

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 2.2

CX/EXEC 24/86/2 Add.1

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

Eighty-sixth Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

1 – 5 July 2024

CRITICAL REVIEW - PART II¹

Note: For general information about the critical review and the critical review for CCSCH7, CCFO28 and CCFH54, please see CX/EXEC 24/86/2.

1. Structure of appendices

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

1.2 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)

2. List of appendices

Appendix 1: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food, 17th Session (CCCF17)

Appendix 2: Codex Committee on Food Additives, 54th Session (CCFA54)

¹ This document addresses the Codex committees that held sessions during April 2024

Appendix 1

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF)		
Host	Netherlands	Chairperson	Dr Sally Hoffer
Co-Host	Panama		
Session reported on	CCCF17	15-19 April 2024	
Next Session	CCCF18	23-27 June 2025	
Report	<u>REP24/CF</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

CCCF17 was successfully conducted as a physical session with webcast. The session was excellently hosted by the Netherlands and co-hosted by Panama. Two virtual working group (VWG) meetings and one physical working group (PWG) meeting were held in preparation for plenary discussions at CCCF17, which helped ensure good progress in plenary and build consensus.

The session was constructive and productive, and all agenda items were thoroughly discussed and consensually concluded. CCCF17 agreed to forward to CAC47 for final adoption MLs for lead in various spices, and MLs for lead and for cadmium in quinoa, while two MLs for lead in dried bark and dried culinary herbs were forwarded for adoption at Step 5. Notably, CCCF17 consensually agreed in record-time after only being discussed in this session, to forward to CAC47 for final adoption the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning. CCCF17 also agreed to forward to CAC47 two sampling plans, for adoption at Step 5/8 (methylmercury in fish) and Step 5 (total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in certain spices), respectively. Work on MLs for lead in dried spice, flowers, and for fresh culinary herbs was discontinued, while three new work proposals were submitted for approval by CAC47.

It was notable that the PWG meeting began with a keynote speech in which the topic of ciguatoxin was covered. This was helpful in setting the context for discussion on the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning during the PWG and plenary sessions.

Prior to the decisions made at this session, CCCF had been progressing the work on MLs for lead for spices (dried) (see items 1 and 2 below) and for culinary herbs (fresh/dried) (see item 7 below) using a staggered approach in order to allow sufficient time for electronic working groups (EWGs), especially those dealing with the establishment of MLs and data assessment, to fulfill their mandates, and CCCF to thoroughly consider issues of concern to facilitate consensus building.

Chairperson's comments:

The Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) held its 17th Session, in Panama City, Panama. His Excellency Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, President of the Republic of Panama, opened the session.

Co-hosting of CCCF sessions is for the Netherlands an important practice in order to promote collaborative relationships in the region, sharing of responsibilities and capacity building as a larger delegation from two regions would be able to participate, and His Excellency underlined this by stating that "Panama has always been a crossroads in the world and an ideal place for dialogue, and a place to find consensus".

As Chairperson I kept track of the progress of EWGs during the year by consulting with the EWG chairs, and I had extra sessions with those chairs who were in need of more assistance, especially on how to prepare for discussions in the plenary session. In the plenary discussions the influence of good work of the EWGs on a consensual outcome for discussions was again highlighted. It is important for Members to know what the work of chairs and co-chairs would entail before embarking on leading an EWG. I would therefore like to emphasize that it is important that the planned guidance of the Codex Secretariat for EWG chairs becomes available. We would like to organize further training on EWG chairing/co-chairing at the next session.

We also made a new improvements to the way of working. In the plenary session a common working practice for the Committee was formalized. This working practice involves the development of a discussion paper which not only contains the project document but also a proposal for a new or revised Code of Practice. The inclusion of such a draft Code of Practice would help CCCF to have a better basis for decision on starting new work. This would allow CCCF to determine what the new work would entail and the feasibility

of finalizing the work in a timely manner. The success of this working method was demonstrated by the swift agreement on the Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning.

Forward planning of work was again made explicit by presenting during the plenary meeting the draft agenda for CCCF18 with the EWGs and chairs under 'Other business and Future work'. And it was decided on the spot what could be done and which work could be postponed. This way of working gave a good overview of the work and helped also in managing the workload of CCCF.

We note that currently, most work on CCCF's agenda has focused on the development of Codes of Practice. Codes of Practice are at the core of CCCF work, as the successful implementation gives the necessary basis for setting of MLs. Codes of Practice are important tools in achieving safe and sustainable food and feed production.

In addition, we are continuing the work on feed in CCCF, e.g. by revising the *Code of Practice for the Reduction of Aflatoxin B1 in Raw Materials and Supplemental Feedingstuffs for Milk-Producing Animals* (CXC 45-1997) and taking this topic into account in the discussions on foresight (see next paragraph).

