



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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CRITICAL REVIEW - PART I¹

1. Procedural background for the Critical Review

1.1 According to the *Procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, Part 2, Critical review*, in the Codex Procedural Manual, “An ongoing critical review shall ensure that proposals for new work and draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption continue to meet the strategic priorities of the Commission and can be developed within a reasonable period of time, taking into account the requirements and availability of scientific expert advice”. Furthermore, “The Commission decides, taking into account the outcome of the ongoing critical review conducted by the Executive Committee, that a standard should be elaborated and also which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work”.

1.2 In line with this, CCEXEC is invited to critically review the work of the committees, taking into account the recommendations of the Secretariat and the comments of the Chairpersons to:

- review standards and related texts submitted to the Commission for adoption;
- monitor the progress of standards development; and
- review proposals for new work or revision of standards.

2. Examining proposed standards before submission to the Commission for adoption

2.1 The critical review process shall ensure that draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption have been fully considered at committee level. The Executive Committee examines proposed standards from Codex committees before they are submitted to the Commission for adoption:

- for consistency with the mandate of Codex, the decisions of the Commission, and existing Codex texts;
- to ensure that the requirements of the endorsement procedure have been fulfilled, where appropriate;
- for format and presentation; and
- for linguistic consistency.

3. Monitoring progress of standards development

3.1 The Executive Committee reviews the status of development of draft standards against the timeframe agreed by the Commission and shall report its findings to the Commission. CCEXEC may propose an extension of the timeframe; cancellation of work; or propose that the work be undertaken by a committee other than the one to which it was originally entrusted, including via the establishment of a limited number of subsidiary bodies, if appropriate.

3.2 *Criteria to facilitate the conduct of monitoring progress of standards development²*

3.2.1 When progress on a standard is delayed due to the need for scientific advice, the Executive Committee could encourage FAO and WHO to schedule an expert consultation to provide such advice in a timely manner, and recommend suspension of work until such time as scientific advice became available;

3.2.2 When scientific advice has been provided and a standard has been under consideration for more than five years, the Executive Committee should urge the committee concerned to take action within a specified timeframe;

¹ This document addresses the Codex committees that held sessions between 12 October 2022 and 15 March 2023

² CCEXEC58 (2006)

3.2.3 When an item has been considered for several sessions without any progress and there is no prospect of reaching consensus, the Executive Committee could propose suspension of work at a particular step in the elaboration procedure for a specified period of time or discontinuation of work, or corrective action to be taken to achieve progress, fully taking into consideration the information provided by the subsidiary body concerned.

3.3 Discussion papers³

Discussion papers contribute to the workload of a committee and are important discussion tools for committees before requesting new work. A list of discussion papers is included for information purposes only, in order to present a complete view of the workload of each committee, but will not be discussed as such.

4. Proposals to undertake new work or to revise a standard

4.1 Prior to approval for development, each proposal for new work or revision of a standard shall be accompanied by a project document, prepared by the Committee or Member proposing new work or revision of a standard. The decision to undertake new work or to revise standards shall be taken by the Commission taking into account a critical review conducted by CCEXEC.

4.2 The critical review includes:

- Examination of proposals for development/revisions of standards, taking into account the “*Criteria for the establishment of work priorities*”, the strategic plan of the Commission, and the required supporting work of independent risk assessment;
- Identifying the standard setting needs of developing countries;
- Advice on the need for coordination of work between relevant Codex subsidiary bodies;
- Advice on establishment and dissolution of committees and task forces, including *ad hoc* cross-committee task forces (in areas where work falls within several committees); and
- Preliminary assessment of the need for expert scientific advice and the availability of such advice from FAO, WHO or other relevant expert bodies, and the prioritization of that advice.

4.3 The decision to undertake new work or revision of individual maximum residue limits for pesticides or veterinary drugs, or the maintenance of the *General Standard on Food Additives* (including methods of analysis and sampling), the *General Standard on Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (including methods of analysis and sampling), the Food Categorization System and the International Numbering System, shall follow the procedures established by the committees concerned and endorsed by the Commission.

5. Further development of the critical review

5.1 CCEXEC72⁴ welcomed a new structure for the critical review which consisted of one document instead of three documents and also agreed for the information to be delivered in instalments to ensure timely availability. CCEXEC72 also indicated that it would be useful to have more information and insights from the Chairpersons on committee work and that the Secretariat give more guidance to the Chairpersons as to the inputs needed to allow CCEXEC to be more effective in the critical review. The importance of maintaining a horizontal view of the work of committees and the interactions between committees was highlighted.

5.2 A slightly revised structure for the critical review of the work in Codex committees was piloted for the review undertaken by CCEXEC77. The revised structure aimed at improving readability and giving more prominence and emphasis on information and insights from the Chairpersons. As the feedback on the revised structure has been positive, this structure is being maintained.

5.3 The Codex Secretariat has also examined the critical review as part of the ongoing regular review of Codex work management. Further information on this can be found in documents CX/EXEC 19/77/5 and CX/EXEC 20/78/4.

6. Structure of appendices

6.1 The work of the different committees is addressed in separate appendices.

6.2 The structure of the appendices for each committee is as follows:

1. General information on the committee and session
2. Overall comments (Secretariat/Chairperson)
3. Status of work items (Overview)
4. Specific comments on individual work items (Secretariat/Chairperson)

³ CCEXEC63 (2009)

⁴ CCEXEC72 (2016), REP17/EXEC1 paras. 7-14

7. List of appendices

Appendix 1: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA22)

Appendix 2: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC22)

Appendix 3: Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH53)

Appendix 4: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP16)

Appendix 5: Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF26)

Appendix 6: Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU43)

Appendix 1

1. General

Committee	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)		
Host	China	Chairperson	Jing Tian
Session reported on	CCASIA22	12, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 21 October 2022	
Next Session	CCASIA23	2024 (TBC)	
Report	<u>REP23/ASIA</u>		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCASIA22 was successfully convened as a virtual meeting. CCASIA22 had effectively utilized the additional time since CCASIA21 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to progress work. Three virtual working group (VWG) meetings were held prior to CCASIA22 to prepare for the plenary discussions on the regional standards.</p> <p>CCASIA22 consensually agreed to forward to CAC46 the proposed draft regional standard for soybean products fermented with <i>Bacillus</i> species and the proposed draft regional standard for cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves for adoption at Steps 5/8, and the proposed draft regional standard for quick frozen dumpling for adoption at Step 5. CCASIA23 also agreed to forward to CAC46 adoption of the amended provisions for labelling of non-retail containers in five CCASIA regional standards to align with the <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods</i> (CXS 346-2021).</p> <p>CCASIA22 discussed the development of regional standards for "traditional sweets," "cooked rice," and "canned congee." As these processed products are mainly produced in the region, often ready-to-eat, and traded globally, but do not have an appropriate commodity committee or currently active one, CCASIA22 sought guidance from CCEXEC on how to effectively address new work proposals for such products.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Due to the COVID19-pandemic, CCASIA22 was held virtually with the tremendous support of the Codex secretariat taking into account the experiences from other committees. Compared with other regional committees, CCASIA22 faced great challenges due to the heavy workload since three proposed draft regional standards and three new work proposals were reviewed, in addition to discussing Codex related matters in the region. Thanks to our joint efforts, the Committee successfully completed all its work tasks. The working mechanism with (electronic working groups) EWGs and VWGs had effectively promoted the smooth progress of the work on regional Codex standards.</p> <p>Because of the complexity of dietary habits and traditional foods in the region, the desire to develop regional standards has been increasing. However, given the limited resources, guidance from CCEXEC is necessary especially regarding the need to develop Codex standards for processed products. At the same time, <i>score sheet to prioritize the CCASIA regional issues and needs</i> should be improved in order to prioritize new work proposals in the future, in line with the practices of other committees (e.g. CCNFSDU, CCFH).</p> <p>Despite the virtual modality, only 12 of the 24 Member countries in the region attended CCASIA22, the same number of Members attending the last physical meeting of CCASIA. It seems that encouraging the Member countries in the region to actively participate in Codex activities is still one of the priorities of our region.</p> <p>The agenda items were discussed efficiently. The current workload of CCASIA is manageable. Most efforts have been devoted to addressing the issues raised by Member countries, which was in line with the Member driven principle in the Codex Strategic Plan. During the plenary, Members participated in the discussion on the operationalization of the SoP, the future of Codex, new food sources and production systems, and monitoring the use of Codex standards, and have been engaged in informal discussions about zilpaterol hydrochloride, which demonstrated the enthusiasm of Members in CCASIA for participating in discussion on Codex work management and future of Codex.</p> <p>Last but not the least, two regional standards were discussed and agreed to be forwarded to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8, and one regional standard agreed to be forwarded for adoption at step 5. The SOP will be an information document for CCASIA. The next session will continue the discussion on the regional standards at step 5 and the new work proposals submitted or resubmitted by Members.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Proposed draft regional standard for soybean products fermented with <i>Bacillus</i> species	N02-2020	2024	Adoption at Steps 5/8
2. Proposed draft regional standard for cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves	N04-2020	2024	Adoption at Steps 5/8
3. Proposed draft regional standard for quick frozen dumpling	N03-2020	2024	Adoption at Step 5
4. Amendment of the provisions for labelling of non-retail containers in CXS 294R-2009, CXS 298R-2009, CXS 301R-2011, CXS 306R-2011, CXS 323R-2017	-	-	Adoption
For information/action			
5. Request for guidance from CCEXEC	Request to CCEXEC		
6. The standard operating procedure (SOP) for CCASIA	Update		
7. Endorsement of the regional work plan 2022-2024 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025	Update		
8. Update of new work proposals for regional standards	Update		

