing of FS

- Submit samples to identified IQF facility. The individual quick freezing process shall not be regarded as complete unless the product temperature has reached -18oC or colder at the thermal center after stabilization;
- Retrieve frozen fish samples after approximately 6 hours;
- Pack frozen fish samples in polyethylene (PE) plastic bags at 1 kg per bag per species x 3 bags per species and place in a foam box layered with a 1:1 fish to dry ice ratio;
- Transport immediately to the laboratory facility (should be in frozen state upon receipt).

### III. Receiving and Storage of Frozen FS from the Philippines

- Receive individually quick frozen FS from the Philippines;
- Store at -18oC prior to analysis.

“(2) Should the detailed protocols for frozen, cooking and streaming will be provided by the lead country?”

The following protocols for Sensory Evaluation are proposed by the Philippines:

Note: Procedures stated in I, II and III shall be repeated in three separate sessions to obtain three sets of results from three replications. One kilogram of samples shall be withdrawn from the storage facility for each session.

#### I. Frozen State

- Withdraw 1 kilogram of frozen fish samples from the storage facility;
- Assemble frozen samples in a clean tray for analysis;
- Evaluate samples for their appearance (presence of freezer burn and colour), using Quantitative Descriptive Analysis (QDA) with reference to the CAC-GL 31-1999;
- Decode sensory evaluation results;
- Interpret the results.

#### II. Thawed State

- Arrange frozen samples on trays after evaluation

- Cover with plastic to prevent drying and contamination or place in plastic bag and immerse in water until the thawing process is complete;
- Remove head and all internal organs;
- Separate fish fillet;
- Assemble thawed samples in a clean tray for analysis;
- Evaluate samples for their texture and odor using Quantitative Descriptive Analysis (QDA) with reference to the CAC-GL 31-1999;
- Decode sensory evaluation results;
- Interpret the results

### III. Cooked State

- Transfer and wrap the raw fish fillet in aluminum foil after evaluation;
- Place wrapped samples on a wire rack suspended over boiling water in a covered container;
- Steam until an internal temperature of 65-70oC is reached (do not overcook);
- Evaluate samples for their odor flavour and texture using Quantitative Descriptive Analysis (QDA) with reference to the CAC-GL 31-1999;
- Decode sensory evaluation results;
- Interpret the results.

“(3) Should the canned sample be included in the sensory evaluation? If so, we suggested that the canned samples of all 4 species should be prepared under the same condition and treatment.”

Position: The Philippines disagree with the proposal.

Reason: The ingredients of the canned sample will interfere with the sensory attributes of the fish.

Further, we would like to thanks the Committee for consideration of the inputs.

Philippine Delegates

#### **CCFFP Chairperson:**

Thank you Philippines for informing the committee of your views,

Your views are very much appreciated and I would leave this information for future consideration by members of the EWG. I suggest that this discussion is being held in the EWG.

I would like to draw your attention to the task at hand; namely to agree on the three laboratories (part I) and EWG ToR (part II).

I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding,

Vigdis

Chairperson

#### **Thailand:**

Thailand wishes to convey our sincere appreciation to the Philippines for her kind support in clarifying Thailand's concerns. All information and views are duly noted with thanks.

In view of a kind suggestion from Madam Chair, any other relevant issues and concerns raised at CCFFP35 would be further taken into consideration by the EWG, once it is established.

Thank you and best regards,

Thailand Delegates

#### **The Philippines:**

Dear Chairperson Vigdis,

The Philippines agrees and supports the draft conclusion made by the Committee that the following laboratories shall perform the sensory evaluations:

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy

2. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), Portugal

3. AENOR Confia Internacional

We have no further comments on other conclusions made by the Committee.

Thank you very much.

Cheryl Marie N. Caballero

Philippines Head of Delegation

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

I would like to thank those that have provided their support for the draft conclusion, and those that have silently supported the draft conclusion. As there has not been any objections, I would like to provide the following conclusion regarding laboratories:

The Committee selected the following laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy

2. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), Portugal

3. AENOR Confia Internacional

I hereby close this part of agenda item 4 (part I), leaving the issue of leading laboratory pending.

In order to facilitate the discussion on leading laboratory, I will open another strain - agenda item 4 (part III). - for this matter, and invite the Philippines to return to the committee with a proposal within the next week.

Thank you!

Vigdis

Chairperson

## Part II

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

For this agenda item we have documents: CX/FFP 21/35/4, CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.1-Rev.1, CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.2-Rev.1 and CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.3. For this agenda item we also have CRD4 from Morocco.

