



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEAR EAST**

Tenth Session

Rome, Italy, 11-15 November 2019

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES**

A. 40TH, 41TH AND 42ND SESSIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC40, CAC41 and CAC42)

Matters for Information

Regional Standard for Doogh¹

1. CAC40 agreed to adopt the draft Regional Standard for Doogh at Step 5/8².
2. CAC41 noted that the food-additive provisions in the draft Regional Standard for Doogh had not been endorsed by CCFA50³ and agreed to publish the Regional Standard for Doogh, noting its provisions on food additives would be subject to further development.

Regional Standard for Mixed Zaatar

3. CAC40 agreed to adopt the draft Regional Standard for Mixed Zaatar at Step 5 and to amend the target for completion of work on the standard to 2019⁴.

Amendments to the Procedural Manual⁵

4. CAC40 adopted amendments to the sections on:
 - the *Principles for the establishment of Codex methods of analysis* to clarify that “there are numerous ways in which methods and limits that involve a sum of components can be converted into method performance criteria but this should be undertaken with care on a case-by-case basis”; and
 - the *Nutritional risk analysis principles and guidelines for application to the work of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses* to include the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU) as a primary source of scientific advice.
5. CAC41 adopted the amendment to the section on *Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods* by deleting the requirements that extrapolation of MRLs to one or more species could only be recommended where JECFA had identified that it is scientifically justifiable and the uncertainties have been clearly defined in order to provide more autonomy to CCRVDF.

Member for Near East⁶

6. CAC40 elected Egypt as member of the Executive Committee for the Near East for the period from the end of CAC40 to the end of CAC42 (2019).
7. CAC42 re-elected Egypt as member of the Executive Committee for the Near East for the period from the end of CAC42 to the end of CAC44 (currently scheduled for 2022)⁷.

¹ REP17/CAC para. 16 and Appendix III.

² The food labelling provisions were endorsed by CCFL44, REP18/FL para. 14.

³ REP18/FA, para. 33

⁴ REP17/CAC para153, Appendix IV

⁵ REP17/CAC para. 11 and Appendix II; REP18/CAC para. 15 and Appendix II

⁶ REP17/CAC paras. 206 and 207.

⁷ REP19/CAC para. 146

Matters for actionRegular Review of Codex Work Management: Electronic Working Groups⁸

8. CAC40 recommended that the Codex Secretariat work with regional coordinators in examining barriers to active participation and identifying possible solutions. CCNE is invited to **consider** this matter.

Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025⁹

9. CAC42 encouraged all Members to participate in the development of the work plan for implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 through the upcoming discussions at the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and other fora as they arise. This matter **will be considered** under Agenda Item 7.2. One aspect related to Strategic Goal 3 **will be considered** under Agenda Item 8.

Coordinator for Near East¹⁰

10. CAC40 reappointed Iran as coordinator for Near East to hold office from the end of CAC40 to the end of CAC42 (2019). CAC42 noted that as the sessions of the six FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees had been postponed by one year to the second half of 2019 Iran would remain in office until the end of CAC43 (2020). The new Regional Coordinator for the Near East should be nominated at CCNE10, be appointed by CAC43, and hold office from the end of that session. This matter **will be considered** under Agenda Item 11.

B. OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES**73rd, 74th and 77th Sessions of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC73, CCEXEC74 and CCEXEC77)****Matters for information**Revitalization of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs)¹¹

11. CCEXEC73 encouraged FAO, WHO and the Secretariat to continue the revitalization process throughout the next cycle of RCCs meetings; and further encouraged members to actively participate in future surveys conducted in conjunction with RCC meetings.

Horizontal agenda for 2018/2019 round of RCCs¹²

12. CCEXEC74 agreed to include the draft Codex strategic plan 2020–2025 and the Codex Communication Workplan, including linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals in the provisional agenda.

Co-chairing of Codex committee meetings¹³

13. CCEXEC74:

- welcomed the proposal regarding co-chairing in the absence of co-hosting as a positive development, using RCCs as an appropriate forum as suggested by CCASIA, and the confirmation by the Secretariat that there were no procedural impediments to proceeding with this initiative;
- noted that, since there was no applicable procedure or protocol in place, it was a matter for host countries to experiment with arrangements in this area, underscoring the significant responsibilities involved and preparation required, including consideration of issues such as technical support and the clear delineation of responsibilities; and
- welcomed the willingness of members with relevant experience to share their insights.