4. Specific comments

<p>1. Proposed draft regional standard for soybean products fermented with <i>Bacillus</i> species, Paragraph 50(i), Appendix VI</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>The scope of this work had been expanded from a single commodity i.e., <i>Natto</i> to a group of commodities with similar traits to ensure an inclusive approach before being approved as new work by CAC43 (2020). Three rounds of consultations had been undertaken within the EWG followed by a virtual WG prior to CCASIA22 to address outstanding issues.</p> <p>Following a constructive discussion, CASIA22 agreed to forward the proposed draft regional standard for soybean products fermented with <i>Bacillus</i> species to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8. The food additive provisions have been endorsed by CCFA53. Food labelling provisions, and methods of analysis will be forwarded to CCFL and CCMAS for endorsement, respectively. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The discussion of this standard was constructive and thorough. The expansion of the scope demonstrated the spirit of compromise and harmonization in the regional standard work. The work is manageable. CCASIA22 agreed to forward this standard to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8.</p>
<p>2. Proposed draft regional standard for cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves, Paragraph 83(i), Appendix VII</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>This work had been approved by CAC43 (2020). The EWG had proactively worked on this matter and conducted three rounds of consultation. Consensus had been reached at a virtual WG convened prior to CCASIA22.</p> <p>Following a constructive discussion, CASIA22 agreed to forward the proposed draft regional standard for cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8. The food additive provisions have been endorsed by CCFA53. Food labelling provisions, and methods of analysis will be forwarded to CCFL and CCMAS for endorsement, respectively. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Prior to this session, a VWG had been arranged and consensus had been reached. Furthermore, a series of discussions were initiated by the CCASIA Chairperson, Codex secretariat, as well as the EWG Chairperson to discuss the issues of concern related to this work. The Committee managed to complete the work and forwarded the proposed draft regional standard to CAC46 for final adoption at Steps 5/8.</p>
<p>3. Proposed draft regional standard for quick frozen dumpling, Paragraph 70(i), Appendix VIII</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>This work had been approved by CAC43 (2020). The EWG had conducted three rounds of consultation. Consensus had been reached at a virtual WG convened prior to CCASIA22. However, CCASIA could not reach consensus on the food additives section.</p> <p>Following a constructive discussion, CASIA22 agreed to forward the proposed draft regional standard for quick frozen dumplings to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5. CCASIA22 furthermore agreed to establish an EWG to consider the section on food additives as well as the replies to the request for comments at Step 6 and provide a revised version for consideration at CCASIA23.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>There was a very productive discussion during the plenary. The fundamental concern was on the food additives section. Although an informal in-session virtual meeting had been arranged during the session, there was no agreement on the appropriateness of food category in the GSFA, the necessity to separate the use of food additives in the dough and the fillings, and so on. In view of the difficulties to reach consensus on the section, CCASIA22 agreed to retain the food additives section in square brackets for further consideration.</p> <p>Since there was consensus on other parts of the standards, CCASIA22 agreed to forward this standard to CAC46 for adoption at step 5, and the EWG has been established for further work.</p>

<p>4. Amendment of the provisions for labelling of non-retail containers in relevant CCASIA regional standards, Paragraph 28(iv)</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCASIA22 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption the amended text for the section on labelling of non-retail containers, in the <i>Regional Standards for Gochujang</i> (CXS 294R-2009), <i>Fermented Soybean Paste (Asia)</i> (CXS 298R-2009), <i>Edible Sago Flour (Asia)</i> (CXS 301R-2011) and <i>Chilli Sauce</i> (CXS 306R-2011) to align with the <i>General Standard for the Labelling of Non-retail Containers of Foods</i> (CXS 346-2021).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>There is no specific comment to add. The work is manageable.</p>
<p>5. Request for guidance from CCEXEC, Paragraph 115</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCASIA22, noting the concerns raised by some Members, as well as the desire to develop regional standards for processed products that are becoming increasingly popular, agreed to seek guidance from CCEXEC on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to address new work proposals, which cover processed (and often ready-to-eat) products mainly produced in the region and traded globally and for which no appropriate commodity committee existed or was currently active; • whether there was a need to develop standards for such processed products individually or take a more horizontal or group approach in light of the rapid developments in food processing technologies.
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Because of the complexity of dietary habits and traditional foods in the region, the desire to develop regional standards has been increasing. Although the need of Member countries should be respected, in order to manage the work of CCASIA in a more sustainable way considering the limited resource, guidance from CCEXEC is needed on the principle to develop commodity standard for processed food products.</p>
<p>6. The standard operating procedure (SOP) for CCASIA, Paragraph 96, Appendix IX</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>In order to improve effectiveness of informal meetings of the CCASIA Member Countries on the sidelines of Codex meetings, CCASIA20 had requested that the then Coordinator (India) develop a draft standard operating procedure (SOP) for CCASIA. The draft SOP had been discussed at CCASIA21 and it had been agreed to establish an EWG to further revise the SOP. After CCASIA21, two rounds of consultations had been conducted and the draft SOP had been revised.</p> <p>Following a constructive discussion with further updates of the draft SOP, CCASIA22 agreed to publish the SOP as an information document on the Codex website for internal use by CCASIA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The work on SOP was very helpful and of great importance to guide the future Codex work in CCASIA. There is nothing specific to be added. It is recommended that the SOP be distributed as an information document for CCASIA.</p>
<p>7. Endorsement of the regional work plan 2022-2024 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, Paragraph 42, Appendices III and V</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>Following a constructive discussion with appreciation of the activities conducted in the region between 2020 and the first half of 2022, CCASIA22 agreed on the proposed regional work plan for 2022-2024 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 as well as the regional communications work plan 2022-2024.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>To support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, the plenary discussion focused on the proposed regional work plan for 2022 to 2024 using the summary of the work from 2020 to the first half of 2022 as a basis. With a better work plan, better implementation should follow. The conclusion demonstrated the needs of Member countries in CCASIA.</p>

8. Update of new work proposals for regional standards, Paragraphs 100 and 114**Secretariat's comments:**

CCASIA22 discussed a proposal for the development of a regional standard for traditional sweets and agreed that the discussion paper and project document should be further revised and submitted for consideration by CCASIA23.

CCASIA22 also addressed discussion papers on the development of standards for cooked rice and canned congee, respectively, and requested that these be revised and re-submitted for consideration by CCASIA23. CCASIA22 also requested the proposers to work together and examine the possibility of combining both proposals.

Chairperson's comments:

During the plenary, three new work proposals were submitted and discussed. Based on the conclusion of the committee, all these proposals should be submitted for consideration by CCASIA23 after further improvement

To better allocate the resources of the region, and at the same time fulfilling Members' most urgent needs, guidance from CCEXEC is sought, which has been mentioned under Item 5.

Appendix 2

1. General

Committee	Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC)		
Host	Ecuador	Chairperson	Rommel Betancourt
Session reported on	CCLAC22	24-28 October 2022	
Next Session	CCLAC23	2024 (TBC)	
Report	<u>REP23/LAC</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

CCLAC22 was successfully convened as a virtual meeting with high participation in terms of delegations and delegates. The format of meetings is a topic of great interest to the region and the session put a strong emphasis on maintaining modalities such as virtual participation for transparency and inclusivity. New virtual meeting approaches had been very important to maintain engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic to coordinate work at the regional level. With no standards under development in the Committee except for the revision of the food additive provisions in the existing regional standards, CCLAC22 focussed on the standards setting work ongoing in the General Subject and Commodity Committees of relevance to the region and had a robust discussion on new and emerging issues in particular new technologies and the Future of Codex.

Chairperson's comments:

For the first time, CCLAC held its meeting virtually, which brought some gratifying lessons to the region. The way in which CCLAC22 was held was a great opportunity for greater participation of the region's Member countries, taking into account the difficulties that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about, especially in economic matters.

Among the activities carried out in preparation for CCLAC22, a virtual workshop regarding implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 was held in which 27 countries of the region participated. The event highlighted the progress and activities, which had been carried out from 2020 to 2022. The activity was very well received by the Members because it allowed them to present the reality of each country and learn from the others.

One of the main obstacles identified was the constant turnover of staff in each institution that carries out Codex work; this often slows down the progress of activities and, consequently, participation in committees, EWGs and other forums is limited. On the other hand, it is important to continue contributing to Codex, as CCLAC is an important player in the production and supply of food to the world. Some countries - El Salvador and Guatemala - have used valuable tools provided by the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) to execute their projects jointly.

In addition, the work led and co-led by the CCLAC Member countries is progressing and has been very well received worldwide, given the effort made to work in two official languages (Spanish and English). Likewise, at CCLAC22, several Member countries presented CRD documents with a view to creating regional positions that reinforce the positions of each country.

The keynote address highlighted that CCLAC remains at the forefront in the debate and socialization of emerging global factors, which involve among others new food system models and the use of new food technologies to provide countries with tools for better discussions.

The region's adherence to the Statements of Principle concerning the role of science in the Codex decision making process and the scientific information provided to the Codex subsidiary bodies must be emphasized. It is certain that the standards adopted in line with science and in compliance with the Codex mandate will continue to have a positive impact on each Member country.

CCLAC is committed to continuing to encourage greater participation by its Members in the various Codex forums.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Amendment of the provisions for labelling of non-retail containers in CXS 304R-2011, CXS 305R-2011, and CXS 324R-2017	-	-	Adoption
2. Food Additive Provisions in CXS 304R-2011 and CXS 305R-2011	-	-	Adoption
For information			
3. Regional work plan 2022-2024 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025	Update		
4. Future of Codex	Update		

4. Specific comments

1. Amendment of the provisions for labelling of non-retail containers in CXS 304R-2011, CXS 305R-2011, and CXS 324R-2017, Paragraph 32(i), Appendix II

Secretariat's comments:

CCLAC22 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption the amended text for the section on labelling of non-retail containers in the *Regional Standards for Culantro Coyote* (CXS 304R-2011), *Lucuma* (CXS 305R-2011) and *Yacon* (CXS 324R-2017) to align with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-retail Containers of Foods* (CXS 346-2021).

Chairperson's comments:

CCLAC22 held a constructive debate reaching agreement on the basis of the technical interventions provided by the Member countries taking into account that one of them co-chaired the EWG that had prepared the *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-retail Containers of Foods*, and the proposals presented to CCLAC22 by the Codex Secretariat.

Thus, it was agreed to submit for adoption by CAC46 the amended section on labelling of non-retail containers in the *Regional Standard for Culantro Coyote* (CXS 304R-2011) and the *Regional Standard for Lucuma* (CXS 305R-2011) and the *Regional Standard for Yacon* (CXS 324R-2017).

2. Food Additive Provisions in CXS 304R-2011 and CXS 305R-2011, Paragraph 39, Appendix III

Secretariat's comments:

CCLAC22 agreed to forward the updated sections in the *Regional Standard for Culantro Coyote* (CXS 304R-2011) and the *Regional Standard for Lucuma* (CXS 305R-2011) to indicate that "No food additives are permitted in foods conforming to this standard". The food additive section has been endorsed by CCFA53 and submitted to CAC46 for adoption.

Chairperson's comments:

There was general support for this update. No problems of consensus or major impediments have arisen, and there are no additional issues.

3. Regional work plan 2022-2024 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, Paragraph 99, Appendix II

Secretariat's comments:

Due to time constraints, it was not possible to discuss this item during CCLAC22.

CCLAC22 agreed to establish an EWG to review and update the regional work plan for 2022 - 2024 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025; to review and update the regional communications work plan 2022 - 2024; and to complete the update of the work plans within six months to facilitate their implementation in advance of CCLAC23. The EWG work is now underway and an updated workplan is expected by mid-year.