Dear delegates,

The committee has concluded on species, and based on comments received regarding the decision on laboratories we will reopen the possibility for members to provide their inputs to a draft conclusion on laboratories. However this does not prevent me to open the discussion on the setting up of the EWG. and let these two continue in parallel. The following Draft Terms of Reference for the Electronic Working Group (EWG) on the "Sardines standard" has been proposed:

The objective of the EWG established by CCFFP35 is to support the evaluation if the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of Sardinella species under Section 2.1, by

i. overseeing the sensory evaluation of the candidate species, i.e. *S. lemuru* in accordance with the Inclusion Procedure of the Procedural Manual, in particular sections 2.3, 3.3 and 4.

ii. preparing a report to the CCFFP36 on its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Furthermore:

The Philippines have agreed to chair the EWG.

The proposed working languages of the EWG are English and Spanish.

The EWG will start working immediately following the end of CCFFP35 and will finish its work by October 1, 2022.

I would like to open the floor for comments on the Terms of Reference, co-chairing of the EWG and working languages.

I would also like to remind participants that working by correspondence means that Members and observers can respond or build comments made by other participants, much like in a plenary discussion in real time. This will be particularly important for the committee to successfully arrive at a conclusion within the set timeframe.

Timetable regarding "EWG Terms of Reference and host/co-host(s)" for the EWG

- This part of agenda 4 item will be open for comments between 4. October at 12:00 CET until 12:00 CET on 7. October.
- The Chairperson's conclusion on this part of agenda item will be presented before 2 pm CET 7 October.

Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen

Chairperson

**Morocco:**

Bonjour tout le monde

Le Maroc valide les deux points inscrits dans le mandat du Groupe de travail électronique (GTE) et propose d'ajouter les points suivant en relation avec l'examen de la documentation fournie par le pays demandeur ainsi que le rapport de l'Evaluation sensorielle établi par le laboratoire Principal. C'est ainsi que le mandat proposé sera comme suit :

- Examiner la documentation fournie par le(s) membre(s) demandeur conformément à la section 3.1 (Description) et à la section 3.2. (Les données économiques) ;
- Superviser l'évaluation sensorielle de l'espèce candidate, c'est-à-dire *S. lemuru* conformément à la Procédure d'inclusion du Manuel de procédure, en particulier les sections 2.3, 3.3 et 4 ;
- Examiner le rapport de l'évaluation sensorielle établi par le laboratoire Principal ;
- Informé le Comité si l'espèce candidate satisfait aux exigences définies pour l'inclusion dans la norme pertinente
- Préparer un rapport au CCFFP36 sur ses constatations, conclusions et des recommandations concernant l'inclusion de l'espèce candidate au Comité pour examen.

Justification :

Le mandat du GTE doit être conforme aux dispositions de la procédure d'inclusion de nouvelles espèces dans les normes pour les poissons et les produits de la pêche (section II) du manuel de procédure du Codex Alimentarius, notamment Le point 2.3 qui stipule que :

- Le GTE doit examiner la documentation fournie par le(s) membre(s) demandeur ;
- Le GTE doit Informer le Comité si l'espèce candidate satisfait aux exigences définies pour l'inclusion dans la norme pertinente.

Concernant la présidence, par souci d'impartialité et afin d'éviter toute équivoque, le Maroc suggère de confier la présidence à un pays neutre autre que le pays demandeur la présidence, le cas échéant, le pays requérant peut assurer la co-présidence. Si aucun autre pays ne se présente pour la présidence, le Maroc n'a pas d'objection par rapport à la candidature des Philippines.

Les langues de travail proposées pour le GTE sont l'anglais et l'espagnol. Le Maroc propose de rajouter la langue Française.

Mes salutations distinguées

Dr Oleya EL HARIRI

Chef Délégation du Maroc

**Codex Secretariat:**

Dear Participants,

Regarding the languages the Committee choose for the work in the EWG, the Codex Secretariat would recommend the following:

- The languages chosen for the EWG should be the ones that participants can use for posting messages and that the translation function embedded in the online forum platform be used for translations as need be by the participants themselves.
- The report of the EWG will be officially translated from English to the other language(s) chosen.

Many thanks

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Thank you for your comments Morocco,

First, I would like to address the language issue. As explained by the Codex Secretariat, members can post their comments in English, French and Spanish and use Google translate as it is embedded in the online forum platform to be used. I would like to suggest that the report from the EWG will be officially translated from English into French and Spanish. Are there any objections to this?