Matters for actionCommittee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)¹⁴

14. CCEXEC77 noted the interest in activating the work on cashew kernels and that members were encouraged to participate in the work of CCPFV and this could be further discussed in the upcoming FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs). This matter **will be considered** under Agenda Item 6.

⁸ REP17/CAC para. 116

⁹ REP19/CAC, para. 122 (ii)

¹⁰ REP/19/CAC, para. 147

¹¹ REP17/EXEC2, para. 96

¹² REP18/EXEC1, para. 16

¹³ REP18/EXEC1, para. 14

¹⁴ REP18/EXEC2, para. 31

38th and 40th Session of Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS38 and CCMAS40)

Matters for information

Presentation of methods of analysis by committees¹⁵

15. CCMAS38 agreed to remind committees that when methods are submitted to CCMAS for endorsement, these methods should indicate also the principle as well as proposed typing for the methods.

Review and update of CXS 234 and development of database of methods¹⁶

16. CCMAS40 agreed to inform all Codex Committees of the current work of CCMAS regarding the review and update of CXS 234 and the development of a database for methods of analysis and sampling endorsed by CCMAS and adopted by CAC.

44th and 45th Session of Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL44 and CCFL45)

Matters for information

Labelling of non-retail containers¹⁷

17. CCFL44:

- noted that many commodity standards (including those submitted for endorsement) contained provisions for non-retail containers which referred to a standardized text applicable to this provision that had been endorsed by CCFL at past and present sessions; and
- agreed to inform commodity committees of CCFL's ongoing work on guidance for the labelling of non-retail containers so that they were aware that the current standardized provisions might need to be adjusted or removed to reference the aforesaid guidance.

18. CCFL45¹⁸ made progress on the work on this matter, agreed to forward the proposed draft revision to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5; and to inform the relevant commodity committees on the progress of the work.

50th and 51st Session of Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA50 and CCFA51)

Matters for information

Guidance on the alignment of food additive provisions and alignment plan¹⁹

19. CCFA50 agreed to:

- publish the guidance document as an information document on the Codex website and inform the relevant committees for their reference; and
- inform RCCs of the alignment plan of CCFA, in which standards developed by RCCs were scheduled for completion in the year of 2022 or 2023.

20. CCFA51 endorsed an updated forward work plan²⁰ = for alignment of food-additive provisions in commodity standards, including five standards of CCNE. The Committee is invited **to consider** how to approach the work on alignment of standards developed by the CCNE, in line with the guidance provided by CCFA.

Matters for action

Regional Standard for Doogh

21. CCFA50 agreed:

- not to endorse the food-additive provisions in the draft Regional Standard for Doogh;
- and to request that CCNE:
 - consider whether a general reference to the GSFA was possible in place of food-additive provisions in the draft Regional Standard and if not to provide a justification;
 - assess the detailed comments provided in CRD31 (comments of Japan);

¹⁵ REP17/MAS, para. 27

¹⁶ REP19/MAS, para. 92 (i).

¹⁷ REP18/FL, para. 20

¹⁸ REP19/FL, para. 64

¹⁹ REP18/FA, paras. 48 (vii), (viii) and Appendix XI

²⁰ CCFA Information Document - [Guidance to Commodity Committees on the Alignment of Food Additive Provisions](#)

- reconsider reference to footnote (a) in the Table of Section 4.1.

22. This matter **will be considered** under Agenda Item 9.

24th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS24)

Matters for information

Food Integrity, food authenticity and food fraud²¹

23. CCFICS24 continued the discussions on the topic of food integrity, food authenticity and food fraud and noted that the work was broad and might overlap with the mandates of other committees and CCFICS could consider seeking advice from the Commission and relevant Committees.

24. CCFICS24 also agreed to inform CCEXEC, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including CCGP, of its ongoing discussions on this subject.

²¹ REP19/FICS, paras. 57-58