Chairperson's comments:

CCLAC22 agreed to establish an EWG, which, according to the proposed schedule, began on March 13, 2023, and will end on July 30, 2023, with the presentation of the work plan to the Codex Secretariat.

An intense effort has been made to ensure that the Member countries participate actively in the development of the work plan, bearing in mind that it is a fundamental document for visualizing the activities of the CCLAC countries in fulfilment of the Strategic Plan.

The work shows that the region is capable of having different points of view, but always with a view to achieving consensus and making progress.

4. Future of Codex, Paragraph 89

Secretariat's comments:

CCLAC22 stressed the importance of following up on the discussions and recommendations of CCEXEC on this issue and that any and all working modalities to be adopted, should ensure transparency and the widest possible participation of Members.

Chairperson's comments:

CCLAC22 stressed the importance of inclusiveness and transparency in all Codex bodies, highlighting the opportunity for greater participation of the region's delegates by having different meeting formats.

No problems of consensus or major impediments have arisen, and there are no additional issues.

Appendix 3

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH53)		
Host	USA	Chairperson	Emilio Esteban
Session reported on	CCFH53	27 November - 2 December 2022 with report adoption on 8 December 2022	
Next Session	CCFH54	11-15 March 2024	
Report	<u>REP23/FH</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

CCFH53 was the first Codex subsidiary session to meet physically following the COVID-19 pandemic and applied different approaches to make the meeting as accessible as possible within the available resources. The session was also broadcast, with the recordings made available online to facilitate viewing by those in different timezones and the report adoption was held virtually the following week. In order to better prepare the plenary session, three physical working group meetings (PWGs) (with broadcast) were effectively held in the two days preceding the session.

CCFH53 had an extensive agenda as it had only met once since 2019 (CCFH52 in February/March 2022) and for that session had had an abridged agenda to adapt to the virtual setting. The three PWGs immediately prior to the session were critical to progressing the work and helped ensure CCFH53 was constructive and productive. All agenda items were thoroughly discussed and consensually concluded.

CCFH53 agreed to forward to CAC46 two draft guidelines for final adoption: 1) Guidelines for the control of Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in Raw Beef, Fresh Leafy Vegetables, Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses, and Sprouts (General Section, Annex I and Annex III); and 2) Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing (General section and Annex I). Additional annexes to both these guidelines are under development and EWGs have been established to conclude that work. CCFH53 also completed its review of the methods of analysis for irradiated foods contained in the *General Methods for the Detection of Irradiated Foods* (CXS 231-2001).

CCFH53 also agreed to submit to CAC46 for approval as new work: 1) a proposal on the development of Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food; and 2) a proposal for the revision of *Guidelines on the Application of the General Principles of food Hygiene to the control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood* (CXG 73-2010). Due to the fact that these work items can only be considered by CAC at the end of 2023, a few months before CCFH54, work will begin on the understanding that final approval is pending in order to progress any approved work in a timely manner.

CCFH53 agreed on an approach to initiate alignment of food hygiene texts with the revised *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969) following the recommendation of CAC45. CCFH53 also had a robust discussion on work planning and prioritization, not only in terms of its own work but also with regard to the scientific advice needs of the committee, essential to its work. Expressing appreciation to FAO and WHO, the committee also encouraged use of informal mechanisms of interaction with JEMRA to facilitate between session work. A number of discussion papers on revision of existing texts are expected to be presented to CCFH54 to ensure that Codex hygiene related texts are updated in line with the latest scientific information and advancing practices and control options.

Chairperson's comments:

It was GREAT to get back together in plenary following a hybrid format. The committee had to adjust for not having met for a long time by having an extensive agenda. In typical form, the CCFH performed amazingly by working hard and arriving at consensus on all decisions. All of our work is on track (or ahead of schedule).

We adjusted ahead of the plenary by hosting multiple broadcasted physical workgroups. A lot of work had been performed in advance by the co-chairing team leads and also through fantastic support from JEMRA and the Codex Secretariat.

CCFH forwarded two draft guidelines for final adoption: 1) Guidelines for the control of Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in Raw Beef, Fresh Leafy Vegetables, Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses, and Sprouts (General Section, Annex I and Annex III); and 2) Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing (General section and Annex I).

More work is necessary to finish the other annexes to these documents. We expect, through collaboration with JEMRA and the project leads, that most of them will be presented for advancement in the step process through consensus at CCFH54.

We also had significant discussions setting up the agenda for CCFH54, submitting to CAC46 approval as new work: 1) a proposal on the development of Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food; and 2) a proposal for the revision of *Guidelines on the Application of the General Principles of food Hygiene to the control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood* (CXG 73-2010). Clearly, for efficiency reasons and given the adjustments to the meetings calendar, CCFH would like to proceed with new work assuming the new work will be approved.

As this was likely my last meeting leading CCFH, there are not enough words to express my thanks and how grateful I am to have been part of this professional group. I look forward to somehow being able to continue to collaborate with Codex. It had been very much a second family.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Guidelines for the control of Shiga Toxin-Producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in Raw Beef, Fresh Leafy Vegetables, Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses, and Sprouts (General Section, Annex I on raw beef and Annex III on raw milk and raw milk cheeses)	N02-2019	2024	Adoption at Steps 5/8
2. Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing (General Section and Annex I)	N05-2020	2024	Adoption at Steps 5/8
3. New work proposal on the development of Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food	-	-	Approval
4. Proposed Revision of the <i>Guidelines on the Application of the General Principles of food Hygiene to the control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood</i> (CXG 73-2010)	-	-	Approval
For monitoring			
5. Annex II on fresh leafy vegetables, and Annex IV on sprouts of the Draft Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in Raw Beef, Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses, Fresh Leafy Vegetables, and Sprouts	N02-2019	2024	2/3
6. Annex II on fishery products, and Annex III on dairy products of the Draft Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production	N05-2020	2024	2/3
For information			
7. Project document on the revision of <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food</i> (CXG 79-2012)	For consideration by CCFH54		
8. Discussion paper on the possible revision of <i>Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella in Chicken Meat</i> (CXG 78-2011)	For consideration by CCFH54		
9. Discussion paper on the possible revision of <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Listeria monocytogenes in Foods</i> (CXG 61-2007)	For consideration by CCFH54		
10. Scientific advice from JEMRA on viruses in foods	Request to JEMRA		
11. New work proposals/Forward workplan	Ongoing work		
12. Alignment of hygiene texts with the revised <i>General Principles on Food Hygiene</i> (CXC 1-1969)	For consideration by CCFH54		

4. Specific comments

Chairperson's comments regarding the work as a whole:

CCFH53 was able to complete work, propose work, align our workplan and effectively line up the necessary support we will need to continue our work. At the present time, there appear to be no obstacles or substantive debate on work items. It would be nice to have some assurances as to how the Codex meeting calendar will align in the future. CCFH is very flexible, but the work load and the timeliness of the delivery requires prompt feedback from the Commission and CCEXEC. This is not a complaint. Simply attesting that the meeting date for CCFH needs to be taken into account when the Commission meets. Clearly this is applicable to most Codex Committees, but much more so for CCFH because we meet annually. Case in point: we are already working on items that we have submitted for approval as "new work". This is not ideal, but necessary until we settle back into a stable meeting rhythm.

There is also a significant rotation in delegates. This is also not new or exclusive to this committee, but we had built a core of delegates that were comfortable with each other and worked as a unit. It will take some time to build a similar rapport with a new cadre of delegates. I do think that with the support of the host country, Codex staff and the Codex Secretariat that the changes will result in no loss of product quality or efficiency.

I suspect that other Committees may be going through the same turn-over post COVID, so perhaps a meeting off-site around the next Commission meeting might help with the transition and reinvigoration of the community.

<p>1. and 5. Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in Raw Beef, Fresh Leafy Vegetables, Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses, and Sprouts, Paragraph 75, Appendix III</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CAC42 (2019) approved this work as proposed by CCFH50 and the work has progressed well since then.</p> <p>The EWG Chair and Co-Chairs worked very effectively with the Chairperson and Members to progress this work during the PWG and the plenary session of CCFH53. Meeting in person greatly facilitated discussion of these lengthy guidelines and completion and forwarding for adoption at Steps 5/8 the General Section, Annex I (raw beef) and Annex III (raw milk and raw milk cheeses).</p> <p>The text has been carefully reviewed for linguistical consistency. Some issues were noted with other languages that were addressed during the translation of the final report. These Guidelines are consistent with the mandate of Codex emphasising a risk-based approach to the control of STEC. The format and presentation is according to Codex style.</p> <p>With the General Section and two annexes complete, this work is on track. While two annexes (fresh leafy vegetables (Annex II) and sprouts (Annex IV)) need further development, it is expected that these can be completed at CCFH54 in 2024.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This revision and update work has proceeded well. There is still work to do on a couple of the annexes but my belief is that the work coordinated between committee sessions will allow for completion in CCFH54.</p>
<p>2. and 6. Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing, Paragraph 124, Appendix IV</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CAC43 (2020) approved new work on developing these guidelines as proposed by CCFH51 and work has progressed very well since then. CCFH51 had agreed to structure the document to include overarching guidance followed by commodity-specific guidance, and that the guidelines should be developed using a step-wise approach, with fresh produce and fishery products being priorities. CCFH51 also agreed to establish an EWG to draft the guidelines. The Co-Chairs provided proposed terminology/definitions for the commodities that were within the scope of the guideline, stressing that further scientific advice from JEMRA was needed to progress the development of the guideline including its annexes. CCFH52 (February 2022) did not specifically discuss the draft Guidelines in their entirety, but rather focused on on the terminology covered by the Guidelines, some key overarching issues to further guide the work as well as the request for further scientific advice to JEMRA. CCFH52 established an EWG to continue developing the proposed draft guidelines, and annexes.</p> <p>The EWG Chair and Co-Chairs worked very effectively with the Chairperson and Members to progress this work during the PWG and the plenary session. Meeting in person greatly facilitated discussion of these</p>

lengthy guidelines and completion and forwarding for adoption at Steps 5/8 the General Section and Annex I (fresh produce). Completion of Annex I was facilitated by the agreement of the PWG to remove some of the more detailed information/illustrations to an information document.

The text has been carefully reviewed for linguistic consistency. These guidelines are consistent with the mandate of Codex and its Strategic Plan focussing on an emerging issue of increasing importance. The format and presentation is according to Codex style.

With the General Section and Annex I complete, this work is on track. While two annexes (fishery products (Annex II) and dairy products (Annex III) need further development, it is expected that these can be completed at CCFH54 in 2024. CCFH53 agreed that the International Dairy Federation (IDF) would be a Co-Chair of the EWG that will continue this work so that the committee could optimally benefit from their expertise in the dairy sector.

