

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

MAS/37 CRD/22
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS SAMPLING

Thirty-seventhth Session
Budapest, Hungary, 22 – 26 February 2016
(Background information prepared by Iran)

At the last session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC38, July 2015), Islamic Republic of Iran requested to include on the agenda a proposal on Food Integrity / Food Authenticity as other business. However, due to time constraints this proposal was not discussed and the Commission concluded that it shall be discussed at its next session (CAC39).

Given the fact that CCFICS is one the cross frontiers committees at Codex, Islamic Republic of Iran decided to submit a proposal to consider Food Integrity / Food Authenticity issues within the framework of Food Inspection/Certification for consideration by the 22nd Session of the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS22, February 2).

The presentation of this proposal was done on the understanding that it would not prevent a broad discussion of the matter at CAC39 as Food Integrity / Food Authenticity is an issue that addresses several aspects of consumers' protection and trad.

Since issues surrounding Food Integrity / Food Authenticity goes beyond Food Inspection/Certification Systems Islamic Republic of Iran proposal is not limited to the mandate of CCFICS, therefore it is necessary to continue the follow up of this proposal in CAC and other General Subject Committees notably the Committee on Food Labelling ([CCFL](#)), Committee on General Principles ([CCGP](#)) and Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling ([CCMAS](#)).

At CCFICS22, the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran introduced the paper (FICS22/CRD11) and described how increasingly difficult it is for consumers to assess the authenticity of food today, and that with the rise of food fraud there is a need for developing methodologies and possibly Codex guidelines to help national regulatory authorities address this matter.

The Committee discussed the matter and noted that the issue of food integrity/authenticity was a very difficult problem to tackle, but which nevertheless may require more attention from Codex. Many delegations expressed their support for new work to be carried out in this area, as they had experienced various forms of food fraud, where the analytical methods for detection of the fraud by food authorities were either missing or not widely available.

Aside from the more technical aspects of the issue, the Committee also recognized the need for an analysis of CCFICS texts to see whether there were any gaps in the ways food integrity/authenticity was covered in them.

The Committee invited the Islamic Republic of Iran to develop a discussion paper on this topic. This task shall be performed with assistance from the Netherlands and Canada. The Paper could identify where possible new work in the area of food integrity and authenticity could relate to (and possibly supplement) current CCFICS texts.

The Committee agreed to seek guidance from CCFL on issues relating to labeling, CCMAS on issues regarding methods of analysis and sampling in relation to food integrity / authenticity, and from CAC to verify if this issue would be covered by the mandate of CCFICS.

Future action

Following discussion in CCFICS22, Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to prepare a discussion paper for consideration by the next session of CCMAS that identifies issues on Food Integrity / Food Authenticity related to methods of analysis and sampling (i.e. within the mandate of CCMAS) and if appropriate new work in this area as stand-alone document or that could supplement existing CCMAS texts shall be prepared. The discussion paper will take into account any relevant points arising from the broad consideration of this matter at CAC39.