In 2023, we added a new agenda item 'Foresight and emerging issues of relevance to CCCF', to exchange information with and between delegations on emerging issues that are of relevance for the work of CCCF and for signaling important issues, even when this would not result in the development of a Codex text. During the discussion at CCCF17, it was agreed to remove foresight as a standing agenda item of CCCF and to organize a side event at subsequent CCCF sessions to have a more in depth exchange on this topic, and to issue a circular letter annually to gather more information on emerging issues relevant to the work of CCCF. CCCF17 had recognized that working with a circular letter would enable CCCF to gain a lot of insight of what has currently been under discussion in Member countries.

I noted that from one region, only few delegations were present, which I would consider a concern as the decisions taken should be supported by sufficient delegations.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job number	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. MLs for lead in spices, dried aril; dried seeds (including a separate ML for celery seeds); dried rhizomes and roots; dried floral parts; and spices, dried fruit and berries (including separate MLs for Sichuan pepper, star anise, paprika and sumac) (CXS 193-1995)	N05-2019	2025	Adoption at Step 5/8
2. MLs for lead in dried bark and dried culinary herbs (CXS 193-1995)	N05-2019	2025	Adoption at Step 5
3. MLs for lead and cadmium in quinoa (CXS 193-1995)	-	-	Adoption
4. Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning	N04-2023	2027	Adoption at Step 5/8
5. Sampling plans for methylmercury in fish (CXS 193-1995)	N04-2021	2024	Adoption at Step 5/8
6. Sampling plans for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in certain spices (dried chilli pepper and paprika, and nutmeg) (CXS 193-1995)	N20-2017	2024	Adoption at Step 5
7. Draft MLs for lead in dried spice, flowers; and fresh culinary herbs (CXS 193-1995)	N05-2019	2025	Discontinuation
8. New work on the revision of the <i>Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts</i> (CXC 55-2004)	-	-	Approval
9. New work on a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods	-	-	Approval
For monitoring			
10. MLs for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan (CXS 193-1995)	N14-2014	2025	Step 2/3
For information			
11. Discussion paper on the revision of the <i>Code of Practice for Weed Control to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed</i> (CXC 74-2014)	For consideration by CCCF18		
12. Discussion paper on tropane alkaloids	For consideration by CCCF18		
13. Discussion paper on the revision of the <i>Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods</i> (CXC 67-2009)	For consideration by CCCF18		
14. Discussion paper on the revision of the <i>Code of Practice for the Reduction of Aflatoxin B1 in Raw Materials and Supplemental Feedingstuffs for Milk-Producing Animals</i> (CXC 45-1997)	For consideration by CCCF18		
15. Review of Codex standards for contaminants	Standing item on the CCCF agenda		
16. Follow-up work to the outcomes of JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert consultations	Standing item on the CCCF agenda		
17. Priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA	Standing item on the CCCF agenda		

4. Specific comments

<p>1. MLs for lead in spices, dried aril; dried seeds (including a separate ML for celery seeds); dried rhizomes and roots; dried floral parts; and spices, dried fruit and berries (including separate MLs for Sichuan pepper, star anise, paprika and sumac) (CXS 193-1995), Paragraph 61(i), Appendix II</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>The work on developing MLs for lead in different food categories has been ongoing since 2019.</p> <p>CCCF16 (2023) had noted that the EWG would continue to work on MLs for lead in culinary herbs (fresh/dried) and spices (dried) for consideration by CCCF17 and that a JECFA call for data had already been issued. This was part of the staggered approach taken by CCCF to discuss items in a step-wise fashion. An extension of the timeline for completion of work to 2025 was requested by CCCF16.</p> <p>CCEXEC84 (2023) had agreed to extend the timelines to 2025 for completion of work on MLs for lead in culinary herbs (fresh/dried) and spices (dried).</p> <p>Following constructive discussions, CCCF17 agreed to forward to CAC47 the following MLs for lead for final adoption at Steps 5/8, noting reservations from some Members to one or several of the MLs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ML of 0.9 mg/kg for spices, dried aril (reservation from India) • An ML of 0.9 mg/kg for dried seeds, excluding celery seeds (reservation from India) • An ML of 1.5 mg/kg for dried celery seeds (reservation from EU and India) • An ML of 2.0 mg/kg for dried rhizomes and roots (reservation from Egypt, EU, India and Indonesia) • An ML of 1.5 mg/kg for dried floral parts (reservation from Egypt, the EU, India and Türkiye) • An ML of 0.6 mg/kg for spices, dried fruit and berries, excluding Sichuan pepper, star anise, paprika and sumac (reservation from India) • An ML of 0.8 mg/kg for spices, dried paprika and sumac • An ML of 3.0 mg/kg for dried Sichuan pepper and dried Star anise (reservation from EU).
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Discussion on how to deal with spice mixtures will take place at CCCF18.</p>
<p>2. MLs for lead in dried bark and dried culinary herbs (CXS 193-1995), Paragraph 61(i) (e, j), Appendix II</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CCEXEC84 (2023) had agreed to extend the timelines to 2025 for completion of work on MLs for lead in culinary herbs (fresh/dried) and spices (dried).</p> <p>Following constructive discussions, CCCF17 agreed to forward the following MLs for lead to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ML of 2.5 mg/kg for dried bark • An ML of 2.5 mg/kg for dried culinary herbs <p>CCCF17 agreed to discontinue work on the ML for fresh culinary herbs (see item 7 below).</p> <p>CCCF17 also agreed to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data for lead in both these food categories.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No additional comments.</p>
<p>3. MLs for lead and cadmium in quinoa (CXS 193-1995), Paragraph 119, Appendix VII</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CAC40 (2017) had requested CCCF to consider MLs for lead and cadmium in quinoa (an extension of the existing MLs for lead and cadmium in cereal grains).</p> <p>CCCF14 (2021) had decided to postpone the discussion on MLs for cadmium and lead in quinoa for three years to allow for data generation and submission to the GEMS/Food database. Recalling this conclusion, CCCF16 (2023) requested and CAC46 (2023) approved for the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data on cadmium and lead in quinoa and quinoa-based products, including foods for infant and young children, in order to review the discussions at CCCF14.</p>