With parts of this work on water use and re-use reaching conclusion, it may be worth recalling that in developing the scope for these guidelines, CCFH51 clarified that that the Guideline would only cover biological hazards, but acknowledged the importance of chemicals in the context of safe use and re-use of water in food production and agreed to inform the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) of this new work. It may be an appropriate time to provide CCCF with a further update on this progress and encourage CCCF to consider whether there may also be a need to consider guidance that would address chemical contaminants in the context of water use and re-use.

Chairperson's comments:

Water is a critical element for food production and hygiene. CCFH had spent significant time discussing cross-cutting issues and trying to align multiple Codex documents. It was essential we had agreement on linguistic differences, contextual interpretation, and concept definitions. Through the work of JEMRA experts, Secretariat, and delegates we arrived at a common understanding. We expect that the two annexes we were not able to complete (Annex II - fishery products, and Annex III - dairy products), will be finished at CCFH54. Most of the time country delegates lead the drafting efforts. CCFH decided to have IDF Co-Chair the dairy sector annex. We hope their participation will give the discussion continuity and consistency.

3. New work proposal on the development of Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food, Paragraph 144, Appendix V

Secretariat's comments:

CCFH53 agreed to forward the project document on guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional food markets to CAC46 for approval as new work. It should be noted that one delegation expressed concern about the use of "traditional market" in the title of the project document, and proposed making the title more general by replacing "traditional market" with "food market" and including traditional markets in the scope of the guidelines. However, the Chairperson proposed retaining the title for now, expecting that the title would be refined if needed as the work progressed. The project document considers the existing Codex regional texts on street-vended foods which also have information relevant to traditional markets, suggesting some gaps in those texts. CAC45 adopted the most recent revisions to CXC 1- 1969 and there is an outstanding request from CCEXEC73 to look at the regional texts in the context of this revision and see if any appropriate action is to be considered. It may be appropriate to carefully consider the relationship between CXC 1-1969, the regional texts on street vended foods and this proposed guideline to ensure streamlining and harmonization of Codex hygiene texts for street vended food or food sold in traditional markets.

CCFH53 agreed to establish an EWG, subject to approval of the Commission, to draft the proposed guidelines for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration by CCFH54.

Chairperson's comments:

We are only starting on this new work (hopefully approved by the Commission), but it is very timely. We are seeing these types of venues as expanding around the world. Not only in number but also in size. It is important for Codex to set up some hygiene guidelines that will benefit this entire market sector. We hope to see a first draft of the guidelines at CCFH54. I very much look forward to seeing this text because of its local, regional and international relevance.

4. Proposed Revision of the *Guidelines on the Application of the General Principles of food Hygiene to the control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood* (CXG 73-2010), Paragraph 147, Appendix VI

<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFH53 agreed to forward to CAC46 for approval the project document on the <i>Revision of the Guidelines on the Application of the General Principles of food Hygiene to the control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood</i> (CXG 73-2010) by CAC46. This work is responding to updated information on the spread, pathogenicity and control measures for these pathogens. It is important to note that the guidelines cover all pathogenic <i>Vibrio</i> species, even if not explicitly mentioned as some Members noted that there are other <i>Vibrio</i> species emerging as foodborne pathogens. This new work would also include alignment with the revised <i>General Principles on Food Hygiene</i> (CXC 1-1969).</p> <p>CCFH53 agreed to establish an EWG, subject to approval of the Commission, to draft the proposed revised guidelines for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration by CCFH54.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>As a result of the latest revision of <i>General Principles on Food Hygiene</i> (CXC 1-1969) we need to update some of our older texts. Revision of the <i>Vibrio</i> guidelines allows for the potential expansion to include a broader range of <i>Vibrio</i> species as well as affected commodities.</p>
<p>7. Project document on the revision of <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food</i> (CXG 79-2012), Paragraph 151</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFH53 noted the intent of Canada and the Netherlands to prepare a project document on the revision of <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food</i> (CXG 79-2012) for consideration by CCFH54.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This is a necessary update given the <i>General Principles of Food Hygiene</i> (CXC 1-1969) update and the world attention to virus-related issues.</p>
<p>8. Discussion paper on the possible revision of <i>Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella in Chicken Meat</i> (CXG 78-2011), Paragraph 151</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFH53 noted the intent of USA, Honduras, Brazil and the EU to prepare a discussion paper on the possible revision of <i>Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella in Chicken Meat</i> (CXG 78-2011) for consideration by CCFH54, also noting the ongoing efforts of JEMRA to provide scientific advice that would facilitate such work with meetings held in 2022 and scheduled in 2023.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This is a necessary update given the <i>General Principles of Food Hygiene</i> (CXC 1-1969) update and a worldwide interest in the control of foodborne illnesses associated with these two pathogens.</p>
<p>9. Discussion paper on the possible revision of <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Listeria monocytogenes in Foods</i> (CXG 61-2007), Paragraph 151</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFH53 noted the intent of France, USA and Canada to prepare a discussion paper on the possible revision of <i>Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Listeria Monocytogenes in Foods</i> (CXG 61-2007) for consideration by CCFH54 also noting the ongoing efforts of JEMRA to provide scientific advice that would facilitate such work with meetings held in 2022 and scheduled in 2023.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This is a necessary update given the <i>General Principles of Food Hygiene</i> (CXC 1-1969) update, new commodities, and new commerce modalities for international trade.</p>
<p>10. Scientific advice on viruses in foods, Paragraphs 20, 133 and 140</p>
<p>Secretariat's comments:</p>

CCFH53 agreed to request JEMRA to provide scientific advice on viruses in foods and noted that Canada together with the Netherlands would provide a project document taking into account the scientific advice from JEMRA for consideration by CCFH54.

CCFH53 encouraged delegations to utilize the JEMRA office hours to discuss ongoing work and requests for scientific advice.

Chairperson's comments:

We will need JEMRA's advice to advance the work on viruses in foods. This is part of good business practices CCFH conducts that facilitates the work of the committee.

11. New work proposals/Forward workplan, Paragraph 153

Secretariat's comments:

CCFH53 agreed to endorse the revised forward work plan and establish a PWG on CCFH Work Priorities to be held in conjunction with CCFH54.

Chairperson's comments:

Normal business process. We will have a new leader for this effort and expect we will have full support of the committee to organize our new work plan.

12. Alignment of hygiene texts with the revised *General Principles on Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969)

Secretariat's comments:

In line with the request of CAC44, CCFH53 agreed to initiate work on alignment of food hygiene texts with the revised *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969). The alignment working group would consider the optimal approach to be taken and update CCFH54 on progress made. The extent of work to be undertaken in this regard was noted.

Chairperson's comments:

Given the large number of documents that need alignment with the last version of the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969), we found it more efficient to create a work group to provide recommendations to CCFH54.

Appendix 4

1. General

Committee	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP16)		
Host	Fiji	Chairperson	Vinesh Kumar
Session reported on	CCNASWP16	30 Jan - 3 February 2023	
Next Session	CCNASWP17	TBD	
Report	<u>REP23/NASWP</u>		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCNASWP16 was successfully convened by the new Regional Coordinator, Fiji, that had been appointed by CAC43 (2020). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conduct of all the regional coordinating committees had to be postponed for 1-2 years. To ensure maximum inclusivity, CCNASWP16 was convened as a physical meeting with the possibility of remote participation (via Zoom) for listening and verbal interventions. CCNASWP16 had high participation, both in number of delegations and number of participants. CCNASWP16 was most constructive and productive, and all agenda items were thoroughly discussed and concluded on the basis of consensus within the time allocated to the plenary session.</p> <p>CCNASWP16 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption at Step 8 the draft Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice, and for adoption the consequential amendments to <i>Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as a Beverage When Mixed with Water</i> (CXS 336R-2020). CCNASWP16 endorsed the proposed activities to support implementation off the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 in the region in 2023-2024, adopted the communications work plan 2022-2024, and identified topics for possible regional standards development to be discussed as possible new work proposals at CCNASWP17. The key note address on "Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic for improving food safety – Seeding change in Codex" was most welcome as a timely and important topic and spurred an engaged discussion. CCNASWP16 also identified key emerging issues expected to have an impact on food safety in region in the next 5-10 years and had a good discussion on Codex work relevant to the region.</p> <p>CCNASWP16 provided an opportunity to hold three side events on relevant and timely themes; 1) "Codex@60 - towards a more robust food control system at the regional level", 2) "FAO and WHO global strategic frameworks for food safety", and 3) "Codex Trust Fund – Regional priorities for capacity strengthening". These side events had a very good, active and engaged participation from the Member countries in the region. Codex@60 was also excellently marked throughout CCNASWP16.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The CCNASWP16 meeting was a huge success. The meeting venue was well-organized and resourced. The host government took the lead in welcoming the delegates and created a very enabling atmosphere that was key to good and constructive discussions. As a result of hybrid modality, the meeting was well attended with increased inclusivity.</p> <p>The agenda items were thoroughly discussed with active participation of the delegates. Expert opinions and country specific intervention were well accommodated. A few agenda items were discussed in small breakout sessions to increase participation and understanding. The region agreed to continue working on the methods of analysis in the draft Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice and must adhere to timelines.</p> <p>The CCNASWP16 meeting platform was also used for the Codex@60 celebrations, which gave the national media an opportunity to raise awareness of food safety and Codex.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No.	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Draft Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice	N01-2013	2022	Adoption at Step 8
2. Amendment to the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in the <i>Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as a Beverage When Mixed with Water</i> (CXS 336R-2020)	-	-	Adoption
For information			
3. Keep scopoletin on JECFA priority list	Request to CCCF		
4. Food safety and quality situation in the region	Update		
5. Implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025	Update		

4. Specific comments

1. Draft Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice, Paragraph 73, Appendix VII,

Secretariat's comments:

CAC43 (2020) had adopted the regional standard at Step 5 and extended the deadline for the completion of the work to adoption by CAC in 2022 as recommended by CCEXEC79. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a heavy Codex meeting schedule towards end of 2022, it was not possible to convene CCNASWP16 until January 2023.

The EWG, chaired by Tonga and co-chaired by Samoa, had effectively used the time since CCNASWP15 to progress the work, which included two rounds of comments. Furthermore, efforts had also been made to facilitate submission of data on the levels of scopoletin in fermented noni fruit juice to the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS/Food) from Codex Members. CCNASWP16 had a constructive discussion, which included updates to the draft regional standard. Outstanding issues still remained regarding Section 10; Methods of analysis and sampling. While CCNASWP aimed to resolve this before CCMAS42, it was recalled that a standard can be adopted albeit the lack of a complete Section on Methods of analysis and sampling. With regard to square brackets placed on the HPLC method in Section 10.1, the EWG Chair and Co-Chair would conduct verification studies for the HPLC method, noting that the HPLC method was still incomplete and investigation to validate it was underway. Regarding the need to specify the type of solid-phase extraction cartridge, volume of water and methanol in a process of sample preparation for the TLC method for the identification of scopoletin and deacetylasperulosidic acid, Australia volunteered to conduct verification studies for the TLC method that would be completed by May 1, 2023.

