



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### 40<sup>th</sup> Session

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*Requests of Chile*

### ***Biopesticides, Biofertilizers, Biostimulants***

1. According to the current Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) 2014 – 2019, in the Strategic Objective 1, the objective 1.2 is to actively identify emerging issues and necessities of members, and, where appropriate, to develop food standards or related texts.
2. Currently, agriculture is facing the challenge of meeting a growing demand for quality and safe food, including its nutritional value, ensuring food for the entire population; however, there is also the demand of producing in a context of price volatility, presence of several diseases and pests that reduce productivity, the limited shelf life of agricultural products; as well as the climate variability and natural disasters. These challenges have led agriculture to adopt different and diverse practices and technologies such as the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
3. The global regulatory scenario for pesticides of chemical origin is increasing the number of restrictions on the use of this type of products, both in terms of their authorization, as well as the maximum residue limits allowed in food and feed. This triggers growing concern on public health, expressed by scientific bodies, consumers and several risk assessment and risk management agencies worldwide.
4. This situation has encouraged the development of new products for plant protection and nutrition based on microorganisms such as bacteria, algae, protozoa, viruses and fungi, natural substances such as pheromones or semi-chemicals, macro organisms and invertebrates such as insects and nematodes, as well as botanical extracts. The use of this type of products, sometimes called *Biopesticides* or *Biofertilizers*, or *Biostimulants* depending on their functionality, is increasing in world agriculture as a complement or alternative to the use of traditional pesticides. However, the scientific and technical literature is not clear regarding the formal definitions of these concepts, nominations, properties and potential risks for people's health associated with their use, nor is the translation of this type of products in other languages.
5. It is expected a significant increase in the global use of Biopesticides, Biofertilizers, and other farm inputs of natural origin in the production of food, feed and agricultural products, beyond their current use in organic production, which are traded internationally. The use of these products is being increasingly frequent, not only in organic agricultural production, but also in traditional agriculture, at the level of large producers, as well as medium and small producers.
6. It has been noted that the guidelines that Codex Alimentarius provides regarding this type of inputs, are only for their use in organic agriculture, as mentioned in "*Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labeling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (GL 32-99)*" developed by Codex Committee on Food Labeling (CCFL).
7. Although no problems have been detected in trade or food safety on this subject internationally, it is not ruled out that in the future, and due to the lack of clear recommendations on the matter and the establishment of provisions by countries independently, it could become a barrier to the international trade of foods treated with these type of farm inputs.
8. In the light of the above, Chile wants to request guidance from Codex Alimentarius on how the current lack of definitions and recommendations for this type of product should be addressed, including the option of presenting a discussion paper on the subject to an auxiliary body of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.