<p>Based on JECFA's assessment outcomes, CCCF17 noted the general support for establishing MLs for cadmium and lead in quinoa separate from cereal grains, in also noting that quinoa is not a cereal but a pseudo-cereal.</p> <p>CCCF17 agreed to forward to CAC47 for adoption the ML of 0.15 mg/kg for cadmium and of 0.2 mg/kg for lead in quinoa.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>4. Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning, Paragraph 97, Appendices V and VI</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CAC46 (2023) had approved the proposal from CCCF16 to start new work on a Code of Practice/Guidelines for the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning.</p> <p>Based upon the further work in the EWG and constructive discussions at CCCF17, CCCF17 agreed to forward the Code of Practice for the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8. The work was thus completed in one session, well within the envisaged timeframe.</p> <p>CCCF17 also agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to publish the information on resources (examples of monitoring programmes and training and guidance resources) with the relevant links as an information document on the CCCF page on the Codex website.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>5. Sampling plans for methylmercury in fish (CXS 193-1995), Paragraph 69(i, ii), Appendix III</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CCCF11 (2017) when progressing MLs for methylmercury in fish had identified that they should be accompanied by sampling plans. CCCF12 (2018) had agreed to send a sampling plan to CCMAS for endorsement and to request advice. CCMAS39 (2018) did not endorse the sampling plan for MLs for methylmercury in fish and agreed to return the sampling plan to CCCF for further consideration. CCCF13 (2019), CCCF14 (2021) and CCCF15 (2022) all agreed to continue the work on the sampling plan.</p> <p>An additional definition for the decision rule was introduced during the VWG held prior to CCCF17 and agreed in plenary. Noting that all the issues have been addressed, CCCF17 agreed to forward the sampling plan to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8 and send the sampling plan to CCMAS43 for endorsement.</p> <p>CCCF17 noted an observation that it was important to gain experience on using the sampling plan and that in future CCCF could come back with a revision / amendment if needed.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>6. Sampling plans for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in certain spices (dried chilli pepper and paprika, and nutmeg) (CXS 193-1995), Paragraph 92, Appendix IV</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CAC40 (2017) approved the the new work on MLs for total aflatoxin and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, chilli and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric as proposed by CCCF11. However, the work was suspended in 2018 to ensure implementation of the <i>Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxins in spices</i> (CXC 78-2017) and to resume discussion in 3 years' time to reconsider the MLs based on new/additional data submitted to the GEMS/Food Database.</p> <p>At CCCF15 (2022), the EWG chaired by India, presented a paper suggesting possible MLs for discussion following a call for data.</p> <p>Following a constructive discussion, CCCF17 agreed on elements such as the definitions .of large and small particle sizes and for powdered spices in the sampling plan; the aggregate sample weight; and the definition of the decision rule (in alignment with that for methylmercury in fish – see item 5 above). However, CCCF17 also noted the need to develop a numeric performance criteria and possible amendment of the sampling method for powdered spices in order to finalize the sampling plan.</p>