CCNASWP16 agreed to forward the draft Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice to CAC46 for adoption at Step 8 (Appendix VII, Part A).

Furthermore, CCNASWP16 agreed to task the Regional Coordinator to work with the Members in the NASWP region to resolve outstanding issues in section 10: methods of analysis and sampling (specifically specification of the solid-phase extraction cartridge and the HPLC method to identify scopoletin and deacetylasperulosidic acid) by May 1, 2023 in order to forward Section 10 and Annexes A and B to the 42nd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS42) for endorsement (Appendix VII, Part B).

The text has been carefully reviewed for linguistic consistency. The format and presentation is according to Codex style.

Chairperson's comments:

CCNASWP16 agreed to forward the draft Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice to CAC46 for adoption at Step 8.

The Regional Coordinator office is working closely with its Secretariat team to coordinate an appropriate time with Samoa and Tonga to discuss further the outstanding issue in Section 10: Methods of Analysis and Sampling prior to its submission to CCMAS42.

A written submission will be made through the office of the Regional Coordinator before 1 May, 2023.

2. Amendment to the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in the *Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as a Beverage When Mixed with Water* (CXS 336R-2020), Paragraph 28ii, Appendix II

Secretariat's comments:

CCNASWP16 supported the proposed revision to the provision on labelling of non-retail containers in the *Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as a Beverage When Mixed with Water* (CXS 336R-2020) to align with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail containers of Foods* (CXS 346-2021). Thus, CCNASWP16 agreed to forward the revision to the provision on labelling of non-retail containers in the *Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as a Beverage When Mixed with Water* (CXS 336R-2020) to CAC46 for adoption (Appendix II).

It should be noted that CCNASWP16 in response to a request from CCMAS41 (2022), also agreed to forward a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the identification of kavalactones and flavokavains in fresh and dried kava products by HPTLC to CCMAS for endorsement (Appendix III).

Chairperson's comments:

When methods of analysis for provisions in the *Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as a Beverage When Mixed with Water* (CXS 336R-2020) had been presented to CCMAS41, CCNASWP was requested to consider producing a single stepwise method or SOP which would capture the necessary steps for each provision in one easy to follow document.

In response to the CCMAS request, Fiji in collaboration with Vanuatu developed a draft SOP for the determination of kavalactones and flavokavains in fresh and dried kava products in step-wise approach. The draft SOP was further modified at CCNASWP16. Taking into account that identification, rather than quantification, of kavalactones and flavokavains met requirements outlined in CXS 336R-2020, and that the High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPTLC) method fit the purpose better than the Ultra- High Performance Liquid Chromatography UHPLC method in this context, the SOP focused only on the HPTLC method as a method for identification of kavalactones and flavokavains, and clearly identified the different steps in the procedure.

CCNASWP16 agreed to forward the SOP for the identification of kavalactones and flavokavains in fresh and dried kava products by HPTLC to CCMAS for endorsement through the Codex Secretariat office.

3. Keep scopoletin in the JECFA priority list, Paragraph 73iii, iv**Secretariat's comments:**

CCNASWP16 noted the discussion that had taken place at CCCF14, the identified data gap for conducting a safety evaluation of scopoletin by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), and the need to consider how data needed for a safety evaluation of scopoletin could be provided.

CCNASWP16 agreed to request CCCF to keep scopoletin in the priority list for evaluation by JECFA and to provide further data as it becomes available, and encouraged Members of the region to generate and submit data to GEMS/Food.

Chairperson's comments:

At CCCF14 a few issues were identified, including the data gap for conducting a safety evaluation of scopoletin. At CCNASWP16, the Codex Secretariat underlined the challenges in conducting toxicological trials in terms of cost and time when conducting safety evaluation of scopoletin.

CCNASWP agreed to request CCCF to keep scopoletin in the priority list for evaluation by JECFA and further encouraged members in the NASWP region to generate and provide available data to GEMS/Food.

The Regional Coordinator in consultation with the Codex Secretariat will make a submission to JECFA on NASWP request.

4. Food safety and quality situation in the region, Paragraph 35**Secretariat's comments:**

CCNASWP agreed on the following key emerging issues expected to have an impact on food safety in the region in the next 5-10 years: Limited support to manage food regulatory systems; Climate change; Innovative food technologies; Non-communicable diseases; Limited National Codex Committee support mechanisms; Risk communication; Increased foodborne disease transmission; Pesticides residues on food crops; Antimicrobial resistance; Indigenous foods; and Food Labelling (of new and novel foods).

Chairperson's comments:

A survey was conducted and results were dispersed to Members in the NASWP region. Key issues identified were: Limited support to manage food regulatory systems; Climate change; Innovative food technologies; Non-communicable diseases; Limited National Codex Committee support mechanisms; Risk communication; Increased foodborne disease transmission; and Pesticide residues on food crops.

In addition, at CCNASWP16 Members identified new issues of relevance to the region and agreed to give higher priority to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and also added indigenous foods and labelling of new and novel foods to the list.

FAO and WHO recently endorsed the new global Food Safety Strategies to guide technical assistance to member countries over the coming years. In addition to the global strategies, the WHO Regional Strategy for Action in Food Safety in the Western Pacific was presented at CCNASWP16.

Furthermore, the FAO Representative noted the need for increased collaboration between FAO and WHO at regional level to coordinate technical support, and highlighted that FAO and WHO needed to encourage governments to address food safety from a One Health perspective, regardless of the location of the Codex Contact Point.

5. Implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, Paragraph 51ii and iii, Appendices V and VI

Secretariat's comments:

Following a good discussion, CCNASWP16 endorsed the planned activities to be implemented in the region in 2023-2024 (Appendix V) and adopted the regional communications work plan 2023-2024 (Appendix VI).

Chairperson's comments:

CCNASWP16 reviewed the activities implemented during 2020-2022 and the proposed activities for 2023-2024 as summarized in Annex I of CX/NASWP 23/16/6. CCNASWP16 also introduced some amendments and additions, including coordination between Members and stakeholders to generate data related to fermented noni fruit juice under major achievements, and promotion of sustainable funding for scientific advice under planned activities.

Further consultations with members in the NASWP region will be conducted to measure the progress of implementation of the proposed activities for 2023-2024 as well as the regional communication workplan 2023-2024. Advice from the Codex Secretariats will be sorted before consultation work is commenced.

Appendix 5

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)		
Host	United States of America	Chairperson	Brandi Robinson
Session reported on	CCRVDF26	13-17 February 2023	
Next Session	CCRVDF27	October 2024 (TBC)	
Report	<u>REP26/RVDF</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

CCRVDF26 welcomed its new Chairperson and conducted its first physical meeting since 2018, with Broadcast. The session was productive, successful and had high participation, both in number of delegations and number of participants. All items on the agenda were discussed and consensually concluded despite the heavy workload of the committee. Physical working groups meetings (PWGS) were held in February 2023 prior to CCRVDF26 in order to consider comments submitted in reply to relevant circular letters to facilitate discussion and decision-making by the Committee.

CCRVDF26 advanced maximum residue limits (MRLs) for ivermectin in sheep, pigs, and goats (muscle, fat, liver and kidney) and MRLs for nicarbazin in chicken to Steps 5/8 for final adoption by CAC46. The Committee also advanced MRLs which were developed through the extrapolation procedure, for 11 compounds to Steps 5/8. This is a great example of forward thinking related to alternative risk management approaches for the establishment MRLs for veterinary drugs especially for compounds of interest to developing countries where there may not be sufficient data to establish MRL through the regular procedure. For the first implementation of the methodology, CCRVDF was able to recommend extrapolated MRLs for 11 compounds (+ tissues combinations). The continuous refinement of the approach to address issues related to extrapolation of MRLs to edible offal, species other than ruminants/finfish such as camelids or specific issues related to extrapolation of bovine milk to goat/sheep also indicates the readiness of the Committee to address the needs of member countries in a timely manner.

Other risk management approach such as the development of criteria and procedures for the establishment of action levels for the unintended or unavoidable carryover of veterinary drugs from feed to food of animal origin is another example of forward thinking of CCRVDF addressing emerging issues in order to enable trade and protect consumer's health.

Coordination of work between CCRVDF and CCPR continues, the harmonization of terms and definitions for edible tissues of animal origin i.e. edible offal, meat/muscle, fat are now fully harmonized between CCRVDF and CCPR. Other issues that require consideration by both committees are being identified by the Joint EWG and discuss coordinately between both committees. The possible reduction of the meeting interval for CCRVDF from 24 to 18 months may further facilitate such cooperation/collaboration and speed up progress on the issues identified so far. This new mechanism established by both committees continues to show positive outcomes to facilitate harmonization for the establishment of MRLs for dual compounds.

Chairperson's comments:

CCRVDF26 was a very successful meeting involving high engagement from delegations. CCRVDF26 fully discussed each item on its agenda and advanced work on all maximum residue limits (MRLs) under consideration. CCRVDF26 held thorough discussions on future work for extrapolating MRLs, working with CCPR, and on addressing unintended residues in food due to unavoidable carryover in feed. CCRVDF26 also established a Priority List for approval as new work which will allow additional evaluations of compounds by JECFA and further considerations for extrapolation by the Committee.

CCRVDF26 was a positive step in regaining momentum since CCRVDF24. The Committee experienced a three year gap between CCRVDF24 (2018) and the virtual CCRVDF25 (2021). In the time between Committee sessions, EWGs experienced diminished participation. While the virtual meeting (CCRVDF25) was quite productive, CCRVDF26 (2023) highlighted the benefit and importance of an in person meeting. CCRVDF26 allowed for greater interaction amongst delegations and sufficient time to discuss complicated and challenging issues. In addition to the benefit of in-person interaction, a return to an approximately 18-month schedule will aid the Committee in greater predictability of work. Regular intervals are helpful to working group schedules and for consideration of compound nominations, including predictable timelines of when proposed draft MRLs would be discussed following evaluation.