When it comes to co-chairing, this is already open for comments by members.

When it comes to the matter of ToR, I would like to underscore that all your comments are already taken care of in the proposed ToR i.

The amendments are not needed for the EWG to address these issues, as they are already referred to (relevant chapters 2.3, 3.3 and 4 in the Inclusion procedure). I therefore propose to keep the ToR as already presented as it takes care of the views also expressed by Morocco. However I am in the committees hands on this.

Vigdis

Chairperson

**The Philippines:**

Dear Chairperson Vigdis,

The following summarizes the response of the Philippines on Agenda Item 4 Part II.

The Philippines recommends that the EWG will start working immediately following the end of CCFFP35 and will finish its work by October 1, 2022, or may extend until February or March 2023, if needed.

(i) Chairpersons of the EWG

The Philippines appreciates the support from several Members that the Philippines shall chair the EWG.

The Philippines invited the EU to co-chair the EWG and the response was favorable.

The Philippines also welcomes proposals from any Member country to chair or co-chair the EWG. The Philippines is also open for co-chairmanship in case the Committee agrees that another Member will chair the EWG.

(ii) The Terms of Reference (ToR)

The Philippines agrees with the proposed ToR for the EWG which are in accordance with the guidelines in the Codex Procedural Manual.

(iii) Working Languages

The Philippines also welcomes the inclusion of French as a working language, in addition to English and Spanish, provided that the Committee approves such recommendation.

We also wish to express that we have no objections that the EWG Report will be officially translated from English to French and Spanish as suggested.

With regards to the comment of the European Union (EU) on the sustainability of the resources: ... it would be important to know how the Philippines applies its Management Plan, and the results that are being obtained. It would also be desirable to have a scientific evaluation on how the stocks will be affected by the foreseen higher fishing pressure related to its inclusion in the list.

The National Sardines Management Plan (NSMP) (DA-BFAR, 2020) of the Philippines is being implemented in the twelve (12) Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) of the country (FAO 263: Establishment of Fishery Management Areas for the Conservation and Management of Fisheries in Philippine Waters, 2019). Each FMA has its own Management Body (MB) and Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) as advisory bodies. The NSMP is consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) using science-based methods and the precautionary principle in fishery management. EAFM is embodied under Republic Act 8550 (The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, 1998) as amended by Republic Act 10654 (An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2015).

Guided by the priority issues identified in the NSMP, three goals are identified stating what will be achieved by management actions within a certain time period. These are:

(1) Improved Science-based indicators for the sustainability of sardine stocks;

- (2) Improved distribution of benefits among sardine fisherfolk communities; and  
(3) Strengthened science-based management for sustainable sardine fisheries.

Each goal has set of objectives with specified performance indicators, management actions, and monitoring and evaluation criteria for effective implementation. For example, Goal 1 has two objectives namely:

- (a) Establish Biomass-based or Fishing Mortality-based reference points for three (3) top sardine species by 2023; and  
(b) Reduce proportion of juveniles in the landed catch by 10% in 5 years; wherein a number of management actions are stated to be implemented by identified entities within a specified timeline.

All of these objectives shall be attained through imposition of fishery management options such as Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) based on Reference Points (RPs). Sustainability of these management initiatives shall be through legislations from BFAR (Fisheries Administrative Orders) and local government units (Municipal Ordinances).

References:

An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, no. RA 10654 (2015).

[DA-BFAR] Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. (2020).

National Sardines Management Plan 2020-2025. Quezon City, Philippines.

FAO 263: Establishment of Fishery Management Areas for the Conservation of Fisheries in the Philippine Waters (2019). Quezon City, Philippines.

The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, no. RA 8550 (1998).

Thank you very much.

Cheryl Marie N. Caballero

Philippines Head of Delegation

**Mauritius:**

Dear Chairperson

No objection.we also support co-chairing

thank you

**India:**

India agrees with the ToR and the languages proposed for the deliberations. India also supports the proposal of Philippines nominating EU as Co-Chair.

**European Union:**

Dear Chairperson,

The EU is in agreement with the proposed terms of reference of the EWG. We are also pleased to accept the invitation of the Philippines to co-chair the EWG.

Best regards,

Risto Holma

DG Health and Food Safety

European Commission

**Indonesia:**

Dear Chairperson

Indonesia has no objection to the proposed draft terms of reference of the EWG. Indonesia also supports Philippines to chair the EWG and EU as co-chair.