<p>Hence, CCCF17 agreed to forward the sampling plan to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5 and re-establish the EWG, chaired by India, to consider the outstanding issues with the aim of finalising the sampling plan at CCCF18. As a consequence, CCCF17 also agreed to request CCEXEC86 to extend the timeline for completion of work to 2025.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>7. Draft MLs for lead in spices, dried flowers; and fresh culinary herbs (CXS 193-1995), Paragraph 61(ii), Appendix II</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CCCF17 agreed to discontinue work on MLs for dried spice, flowers and for fresh culinary herbs in CXS 193-1995, and to inform CCEXEC86 and CAC47 accordingly.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>8. New work on the revision of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts (CXC 55-2004), Paragraph 123(i,ii), Appendix VII</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CAC46 (2023) agreed to the proposal of CCCF16 (2023) to develop a discussion paper to explore whether new information on risk management measures to reduce aflatoxins in peanuts may have become available to support a revision since the adoption of the Code of Practice in 2004.</p> <p>Following a general support, CCCF17 agreed to start new work on revision of the <i>Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts</i> (CXC 55-2004); forward the project document to CAC47 for approval; and to establish an EWG (chaired by Brazil, co-chaired by India) to prepare a proposed revision of the CoP for consideration by CCCF18.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>9. New work on a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods, Paragraph 133(i,ii), Appendix IX</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>This work arose from the review of the Codex standards for contaminants, where it was discussed that a code of practice should be considered prior to review or revision of cadmium MLs. It was found that based on literature review and information from Members, there was sufficient data to support the proposed code of practice.</p> <p>Following a general support, CCCF17 agreed to start new work on a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods; forward the project document to CAC47 for approval; and establish an EWG (chaired by the United States of America) to develop a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods for comments and consideration by CCCF18. The EWG would also determine the need for development of annexes in the code of practice, with commodity specific recommendations.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>10. Guidance on data analysis for development of maximum levels and for improved data collection, Paragraph 145(ii)</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>The JECFA Secretariat proposed to CCCF12 to develop a general guidance on data analysis for ML development as it was observed that different approaches were taken by the EWGs. However, work on the Draft Guidance on data analysis for development of maximum levels (MLs) and for improved data collection had not progressed as initially foreseen, due to the inactivity of the Chair of the EWG, therefore another work procedure was presented for discussion at CCCF17.</p> <p>The EWG Chair proposed that the work during the coming year would focus on finalizing the modifications to the GEMS/Food database template and related guidance. It was foreseen to organize one VWG meeting</p>

to discuss on data collection and submission and data extraction; and the discussion on the structure and the content of the main document with a decision on which of the more complex issues were to be addressed in the future in separate Annex(es) to the main document. It was foreseen to organize one other VWG to discuss this part.

CCCF17 agreed to forward to CAC47 the intention to produce a draft document that would provide practical guidance to the EWG performing data analysis for the development of MLs, for consideration by CCCF18.

Chairperson's comments:

No comments

11. Discussion paper on the revision of the Code of Practice to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed (CXC 74-2014), Paragraph 104

Status:

CCCF16 (2022) had agreed to request that the Codex Secretariat issue a CL requesting comments on the recommendations in the discussion paper, and that the EWG prepare a revised paper based on the comments received in response to the CL for consideration by CCCF17.

CCCF17 following a constructive discussion agreed to further develop the discussion paper on the revision of the *Code of Practice to Prevent and Reduce Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed* (CXC 74-2014) which would address also practices for honey, and provide a proposal for the revised Code of Practice as well as a project document. An EWG chaired by Türkiye, co-chaired by the United Kingdom and The Netherlands would lead in developing the discussion paper.

CCCF17 also agreed to develop a guidance document on sampling and minimum analytical requirements for the collection of data to be submitted to the GEMS/Food contaminants database, which would be incorporated in a call for data drafted at CCCF18.

Chairperson's comments:

No comments

12. Revised discussion paper on tropane alkaloids, Paragraph 109(i)

Status:

CCCF16 had established an EWG to prepare a discussion paper on tropane alkaloids to look into the need and feasibility of possible follow-up actions for consideration by CCCF17. It was noted that there was general support to develop a code of practice to prevent and reduce the presence of tropane alkaloids in food. However, it was also discussed that the discussion paper should be revised to cover:

- management of tropane alkaloids in feed as there is evidence of the transfer of tropane alkaloids into milk that can be relevant for public health; and
- more occurrence data on tropane alkaloids data related to the harvested crops in the post-harvest and preprocessing stages, as this could contribute to a better understanding of mitigation and application of GAP.

CCCF17 agreed to re-establish the EWG (chaired by China and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia) to prepare a revised discussion paper including proposal for a new code of practice and project document for consideration by CCCF18; and request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data (while noting that it was premature for JECFA to conduct a full evaluation) on tropane alkaloid contamination in food and feed, with guidance to indicate the stage of sampling.

Chairperson's comments:

No comments

13. Discussion paper on the revision of the Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods (CXC 67-2009), Paragraph 114

Status:

CCCF16 (2023) had established an EWG to prepare a discussion paper on acrylamide in foods.