CCRVDF continues to experience issues with a low number of compounds nominated for evaluation. Availability of robust data packages for evaluation continues to be a hurdle for successful nominations and evaluations. An increasing number of members have taken up projects to generate data where they are lacking and organizations such as WHO, FAO, and IAEA are building capacity and supporting such work. Continued collaboration amongst members, with the support of these organizations, may increase the number of successful nominations and evaluations in the future.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission	
1. MRLs for Ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle)	Adoption at Steps 5/8
2. MRLs for Ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle)	Discontinuation
3. MRLs for Nicarbazin (chicken)	Adoption at Steps 5/8
4. 4.1: Extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs to one or more species	Adoption at Steps 5/8
5. Priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA (Parts I and V)	Approval
For information	
4. 4.2-4.4: Extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs to one or more species	For consideration by CCRVDF27
6. Criteria and procedures for the establishment of action levels for unintended and unavoidable carryover of veterinary drugs from feed to food of animal origin	Ongoing
7. CCPR/CCRVDF Collaboration	Ongoing

4. Specific comments

<p>1. MRLs for Ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle), Paragraphs 24-27, Appendix II</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>New higher MRLs had been proposed by JECFA94 based on updated data/information provided. These are based on good veterinary practices (GVPs) that allow shorter withdrawal periods with no associated safety concern. JECFA had completed the re-evaluation and addressed all issues raised at CCRVDF25.</p> <p>Delegations generally supported for the advancement of the new higher MRLs to CAC46 for final adoption. However, some delegations while supporting the advancement of the MRL's expressed their reservation on the MRLs for sheep and goats (kidney and liver) and pigs (all MRLs) as they remained below those established in the EU.</p> <p>CCRVDF26 agreed to advance the MRLs for ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle) to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8 noting the reservations of the European Union (EU), North Macedonia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom on the MRLs for sheep and goats (kidney and liver) and pigs (all MRLs).</p> <p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>Reservations expressed by EU and other countries do not hinder the advancement of these MRLs for final adoption.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>There was broad support by CCRVDF26 for the revised MRLs for ivermectin in sheep, pigs and goats to CAC46 for final adoption at Steps 5/8.</p>
<p>2. MRLs for Ivermectin (pigs, sheep and goats), Paragraph 28, Appendix II</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>These proposed MRLs for Ivermectin arose from the JECFA88 (2019) evaluation and were forwarded by CCRVDF to CAC44 (2021) for adoption at Step 5. CAC44 adopted these MRLs at Step 5.</p> <p>In light of the new higher MRLs proposed by JECFA94 and which CCRVDF26 agreed to forward to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8, CCRVDF26 agreed to discontinue work on the MRLs for ivermectin (sheep, pigs and goats – fat, kidney, liver and muscle) at Step 7 and to inform CAC accordingly.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>There was broad support by CCRVDF26 to discontinue work on the previous recommended MRLs for ivermectin in light of the revised MRLs from JECFA94.</p>
<p>3. MRLs for Nicarbazin (chicken), Paragraph 31, Appendix II</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CCRVDF26 agreed to advance the MRLs for Nicarbazin (chicken) to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>There was broad support by CCRVDF26 for advancement of the MRLs for nicarbazin to CAC46 for final adoption at Steps 5/8.</p>
<p>4. Extrapolation of MRLs of veterinary drugs to one or more species</p> <p>4.1 Extrapolation of MRLs for ruminants and finfish (for adoption by CAC46 at Steps 5/8)</p> <p>4.2 Extrapolation of MRLs for bovine milk to other ruminants – goat/sheep milk (for further consideration by CCRVDF27)</p> <p>4.3 Extrapolation of MRLs for edible offal tissues (for further consideration by CCRVDF27)</p> <p>4.4 Extrapolation of MRLs for species other than ruminants and finfish – camelids (tissues and milk) (for further consideration by CCRVDF27)</p>

<p>4.1 Extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs to one or more species (ruminants/finfish), Paragraphs 34-36 and 50(i), Appendix III</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CCRVD26 agreed to advance the extrapolated MRLs to Steps 5/8 as they complied with the agreed approach and that the extrapolated MRLs would be presented in the Standard as MRLs for “all other ruminants” or for “all other finfish”.</p> <p>The European Union, Switzerland, North Macedonia, and the United Kingdom expressed reservation for the extrapolated MRLs for tetracyclines (ruminant muscle, liver and kidney), deltamethrin (ruminant muscle, fat, liver and kidney), spectinomycin (ruminant muscle, fat and liver) and tilmicosin (ruminant muscle and fat) to Steps 5/8 as they were higher than the corresponding EU MRLs and could represent a safety concern.</p>
<p>Chairperson’s comments:</p> <p>There was broad support for advancement of the extrapolated MRLs in 11 compounds to Steps 5/8 which would expand availability of Codex MRLs to additional ruminant species and to finfish.</p>
<p>4.2 Extrapolation of MRLs for bovine milk to other ruminants – goat/sheep milk, Paragraphs 39 and 50(ii)</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CCRVD26 noted that MRLs for deltamethrin and ivermectin for bovine milk could not be extrapolated to goat and sheep milks as the approach did not allow such extrapolation and therefore the EWG should consider alternative approaches.</p>
<p>Chairperson’s comments:</p> <p>CCRVD26 was in broad agreement to continue discussion on ways to enhance the extrapolation criteria to better address extrapolation of Codex MRLs to milk in other species. CCRVD26 tasked the Extrapolation EWG to continue this work between sessions. The success of this work will depend greatly on the level of participation within the EWG.</p>
<p>4.3 Extrapolation of MRLs for edible offal tissues, Paragraphs 46 and 50(ii)</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>The PWG that met prior to CCRVD26 had noted that there was a lack of residue data in offal tissues other than liver and kidney and was thus unable to reach consensus on the proposal for extrapolating the lowest MRL in liver and kidney to other offal tissues which would require undertaking residue intake calculations using available data on consumption of other offal tissues and additional data such as residue distribution data available from published scientific literature and other sources.</p> <p>Therefore, CCRVD26 agreed to recommend Members to submit consumption data to the FAO and WHO databases. CCRVD26 also agreed to re-establish the EWG to consider veterinary drug residue distribution data from public sources and make proposals to CCRVD27.</p>
<p>Chairperson’s comments:</p> <p>CCRVD26 broadly supported the continued discussion of extrapolation to edible offal other than liver and kidney which began following CCRVD25. This work was tasked to the Extrapolation EWG and will consider any available information to determine an approach for extrapolation to other edible offal tissues. CCRVD26 encouraged members to generate and submit consumption data of edible offal tissues other than liver and kidney to better enable exposure assessments related to residues in other edible tissues.</p>
<p>4.4 Extrapolation of MRLs for species other than ruminants and finfish – camelids (tissues and milk), Paragraphs 49 and 50(ii)</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CCRVD26 agreed to re-establish the EWG to continue to evaluate approaches for extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs as recommended by the Committee.</p>
<p>Chairperson’s comments:</p> <p>CCRVD26 heard from several delegations that there is a need to consider extrapolation to species other than ruminants and finfish, such as camels. There was broad support for further discussion on how the extrapolation criteria could be utilized and enhanced to address needs for MRLs in other species. This work was tasked to the Extrapolation EWG.</p>

<p>5. Priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA, Paragraph 144, Appendix IV (Parts I and V)</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CCRVD26 agreed to forward the priority list of veterinary drugs to CAC46 for approval including amoxicillin, clopidol, fumagillin, imidacloprid and ethoxyquin.</p> <p>CCRVD26 agreed to recommend lufenuron, emamectin benzoate and diflubenzuron for inclusion in the priority list under Part V Extrapolation to finfish.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>There was broad agreement from CCRVD26 for the new Priority List which includes compounds for evaluation by JECFA and compounds for consideration for extrapolation and submitted the list as new work.</p> <p>The Priority List contains a limited number of full evaluations which poses challenges in seeking scientific advice from JECFA. There are many hurdles to adding compounds for evaluation including availability of complete data packages and the predictability of timing and process. Resuming regular CCRVD26 meetings will help with the predictability issues, but data availability remains a key hurdle.</p>
<p>6. Criteria and procedures for the establishment of action levels for unintended and unavoidable carryover of veterinary drugs from feed to food of animal origin, Paragraph 102</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CCRVD26 agreed to continue work on the criteria and procedures for the establishment of action levels for veterinary drug residues in food products from non-target animals linked to the unintended and unavoidable veterinary drug carry-over in non-target animal feed.</p> <p>An EWG was established to further develop the criteria and procedures for the establishment of action levels and revisit the pilot of nicarbazine and any other compounds.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>CCRVD26 thoroughly discussed the proposed approach for developing action levels to addressing unintended and unavoidable carryover of veterinary drugs from feed to food of animal origin with a view to addressing questions and clarifying the proposed approach. The CCRVD26 agreed that more discussion is needed on the proposed approach and supported continued discussion in an EWG, including piloting the approach on nicarbazine and other compounds.</p>
<p>7. CCPR/CCRVD26 Collaboration, Paragraphs 123, 124 and 130</p> <p>7.1 Parallel work between CCRVD26 EWG on Edible Offal and the CCPR EWG on the Revision of the <i>Classification of Food and Feed</i> (fresh/processed food of animal origin)</p> <p>7.2 Joint CCPR/CCRVD26</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>The Joint CCPR/CCRVD26 EWG had been established by CAC44 to assist both committees in facilitating coordination of work on matters of common interest related to compounds with dual uses following a request from CCRVD25 to advise on ways to better coordinate work between CCPR and CCRVD26 on such matters.</p> <p><u>7.1 CCRVD26 EWG Edible Offal</u></p> <p>CCRVD26 recalled that the EWG/Edible Offal had achieved its initial goal of developing a definition for edible offal tissues and this definition had also been agreed and adopted by CCPR53 and CAC45, respectively for inclusion in the <i>Classification of Food and Feed</i> (CXA 4-1989). Consequently, the definition of edible offal is now harmonized between CCRVD26 and CCPR.</p> <p><u>Other edible tissues of animal origin</u></p> <p>CCRVD26 further noted that CCPR53 had also agreed to harmonize the definition of meat, muscle, and fat with that of CCRVD26 based on the recommendation of the Joint JECFA/JMPR Working Group on Residue Definition in order to facilitate the establishment of harmonized/single MRLs for compounds with dual use which had also been adopted by CAC45 for inclusion in the <i>Classification of Food and Feed</i>.</p> <p><u>7.2 Joint CCPR/CCRVD26</u></p> <p>CCRVD26 endorsed the recommendations of the Joint EWG that "CCPR and CCRVD26 ask JECFA and JMPR to continue working towards harmonizing their risk assessment methodologies, including ways to</p>

establish single, harmonized acceptable daily intake values and MRLs for dual-use compounds. This might include exploring the feasibility of a joint evaluation of dual-use compounds and the formation of a Joint JMPR/JECFA EWG” and that “CCPR and CCRVDF ask JECFA and JMPR to consider ways in which data can be shared between the two expert committees. This might include JECFA/JMPR asking sponsors to consent to data sharing upon submission of the data packages”, with the understanding of the limitations for the JECFA Secretariat to negotiate data sharing. CCRVDF26 furthermore recommended that when a call for compounds for the priority list is issued to ask whether the compound is a dual use compound and whether the data could be shared with JMPR and to request CCPR to consider doing the same. CCRVDF26 also endorsed the recommendations that “CCPR and CCRVDF continue supporting the current Joint EWG to identify and prioritize issues affecting both committees and recommend ways to address the issues and to inform CAC accordingly”.