Thank you very much.

Lia Sugihartini

Indonesia Head of Delegation

**Morocco:**



Bonjour Madame la Présidente

Le Maroc vous remercie pour votre réponse.

Sauf que la Maroc insiste d'ajouter dans les termes du GTE le point suivant :

i. Examiner la documentation fournie par le(s) membre(s) demandeur conformément à la section 3.1 (Description) et à la section 3.2. (Les données économiques) ;

Justification

Le mandat du GTE doit être conforme aux dispositions de la procédure d'inclusion de nouvelles espèces dans les normes pour les poissons et les produits de la pêche (section II) du manuel de procédure du Codex Alimentarius, notamment Le point 2.3 qui stipule que le GTE doit examiner la documentation fournie par le(s) membre(s) demandeur.

Je vous remercie.

**Norway:**

Dear Madam Chairperson

Norway has no comments to the proposed terms of reference of the EWG.

Best regards,

Åsne Sangolt

Norway

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

I would like to thank you for the support for the proposed ToR for the EWG. I would also like to thank the Philippines for their willingness to chair the EWG and EU for their willingness to co-chair.

Before presenting the draft conclusion, I would like to address the latest intervention by Morocco about including a review of the documentation provided by the requesting Member, referring to sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the Inclusion Procedure.

Reviewing the documentation is important and will be conducted by the EWG. As informed earlier, the draft ToR in point a. emphasized that the work should be in accordance with section 2.3 (Working group) in the Inclusion Procedure. This section clearly states in bullet 1 that the working group will "review the documentation provided by the proposing member(s)". Therefore, I consider your point as already taken care of with the reference to section 2.3 in the ToR. The language used is also in line with section 2.2 (second b) in the Inclusion Procedure.

I would like to thank Morocco for your understanding, and proceed with my draft conclusion based on the support from delegates:

The objective of the EWG established by CCFFP35 is to support the evaluation if the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of Sardinella species under Section 2.1, by

i. overseeing the sensory evaluation of the candidate species, i.e. *S. lemuru* in accordance with the Inclusion Procedure of the Procedural Manual, in particular sections 2.3, 3.3 and 4.

ii. preparing a report to the CCFFP36 on its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

The EWG will be chaired by the Philippines and co-chaired by EU.

The working languages of the EWG are English, French and Spanish.

The EWG will start working immediately following the end of CCFFP35 and will finish its work by October 1, 2022.

The draft conclusion will be open for comments until 12:00 CET 8.10.2021 and I would like to underline that I interpret silence as agreement.

Vigdis

Chairperson

**Morocco:**

Bonjour Tout le monde

Le Maroc valide la conclusion proposée par vos soins Madame la présidente.

Aussi le Maroc souhaite féliciter les Philippines pour la présidence du GTE ainsi que l'UE pour la Co-présidence.

Salutations distinguées

Dr Oleya EL HARIRI

Chef de la délégation du Maroc

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Thank you for your support Morocco.

Vigdis

Chair

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

Thank you for your support. This agenda item will now be closed for comments.

Conclusion

CCFFP35 agreed to establish an EWG to support the evaluation if the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* (Bali Sardinella) in the list of Sardinella species under Section 2.1, by

i. overseeing the sensory evaluation of the candidate species, i.e. *S. lemuru* in accordance with the Inclusion Procedure of the Procedural Manual, in particular sections 2.3, 3.3 and 4.

ii. preparing a report to the CCFFP36 on its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

The EWG will be chaired by the Philippines and co-chaired by EU.

The working languages of the EWG are English, French and Spanish.

Translation is embedded in the online forum platform to be used. The report from the EWG will be officially translated from English into French and Spanish.

As there has not been any proposals for agenda item 5 (other business), the only remaining issue is to designate one of the laboratories (Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy, Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), Portugal, AENOR Confia Internacional, Spain) to be the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the assessment and preparing the final report. This matter will be discussed in a separate strain and more information will be provided next week. If you have any initial comments on this issue, please use the relevant strain (agenda item 4 part III – Designation of leading laboratory to coordinate .....)

Vigdis

Chair

### Part III

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

The Committee has selected the following laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation:

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy
2. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), Portugal
3. AENOR Confia Internacional

The committee will now have to designate the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the assessment and preparing the draft report. I would like to invite the Philippines to return to the committee with a proposal.

The tentative timeframe for this discussion will be:

- This part of agenda item 4 will be open for comments between 13. October at 12:00 CET until 12:00 CET on 15. October.