At CCCF17, it was recommended to revise the *Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods* (CXC 67-2009) and consider issuing a call for data. CCCF17 noted the general support for the revision of CXC 67-2009 and that further work was needed to highlight what was needed in the Code of Practice, as

<p>well as to assess the availability of additional or new available mitigation measures which could be included in a revised discussion paper for consideration by CCCF18.</p> <p>CCCF17 agreed to re-establish the EWG (chaired by India, co-chaired by Saudi Arabia) to develop a discussion paper with a proposal for a draft revised Code of Practice and a project document, and issue a CL to collect information on new risk management measures for the reduction of acrylamide.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>14. Discussion paper on the revision of the <i>Code of Practice for the Reduction of Aflatoxin B1 in Raw Materials and Supplemental Feedingstuffs for Milk-Producing Animals (CXC 45-1997)</i>, Paragraph 128</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>CCCF16 (2023) had established an EWG to develop a discussion paper to explore whether there are new measures supporting the revision of the <i>Code of Practice for the Reduction of Aflatoxin B1 in Raw Materials and Supplemental Feedingstuffs for Milk-Producing Animals (CXC 45-1997)</i> for consideration by CCCF17.</p> <p>CCCF17 agreed to re-establish the EWG (chaired by Canada, co-chaired by Saudi Arabia) to revise the discussion paper, with a proposal for a revised CoP and a project document for new work. CCCF17 also agreed to consider in future how the different Code of Practices could be integrated or merged to avoid overlap, inconsistencies, and redundancies.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>15. Review of Codex standards for contaminants, Paragraph 153(iv)</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>The review of Codex standards for contaminants was initiated with a trial period that would end in 2024 as established at CCCF14 (2021).</p> <p>CCCF17 noted that in this recent round of review, seven recommendations were made for edits to the Overall High Priority List (OHPL), additions and deletions to the List A (Codex Contaminant Standards Established or Reviewed ≥ 25 and ≥ 15 and >25 Years Ago), and List B (Codex Contaminant Standards Recommended for Re-Evaluation). The amendments were agreed upon.</p> <p>CCCF17 also recalled that CCMAS42 (2023) had requested CCCF to evaluate sampling plans in CXS 193 to determine if they were still within the revised <i>General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004)</i>. More time was needed to reflect on the possible options to address this request, as the review of Codex standards for contaminants was not a suitable framework to fit this request in, and a CL would be issued to solicit comments.</p> <p>Noting that this year marked the end of the trial period, CCCF17 agreed to the recommendation of the VWG held prior to the Session, to maintain the prioritization of existing Codex contaminant standards for review as an annual CCCF agenda item.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>16. Follow-up work to the outcomes of JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert consultations, Paragraph 164(i,ii)</p>
<p>Status:</p> <p>This is a standing agenda item at CCCF.</p> <p>Arising from the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption held in October 2023, CCCF17 had a discussion on the outcomes of the consultation and agreed to address the recommendations "Collect standardized data on fish contaminants" and "Develop, maintain and improve existing databases on levels and trends over time of specific contaminants, in particular MeHg, dioxins and dl-PCBs" in the frame of the ongoing discussions on the Guidance on data analysis for development of maximum levels and for improved data collection.</p> <p>It was noted that similar to the previous year, no Members took up the follow-up work on ergot alkaloids, T-2, HT-toxin and diacetoxyscirpenol (DAS). Given that there were no JECFA evaluations on contaminants scheduled prior to CCCF18, a suggestion was made, and CCCF18 agreed, to merge the WG for this item</p>

with the WG on the Priority List of Contaminants for evaluation by JECFA. The merged WG would be chaired by the United States of America.

CCCF17 also noted that moving forward, Japan and the United States of America would coordinate the separation of recent and older JECFA evaluations in the document CF/INF that is issued at CCCF sessions for information.

CCCF17 also agreed reconsider the elaboration of a discussion paper on the need and feasibility of possible follow-up actions on ergot alkaloids and trichothecenes T-2, HT-2 and DAS at CCCF18 by integrating these evaluations in the inventory of follow-up to previous JECFA evaluations.

Chairperson's comments:

No comments

17. Priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA, Paragraph 168, Appendix X

Status:

CCCF17 agreed to endorse the priority list as amended and continue to request comments and/or information on the priority list for consideration by CCCF18.

CCCF17 also agreed to request the JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data;

- on lead in spices, dried bark; and dried culinary herbs;
- to support review of the MLs for total aflatoxins in various cereal products;
- on total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts; and
- on tropane alkaloid contamination in food and feed.

Chairperson's comments:

No comments

Appendix 2

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)		
Host	China	Chairperson	Dr Fan Youngxiang
Session reported on	CCFA54	22-26 April 2024	
Next Session	CCFA55	24-28 March 2025	
Report	<u>REP24/FA</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

CCFA54 was successfully conducted as a physical session with webcasting. In preparation for the plenary discussions at CCFA54, two PWG meetings were held on the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) and on the Endorsement/Alignment, respectively. Additionally, two IWG meetings were held on the priority list and INS, respectively. These meetings were critical to progressing the work and helped ensure CCFA54 was constructive and productive.

All agenda items were thoroughly discussed and consensually concluded.