CCRVDF26 further agreed to support the continued work of the EWG and in addition to task the EWG to 1) develop a list of compounds with dual use as a pesticide and veterinary drug for which no or only one Codex MRL has been established and that Member countries would provide the information to populate this list; and 2) identify dual-use compounds that have different Codex MRLs for a similar edible commodity of animal origin and recommend on a case-by-case basis, a single, harmonized MRL(s) for the compound(s) and affected commodity(ies). The EWG might recommend that CCRVDF/CCPR consider selecting the higher MRL value.

CCRVDF26, recognizing that food descriptors is a risk management responsibility, agreed to task the joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG to consider the matter related to harmonized food descriptors to be used by JECFA/JMPR.

CCRVDF26 agreed that the CCRVDF EWG on extrapolation and the CCPR EWG on *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989) should continue working separately until such a time when there is sufficient experience and data to support exploring the possibility of developing a common mechanism for consolidation of edible offfal hierarchical classification.

Secretariat’s comments:

The recommendations made by CCRVDF26 will be forwarded to CCPR53 for consideration/ agreement so that the Joint EWG can continue to consider other issues of common interests to both committees.

Chairperson’s comments:

There was broad support from CCRVDF26 to continue the Joint CCPR/CCRVDF working group to identify dual use compounds which do not have Codex MRLs and to consider how to establish harmonized MRLs for dual use compounds with differing Codex MRLs as a veterinary drugs and pesticides.

The current Joint CCPR/CCRVDF working group could benefit from additional participation from both Committees, but especially from CCPR experts to ensure that the group can work between Committees effectively. To help facilitate more interaction with CCPR, CCRVDF added Brazil as a Co-Chair for the EWG who will bring pesticide expertise to the group.

Appendix 6

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)		
Host	Germany	Chairpersons	Anja Brönstrup and Martine Püster
Session reported on	CCNFSDU43	7 - 10 and 15 March 2023	
Next Session	CCNFSDU44	TBC	
Report	REP23/NFSDU		

2. Overall comments

<p>Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCNFSDU43 was successfully conducted as a physical session with broadcast, but with virtual report adoption. Two physical working group (PWG) meetings were held just prior to the session supporting progress on the work on general principles for the establishment of Nutrient Reference Values – Requirements (NRVs-R) for persons aged 6 – 36 months, and on prioritization mechanism / emerging issues or new work proposals. All items on the agenda were discussed and consensually concluded. The revised <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i> (CXS 156-1987) (renamed as the Standard for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children), which had been 10 years in development, was agreed by the Committee to be submitted for final adoption by CAC46. The overall work in the committee is on track and there is very good progress on the work on nutrient reference values.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>CCNFSDU43 was well attended and many participants expressed their appreciation for the return to the physical meeting mode. Discussions were very constructive and fruitful, which led to the agreement of the draft revised <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i> (CXS 156-1987) and good progress in the work on NRVs-R. Technical aspects relating to methods of analysis as well as food additives continue to play a role in this Committee and require consideration of the work of / an exchange with CCFA, JECFA and CCMAS. The request from CCMAS41 relating to the methods for fructans, beta-carotene and lycopene in CXS 72-1981 will likely require more consideration than just from the perspective of “methods” (amendment of CXS 72-1981, section 3.2 on optional ingredients, including an assessment of the safety and suitability of optional ingredients, which includes aspects of risk assessment).</p> <p>Work is on track, and with the agreement on the draft revised <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i> (CXS 156-1987) the Committee will likely be able to take on board new work.</p> <p>For this purpose, an extended discussion took place regarding the Committee's draft mechanism to consider and prioritize new work as such as well as regarding four new work proposals. Further refinement of the process and additional guidance to develop mature proposals for the Committee is needed and will be considered in an EWG. The proposal for <i>Harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in food and food supplements</i> will be refined and clarified in an EWG, the one on <i>Guidelines including General Principles for the Nutritional Composition of Foods and Beverages made from Plant-based and other Alternative Protein Sources</i> will be refined by the submitters. The Committee recommends to adopt two proposals for amendments to the <i>Standard for Canned Baby Foods</i> (CXS 73-1981) and the <i>Advisory list of nutrient compounds for use in foods for special dietary uses intended for infants and young children</i> (CXG 10-1979). Through a general review of all standards conducted by the Secretariat until CCNFSDU44, further work will likely be generated to ensure their relevance, timeliness and consistency with other Codex texts.</p>

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job No	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Review of the <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula</i> (CXS 156-1987) (renamed as the <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children</i>)	N07-2013	2023	Steps 5/8
2. Amendments to the <i>Standard for Canned Baby Foods</i> (CXS 73-1981) and the <i>Advisory list of nutrient compounds for use in foods for special dietary uses intended for infants and young children</i> (CXG 10-1979)	-	-	Adoption
3. Proposed draft General principles for establishing nutrient reference values for persons aged 6 – 36 months	NO6-2008	2025	Step 5
For information			
4. Technological justification for several food additives			Ongoing work
5. Prioritization mechanism/emerging issues or new work proposals			Ongoing work
6. Harmonised probiotic guidelines (discussion paper)			Update
7. Approaches to review all the texts under the purview of CCNFSDU			Review
8. Use of fructans, beta-carotene, and lycopene in CXS 72-1981			Review
9. Methods for assessing the sweetness of carbohydrate sources			Review

4. Specific comments

1. Review of the *Standard for Follow-up Formula (CXS 156-1987)*, Paragraph 50, Appendix II

Secretariat's comments:

The draft revised standard has been in development for over 10 years and has included eight EWGs and two PWG, 19 consultation papers, eight agenda papers, two scientific reports from FAO and one from JEMNU on protein quality and nitrogen conversion factors.

The review of the *Standard for Follow-up Formula (CXS 156-1987)* has been undertaken in stages with completion first of the essential composition and quality factors for both sections A (follow-up formula) and B (Drink for young children with added nutrients or Product for young children with added nutrients or Drink for young children or Product for young children), followed by other remaining sections. As these sections were completed, they were held at Step 7 in order to allow discussion and agreement on further parts of the draft revised standard. Subsequently, the scope, description and labelling provisions for Sections A and B were addressed. After their adoption by CAC42 and CAC43, respectively, Section A was discussed and finalized at CCNFSDU41 and was held at Step 7, and Section B was finalised by CCNFSDU42 and was held at Step 7. The remaining parts of the draft revised standard were discussed and agreed by CCNFSDU42 were held at Step 4

CCNFSDU43 considered the structure of the standard and the preamble.

CCNFSDU43 following a constructive discussion regarding the structure of the standard, agreed to establish one standard with two parts: Part A covering Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Part B covering Drink for Young Children with added nutrients or product for young children with added nutrients or drink for young children or product for young children. The naming of the products in Section B, is in line with guidance in the Procedural Manual, section on labelling as well as section 4 of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CXS 1-1985)*.

CCNFSDU43 agreed that the title of the revised standard be "Standard for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children" with a footnote stating: "Other equivalent names for this product are Drink for Young Children with Added Nutrients or Product for Young Children with Added Nutrients or Drink for Young Children".

CCNFSDU43 agreed on the the three paragraphs of the preamble although some reservations to paragraphs 2 and/or 3 were noted.

CCNFSDU43 agreed to forward:

a) the proposed draft revised standard with the revised title, the Structure and the Preamble together with the remaining sections of Part A and B as agreed to at CCNFSDU42, to CAC46 for adoption at Steps 5/8;

b) parts of the text at Step 7 of the draft Revised *Standard for Follow-up Formula (Standard for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children)* to CAC46 for adoption at Step 8 (Appendix II).

CCNFSDU43 further agreed to inform CCMAS to include a new entry titled "product for young children" within the "follow-up formula" section of the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999)*.

The text has been carefully reviewed for linguistic consistency. The format and presentation is according to Codex style. The endorsement for provisions on food labelling has been fulfilled. The revised standard's food additive provisions have been sent to CCFA, and CCFA53 has aligned them with the food additive provisions in the *General Standard for Food Additives (CXS 192-1995)*. CCFA53 has also agreed to forward the aligned provisions to CAC46 for adoption.

CCNFSDU will continue to discuss methods for assessing sweetness of carbohydrates which relates to the section on available carbohydrates Section 3.1.3 c footnote 6 (Section B) (see section 9 below). However, this work should not affect the adoption of the revised Standard. The text for footnote 5 was agreed as a compromise text at CCNFSDU41.

Chairperson's comments:

Discussion on this topic, which was very well prepared by New Zealand as former EWG chair, was constructive. All outstanding issues were agreed upon. Little concern was expressed regarding the structure of the draft revised standard having two parts, or the draft amended title.

The draft revised standard has been intensely discussed for many years with a high level of engagement by CCNFSDU delegates, and is of high quality. Even though some Members expressed a reservation on

some parts of the preamble, it would come as a surprise if the whole draft revised Standard was a matter of concern at CAC46.

2. Amendments to the *Standard for Canned Baby Foods (CXS 73-1981)* and the *Advisory list of nutrient compounds for use in foods for special dietary uses intended for infants and young children (CXG 10-1979)*, Paragraphs 100 and 101

Status:

CCNFSDU43 agreed to delete paragraph 9.5.2 from CXS 73-1981 as the statement was not adequately evidence-based, and submit the amendment to CAC46 for adoption.

CCNFSDU43 agreed to revise CXG 10-1979 to align the permitted uses of the folic acid source Calcium-L-Methyl-Folate with those of N-Pteroyl-L-Glutamic acid and submit the revision to CAC46 for adoption.

Chairperson's comments:

Both amendments submitted under the Committee's draft new work prioritization mechanism contain improvements and necessary updates of the wording of Codex texts. They were swiftly agreed upon to be submitted directly to CAC46 for adoption, but also showed the need for overarching and timely review for all standards under the purview of CCNFSDU.