- The Chairperson's conclusion on this part of agenda item will be presented before 2 pm CET 15. October.

Vigdis

Chairperson

**The Philippines:**

Dear Chairperson Vigdis,

The Philippines is respectfully nominating Intertek ITALIA S. p. A., Milano, Italia as the lead laboratory in the sensory evaluation of sardines. Being the lead laboratory, Intertek ITALIA S.p.A., Milano, Italia shall be in charge of coordinating the assessment and preparing the final report.

Thank you very much. Best regards.

CHERYL MARIE NATIVIDAD- CABALLERO

Head of Delegation, Philippines

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Thank you, Philippines,

I welcome your proposal for the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the sensory evaluation and preparing the report from the sensory evaluation.

I would like to hear from members if there are any comments on the proposal.

Furthermore, I would like to inform the committee that all practical and technical details regarding the sensory evaluation will be dealt with in the EWG chaired by the Philippines and the EU.

Vigdis

Chairperson

**Portugal:**

Dear Chair Person,

Dr. Vigdis Veum Mollersen

Regarding the CCFFP nomination of the leading laboratory for the sensory evaluation of the Sardinella lemuru, Portugal would like to propose the Portuguese National Reference Laboratory, IPMA (Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera), to undertake the lead laboratory role in the sensory evaluation of sardines and to prepare the final report.

On earlier rounds some countries supported IPMA to lead the assessment and we believe that IPMA being a governmental institute, have the necessary resources, experience, expertise, and independence to undertake such task.

We hope the Member Countries may consider this proposal.

Our best regards

Miguel Cardo

Portuguese Codex Alimentarius Contact Point

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Thank you, Portugal,

So far, the discussion has evolved around deciding which three laboratories to be selected by the Committee to perform the sensory evaluation, not the designation of the leading laboratory. The Committee has agreed on the following three, without any comments or preference of leading laboratory:

1. Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy
2. Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), Portugal
3. AENOR Confia Internacional

The task at hand is to designate the leading laboratory, and Intertek has already been proposed. From the response in the Committee so far, I tend to propose that the Committee support Intertek as the leading laboratory to coordinate the sensory evaluation and prepare the report from this evaluation in either English, French, or Spanish. However, I will close the discussion at 14:00 CET today, discuss with the laboratories and come back to the Committee with a draft Conclusion before Tuesday 19 October 12:00 CET.

Vigdis

Chair

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear Delegates,

I would like to inform you that there have been constructive discussions with the three laboratories to propose a leading laboratory. There is agreement among the laboratories to cooperate on the task and that Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy may act as the coordinating laboratory responsible for preparing the report.

Based on the discussion with the laboratories I would like to offer the following draft conclusion:

CCFF35 designated Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy as the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the assessment and preparing the final report from the sensory evaluation.

Is there any objection to this conclusion?

The draft conclusion will be open for comments until 12:00 CET 19.10.2021. I would like to underline that I interpret silence as agreement.

Thank you,

Vigdis

Chairperson

**Portugal:**

Dear Chair Person,

Dr. Vigdis Veum Mollersen

Regarding the proposal of designation of the laboratory Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy as the leading laboratory for the sensory evaluation of the Sardinella lemuru, regardless of the proposal of IPMA (Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera), to undertake the lead laboratory role, we are glad to announce our agreement with the proposal of the chairperson.

IPMA (Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera), as one of the chosen laboratories for this evaluation, will fully collaborate with Intertek ITALIA SpA, as well as with AENOR Confia Internacional, Spain in the achievement of the main objectives delegated by the Committee.

Our best regards

Miguel Cardo

Portuguese Codex Alimentarius Contact Point

**CCFFP Chairperson:**

Dear delegates,

Thank you for your collaboration. This final part of agenda item 4 will now be closed for comments.

Conclusion

CCFFP35 designated Intertek ITALIA SpA, Italy as the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the sensory evaluation and preparing the report from the sensory evaluation.

I would like to remind the Committee that as there were no items proposed under agenda item 5, other business, there are no remaining issues on the agenda. CCFFP35 has therefore now completed its discussion.

The virtual adoption of the report will take place on 25th October starting at 12:00 pm (noon) CET.

A registration link to obtain your personal zoom link to participate in the report adoption will be sent to all participants shortly.

The draft report will be published on the CCFFP35 page on the Codex website by 23 October 2021, 12 pm (noon) CET.

Vigdis S. Veum Moellersen

Chairperson