Chairperson's comments:

In 2024, at the 40 years' anniversary of China joining Codex in 1984, it was commemorative to hold the 54th session of CCFA in one of the most attractive cities in China, Chengdu. This session of CCFA was fruitful. It is worth highlighting that the main focus of CCFA's work continues to be the GSFA, in particular the completion of consideration of the draft provisions and the alignment of the food additive provisions of commodity standards with those in the GSFA. Other work related to the GSFA include: i) preparation of the priority list of substances to be evaluated by JECFA, ii) the adoption of the specifications for quality and purity prepared by JECFA, and iii) the update (amendments) of the *Class Names and the International Numbering Systems of Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989). It is also exciting that CCFA agreed on the new work proposal to elaborate a Codex Standard for Baker's Yeast. I would like to regard CCFA54 as a turning point pertaining to the work management of CCFA. This session addressed the procedures for JECFA withdrawing ADI for food additive substances, with the consequential actions of CCFA; and the criteria for substance entering into the INS system; as well as the mechanism to minimise divergency/misalignment of food additives provisions between the GSFA and commodity standards, including the relations and interactions between CCFA and Commodity/Regional Committees. All these discussions on the principle, procedures and mechanisms will help improve the CCFA work management, and to improve the Codex standard system and the working mechanism in Codex.

The theme of World Food Safety Day on June 7, 2024 is "Food Safety: Prepare for the unexpected". I believe CCFA is also getting ready for the future.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job number	Target year	Recommendation of the Committee
For decision by the Commission			
1. Proposed draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives	-	-	Adoption at Step 5/8
2. Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions and revisions to adopted provisions (CXS 192-1995, GSFA)	-	-	Adoption
3. Revision to the descriptors to Annex B (FC 01.4.3) and Annex C of the GSFA preamble (CXS 192-1995)	-	-	Adoption
4. Revision to the <i>Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives</i> (CXG 36-1989)	-	-	Adoption at Step 5/8
5. Revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of two standards from CCMMP, four standards from CCPFV, two standards from CCNE, two standards from CCASIA, and one standard from CCLAC (CXS 192-1995)	-	-	Adoption
6. Revised food additive sections of two standards from CCMMP, one standard from CCPFV, one standard from CCASIA and one standard from CCLAC	-	-	Adoption
7. Consequential amendments to the Tables 1, 2 and 3 of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995) due to the change of INS number for gellan gum to INS 418(i)	-	-	Adoption
8. Revisions to the food additives provisions in the <i>Standard for Pickled Cucumbers (Cucumber Pickles)</i> (CXS 115-1981) and <i>Standard for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades</i> (CXS 296-2009)	-	-	Adoption
9. Editorial corrections to the <i>General Standard for Cheese</i> (CXS 283-1978)	-	-	Adoption
10. Consequential amendments to the <i>Standard for Aqueous Coconut Products – Coconut Milk and Coconut Cream</i> (CXS 240-2003) due to the change of INS number for gellan gum to INS 418(i)	-	-	Adoption
11. Food additive provisions of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995)	-	-	Revocation
12. Draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995)	-	-	Discontinuation
13. Priority List of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA	-	-	Endorsement
14. Development of a standard for baker's yeast			Approval

For monitoring			
15. New proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA	-	-	Step 2
For information			
16. Development of a document including the working practices and the an plan to avoid divergence between the GSFA, commodity standards, and other texts			

4. Specific comments**1. Proposed draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives, Paragraphs 48, 133, Appendix III****Status and Secretariat's comments:**

CCFA54 agreed to forward full specifications for food additives to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8 and make the consequential amendment to the *List of Codex Specifications for Food Additives* (CXA 6-2023).

Chairperson's comments:

The adoption of the food additive specifications prepared by JECFA is one of the key and regular task of CCFA. The discussion and work on this agenda item is manageable. The explanation of the JECFA Secretariat on the independent evaluations of aspartame carried out by IARC and JECFA, and the rational to reaffirm the previous established ADI for aspartame was helpful. It is beneficial to clarify the procedures for JECFA withdrawing ADI and the consequential actions taken by CCFA.

2. Draft and proposed draft food-additive provisions and revisions to adopted provisions (CXS 192-1995, GSFA), Paragraph 103(i), Appendix VI, Part B**Status and Secretariat's comments:**

CCFA54 agreed to forward to CAC47 the draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA for adoption at Step 8, and Step 5/8, respectively, and revisions to adopted provisions as listed in Appendix VI, Part B.

Chairperson's comments:

The GSFA is the focus of CCFA. Before the plenary, a PWG of the GSFA was held to discuss the maximum use levels for individual food additives. Much progress has been made to adopt hundreds of provisions. This makes it more convincing that when completed, the GSFA will be the only reference on food additives in the Codex system.