3. General Principles for establishing nutrient reference values for persons aged 6 – 36 months, Paragraph 72, Appendix III

Status:

CCNFSDU39 established an EWG on NRVs-R for Older Infants and Young Children after completion of the updated NRVs for the general population, older than 36 months. This work was outlined in the Project Document following CCNFSDU29 (2007). The updated time for completion of this work was presented in REP20/NFSDU, appendix VII.

CCNFSDU42 had agreed to re-establish the EWG to finalize the General Principles for establishing NRVs-R for persons aged 6 - 36 months. CCNFSDU42 had furthermore agreed to pilot the draft General Principles on the following nutrients: vitamin B12, iodine, vitamin B6, riboflavin and, if time permits, thiamine, niacin and vitamin C.

A PWG was held just prior to CCNFSDU to discuss the outcome of the tasks assigned to the EWG.

CCNFSDU43 following a constructive discussion agreed to forward the proposed draft General Principles for establishing Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs-R) for persons aged 6 to 36 months to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5.

CCNFSDU43 furthermore agreed to re-establish the EWG to revise the draft Stepwise Process for the establishment of NRVs_R and apply it to propose NRVs-R for persons aged 6-12 months, 12-36 months and 6-36 months, respectively, for identified nutrients.

Secretariat's comments:

The work is on track according to the revised timeline for completion of work. The remaining square bracketed text in the General Principles is more a placeholder to be considered when the values are being derived by the WG and should not hamper adoption at Step 5.

Chairperson's comments:

For this agenda item, a detailed and fruitful exchange took place. The Committee agreed to forward the draft General Principles for establishing Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs-R) for persons aged 6 to 36 months (intended to become Appendix 1, Part B to CXG 2-1985) to CAC46 for adoption at Step 5. It was agreed to not address some outstanding aspects in the Draft General Principles, but to consider these in the main body of the *Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling* (CXG 2-1985) and thus at a future meeting and, thereafter, requiring an exchange with / endorsement from CCFL. The EWG was tasked with proposing NRVs-R-values for all micronutrients agreed upon at an earlier meeting. The work is on track.

4. Technological justification for several food additives, Paragraphs 78, 80, 82 and 86

Status:

CCNFSDU41 had completed the "CCNFSDU framework for appraising the technological need for food additives". Additionally, the appraisal of the technological need for xanthan gum (INS 415) and pectins (INS 440) had been carried out, and it was decided to continue with the appraisal of low-acyl clarified gellan gum (INS 418), ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304), mixed tocopherol concentrate (INS 307b), and phosphates (INS 339(i), 339(ii) and 339(iii) and INS 340(i), 340(ii) and 340(iii)).

An in-session WG was established to discuss the technological justification of the above-mentioned additives for use in the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants* (CXS 72-1981) and the Plan/Programme for the consideration of the remaining relevant food additives.

Following a constructive discussion based upon the recommendations of the in-session WG, CCNFSDU43 agreed that the proposed use of INS418, INS304, INS307b, INS 339(i), 339(ii) and 339(iii), and INS 340(i), 340(ii) and 340(iii) was technologically justified.

CCNFSDU43 agreed to inform the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) of the decisions regarding the technological justifications for the four food additives and request that CCFA include them in the priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA for use in foods intended for infants below 12 weeks.

CCNFSDU also agreed to establish an EWG to collect information from the applicants on the use and use levels and confirmation to provide data on the safety assessment for infants below 12 weeks of age on five identified additives; to collect information from the applicants with the framework for considering technological justification for use in CXS 72-1981 on food additives for which the use, use levels and commitment to provide the data is confirmed; and to review the information provided and provide recommendation to CCNFSDU44 on the technological justification of each additive.

Secretariat comment: As a result of a specific request for safety evaluation of food additives used in food for infants below 12 weeks of age, CCFA has requested that CCNFSDU verify the technological justifications before including these additives in the priority list for evaluation by JECFA. This work of the Committee is important to avoid JECFA doing risk assessments if there is no technological justification for food additives in foods intended for infants below 12 weeks of age. For the remaining food additives included in CCFA49/CRD15Rev, CCNFSDU will verify their technological justifications on a batch-by-batch basis. If sufficient technological justifications cannot be provided, the use of these food additives will not be permitted in products conforming to CXS 72-1981.

Chairperson's comments:

Previous discussions and those at CCNFSDU43 have shown that the framework for the evaluation of the technological need of food additives in foods within the remit of CCNFSDU is fit for purpose.

On the food additives for which safety assessments for infants below 12 weeks of age are lacking, it was agreed to follow the framework for considering technological justification for use in CXS 72-1981 and not to take a shortcut justified by the fact that these food additives have been in use for some time. Thus, this aspect will remain on CCNFSDU's agenda for the next couple of years.

5. Prioritization mechanism / emerging issues or new work proposals, Paragraph 97

Secretariat's comments:

The work on a prioritization mechanism had begun following a request from CCEXEC75 (2018).

CCNFSDU41 had been presented with a proposed process and criteria for prioritizing the work of CCNFSDU and agreed to implement these on a pilot basis to assess their usefulness. Since CCNFSDU42 took place virtually with an abridged agenda, the review of new work proposals was postponed to CCNFSDU43 while in the interim work on the prioritization mechanism continued in an EWG. The PWG that met prior to CCNFSDU43 had reviewed all new work proposals using the revised prioritization mechanism on a pilot basis and had also reviewed the mechanism itself.

Following a constructive discussion, CCNFSDU43 agreed to establish a EWG to prepare a revised draft guideline for the preliminary assessment and identification of work priorities for CCNFSDU, including prioritization criteria and a decision tree, taking into account the comments made in the PWG held prior to CCNFSDU43 as well as the comments and decisions made at CCNFSDU43, and request that the Codex Secretariat issue a CL requesting proposals for new work using the revised draft guideline, which would be implemented on a trial basis. A PWG may be held in conjunction with CCNFSDU44 to consider the revised draft guideline on a trial basis and assess any new work proposals received in response to the CL.

The request from CCEXEC75 was at a time when CCNFSDU had a full programme of work, including several discussion papers and almost all items of work needed revised timeframes. While CCNFSDU currently has a manageable agenda, the prioritization mechanism as it is refined will stand the Committee in good stead in future and can be used on a as needed-basis.

Chairperson's comments:

The first-time use of the draft Guideline was followed by an extensive exchange that revealed the need to further refine the draft Guideline for the preliminary assessment and identification of work priorities for CCNFSDU, especially the stepwise process and the decision tree to channel the Committee's new work. It also showed the need for more detailed guidance in order to enable members to submit complete, scoped, justified and timely proposals for new work, and to avoid burdensome albeit fruitless preparatory work. Although this time, there was no need for the Committee to prioritize new work proposals, the criteria for prioritization need to be revised and refined to be fit for purpose in the future. The Draft guideline will be further developed until CCNFSDU44, and will remain a living document to be continuously improved by the PWG as well as through future experience in its practical use.

6. Harmonised probiotic guidelines (discussion paper), Paragraph 106

Status:

CCNFSDU43 agreed to establish an EWG to develop a revised Discussion Paper and Project Document on Harmonized Probiotic Guidelines for Use in Foods and Food Supplements for consideration by CCNFSDU44 as part of the discussions of new work proposals.

Chairperson's comments:

Although delegations were interested in further considering this proposal, an overall need to refine and clarify the scope of work, the need for scientific advice as well as the impact on food safety were detected, and the submitters sought for contributions to this work. Thus, it was agreed to establish an EWG to further develop the proposal for future submission to CCNFSDU in an open-ended manner.

7. Approaches to review all the texts under the purview of CCNFSDU, Paragraph 118

Status:

CCNFSDU43 agreed that the Codex Secretariat would consider approaches and initiate review of all texts under the purview of CCNFSDU to assess if they were still fit for purpose and noted the willingness of FAO and WHO to assist in this task.

Chairperson's comments:

Most of the standards under the purview of CCNFSDU have not been fully revised since their adoption. In order to ensure that all standards are up to date, relevant and consistent with internationally recognized recommendations/policies e.g. on infant and young child feeding, the need for an overall revision has to be checked. Each detected need for a revision would result in a new piece of work.

8. Use of fructans, beta-carotene, and lycopene in CXS 72-1981, Paragraph 125

Status:

CCNFSDU43 agreed to establish an EWG to review the use of fructans, beta-carotene, and lycopene in the context of optional ingredients in the *Standard for Infant Formula and Formulas for Special Medical Purposes Intended for Infants* (CXS 72-1981) and develop recommendations to CCNFSDU44 regarding the safety and suitability of these ingredients as optional ingredients in CXS 72-1981.

Secretariat's comments:

This work stems from the request for inclusion in CXS 234 of new methods of analysis for certain optional ingredients in CXS 72-1981. CCNFSDU might need to consider in future to what extent new methods of analysis should be considered for optional ingredients in Standards under its purview.

Chairperson's comments:

The matter was initially discussed in an in-session WG. Thanks to the presentation of details regarding the establishment of methods of analysis, the information needed by CCMAS for the inclusion of a method in its standard, including minimum and maximum use levels of the substance to be measured, became clearer. This led to the conclusion that more consideration than just from the perspective of "methods" may be needed here, including an assessment of the safety and suitability of optional ingredients for use in CXS 72-1981. This has been done before for a few optional ingredients, e.g. taurine. However, the consideration of the safety and suitability according to the criteria as laid down in 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 of CXS 72-1981 and, eventually, the criteria listed under 2.1 of the *Advisory Lists of Nutrient Compounds for Use in Foods for Special Dietary Uses intended for Infants and Young Children* (CXG 10-1979) includes aspects of risk assessment. As the matter required more consideration, it was agreed to proceed in an EWG. Thus, its more general aspect, i.e. whether/to what extent can/shall CCNFSDU embark on matters related to risk assessment, will also be discussed at a future meeting.

9. Methods for assessing the sweetness of carbohydrate sources, Paragraph 128**Status:**

CCNFSDU43 agreed to establish an EWG to review, identify and, if appropriate, recommend methods for referral to CCMAS for endorsement, in particular ISO 5495, for assessing the sweetness of carbohydrate sources in comparison to lactose in "Product for Young Children" in line with the revised CXS 156-1987, Section B, point 3.1.3c footnote 6 for those products based on non-milk protein. A report is to be submitted for discussion at CCNFSDU44.

Secretariat's comment:

This work relates to the *Standard for Follow-up Formula*, however, should not hamper the adoption of the revised Standard.

Chairperson's comments:

As this work encompasses a new approach to methods of analysis, i.e. the consideration and development of non-instrumental methods, this aspect could not be completed in the in-session working group. Instead, it was decided to address the matter in an EWG and to take it up at a future CCNFSDU meeting. This will enable the exchange with experts on methods of analysis and it may also allow a more general discussion on the value and need for non-instrumental methods of analysis in Codex.