3. Revision to the descriptors to Annex B (FC 01.4.3) and Annex C of the GSFA preamble (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 66(iii), Appendix VI, Part A.1.1**Status and Secretariat's comments:**

As part of the alignment work related to various milk and milk product standards, it became clear that the descriptors to Annex B (FC 01.4.3) and Annex C in the GSFA preamble needed revision.

CCFA54 agreed to forward the revised text for adoption by CAC47.

Chairperson's comments:

Alignment is another pillar of CCFA. CCFA54 welcomed new Chairs and a team of Rapporteurs for alignment from Canada. The new Chairs and Rapporteurs did an excellent job in the EWG as well as the physical working group.

The PWG on alignment of food additive provisions on the Codex commodity standards and on the GSFA was held before the plenary since the workload on alignment work has been increasing year after year. It was noted that despite the completion of alignment work this year, the waiting list is still long.

I am delighted to see that the alignment working group finished its tasks and came up with a revised future work plan. The new work plan together with the discussions on developing working practices including consideration of a guidance document and on developing an engagement plan will greatly facilitate the alignment work.

4. Revision to the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989), Paragraph 122, Appendix X**Status and Secretariat's comments:**

CCFA54 agreed to forward the proposals for revision to the *Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives* (CXG 36-1989) to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8.

Chairperson's comments:

The INS system is one of the 4 pillars of CCFA. It is a routine task and the work is manageable. Pertaining to the discussion of phycocyanin, it was noticed that in the CL, requests for the inclusion of new additives were made by Codex Members that authorized the additive for use in that country and for which an INS number is needed, which means national approval is a prerequisite to asking for assignment of an INS

<p>number for a new substance. This became a burden for countries which only allowed those substances for use as food additives, if they have suitable provisions in the GSFA. While the committee agreed to keep the current process for the request of new INS as included in the CL unchanged, it is worth considering this case on an exceptional basis, and therefore the INS EWG established by CCFA54 will further consider this issue.</p>
<p>5. Revised food additive provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of two standards from CCMMP, four standards from CCPFV, two standards from CCNE, two standards from CCASIA, and one standard from CCLAC (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 66(iii), Appendix VI, Parts A.1.2, A.1.3, A.1.4, A.2, A.3</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to forward to CAC47 for adoption the revised provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two standards from CCMMP, i.e., the <i>Standards for Fermented Milks</i> (CXS 243-2003); and <i>Cream and Prepared Creams</i> (CXS 288-1976) four standards from CCPFV, i.e., <i>Standards for Processed Tomato Concentrates</i> (CXS 57-1981); <i>Table Olives</i> (CXS 66-1981); <i>Pickled Fruits and Vegetables</i> (CXS 260-2007); and <i>Quick Frozen Vegetables</i> (CXS 320-2017) five regional standards, i.e., <i>Regional Standards for Harissa (Red Hot Pepper Paste)</i> (Near East) (308R-2011); <i>Tempe</i> (Asia) (313R-2013), <i>Date Paste</i> (Near East) (314R-2013); <i>Laver Products</i> (Asia) (323R-2017); and <i>Yacon</i> (Latin America and the Caribbean) (324R-2017).
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Alignment is an important and routine work in CCFA, as explained in part 3, and there's nothing special to be added here.</p>
<p>6. Revised food additive sections of two standards from CCMMP, one standard from CCPFV, one standard from CCASIA, and one standard from CCLAC, Paragraph 66(i), Appendix V, Parts B.1, B.3, B.4, B.5, B.6</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to forward to CAC47 for adoption the revised food-additive sections of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two standards from CCMMP, i.e. the <i>Standards for Fermented Milks</i> (CXS 243-2003), and <i>Cream and Prepared Creams</i> (CXS 288-1976) one standard from CCPFV, i.e., <i>the Standard for Table Olives</i> (CXS 66-1981) two regional standards, i.e., <i>Regional Standard for Laver Products</i> (Asia) (CXS 323R-2017) and <i>Regional Standard for Yacon</i> (Latin America and the Caribbean) (CXS 324R-2017)
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Alignment is an important and routine work in CCFA, as explained in part 3, and there's nothing special to be added here.</p>
<p>7. Consequential amendments to the Tables 1, 2 and 3 of the GSFA, due to the change of INS number for gellan gum to INS 418(i), Paragraph 123(ii), Appendix VI, Part C</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to forward to CAC47 for adoption the consequential amendments due to the change of INS number for gellan gum to INS 418(i) to the Tables 1, 2 and 3 of the GSFA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The INS number is the identity of food additive substances in the GSFA, and the consequential amendments are necessary to keep the consistency of INS and GSFA.</p>
<p>8. Revisions to the food additives provisions in the <i>Standard for Pickled Cucumbers (Cucumber Pickles)</i> (CXS 115-1981) and <i>Standard for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades</i> (CXS 296-2009), Paragraph 22(i), Appendix V, Part A</p>

<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to forward all revisions pertinent to riboflavins and carotene-related food additives in the <i>Standard for Pickled Cucumbers (Cucumber Pickles)</i> (CXS 115-1981) and <i>Standard for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades</i> (CXS 296-2009) to CAC47 for adoption.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 considered the recommendations related to the provisions for riboflavins and carotene-related food additives in CXS 115-1981 and CXS 296-2009 and agreed to forward the revised food additive provisions for adoption.</p>
<p>9. Editorial corrections to the <i>General Standard for Cheese</i> (CXS 283-1978), Paragraph 66(ii), Appendix V, Part B.2</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to forward to CAC47 for adoption the editorial corrections to the <i>General Standard for Cheese</i> (CXS 283-1978).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This is one of the output of alignment work and there is nothing special to add.</p>
<p>10. Consequential amendments to the <i>Standard for Aqueous Coconut Products – Coconut Milk and Coconut Cream</i> (CXS 240-2003) due to the change of INS number for gellan gum to INS 418(i), Paragraph 123(i), Appendix V, Part D</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to forward to CAC47 for adoption the consequential amendments to the <i>Standard for Aqueous Coconut Products – Coconut Milk and Coconut Cream</i> (CXS 240-2003) due to the change of INS number for gellan gum to INS 418(i).</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>The consistency of INS numbers of food additives in the INS system, the GSFA, and the commodity standards is important. There is nothing special to add.</p>
<p>11. Food additive provisions of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995), Paragraphs 44(ii) and 103(ii), Appendix VII</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to forward to CAC47 for revocation specified food additive provisions of the GSFA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This is the result of GSFA discussion. There's nothing special to add and the work is manageable.</p>
<p>12. Draft and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA (CXS 192-1995), Paragraph 103(iii), Appendix VIII</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to forward to CAC47 for discontinuation the specified draft, and proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This is the result of GSFA discussion. There's nothing special to add and the work is manageable.</p>
<p>13. Priority List of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA, Paragraph 137, Appendix XI</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to forward for endorsement by CAC47, as well as to FAO and WHO for follow-up, the amended Priority List of Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA.</p> <p>CCFA54 also agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to issue a CL requesting information and comments on the Priority List of Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA.</p>

<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 welcomed the new Chair and Rapporteurs of the working group on the Priority List of Substances Proposed for Evaluation by JECFA. The new Chairs and Rapporteurs did an excellent job.</p> <p>The priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA is the fourth pillar of CCFA. More and more substances have been put on the priority list which need to be further prioritized considering the limited resources of JECFA. With the confirmation from the sponsors of data availability, the priority list has become more promising.</p>
<p>14. New work on development of a standard for baker's yeast, Paragraph 163(ii), Appendix XIII</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to submit to CAC47 for approval as new work the project document on the development of a standard for baker's yeast.</p> <p>CCFA54 also agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by China and co-chaired by France and Türkiye, to prepare, subject to the approval of the new work, a proposed draft standard for baker's yeast for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCFA55.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>I am delighted to see after negotiation between sessions, the committee reached consensus on the scope of the standard and agreed to submit this work to CAC47 for approval as new work. Pending the approval of CAC47, the EWG will prepare the draft standard for discussion at CCFA55.</p>
<p>15. New proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA, Paragraph 103(iv), Appendix IX</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to forward to CAC47 for information the proposed draft food additive provisions for inclusion in the GSFA, at Step 2.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>This appendix will be discussed in the next GSFA EWG and CCFA55, following the step process. There's nothing special to add, and the work is manageable.</p>
<p>16. Development of a document on the working practices and an engagement plan to avoid divergence between the GSFA, commodity standards, and other texts, Paragraph 150</p>
<p>Status and Secretariat's comments:</p> <p>CCFA54 agreed to request China as author, and Australia, Brazil, Canada, the EU, Senegal and the United States of America as co-authors to develop a document on working practices including consideration of a guidance document, for the endorsement and incorporation of food additive provisions considered by Regional/Commodity Committees in order to ensure that the necessary timely changes are made to the GSFA. These working practices would be in accordance with the Codex Procedural Manual. The document should also include an engagement plan on how CCFA interacts with the Commodity/Regional Committees.</p>
<p>Chairperson's comments:</p> <p>Much progress has been made in CCFA to examine the current practices, and CCFA 54 agreed to continue working on this issue. All the efforts were made to strengthen the GSFA as the single reference for food additives in Codex, and to minimise the incorporation of specific food additive provisions in commodity standards as much as possible, and to further plan for the future, to look at the relations and interactions between CCFA and Commodity/Regional Committees.</p> <p>We are expecting to read the two new documents in the 55th session and its future sessions of CCFA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the working practices for endorsement and incorporation of food additive provisions considered by Regional/Commodity Committees in order to ensure that the necessary timely changes are made to the GSFA, and ii. the engagement plan on how the CCFA interacts with the Commodity/Regional Committees.