



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Twenty-second meeting

Virtual meeting, 24-28 October 2022

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION

(Prepared by the CCLAC Chair and Secretariat)

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In 2009, the twenty-fifth Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) discussed the specific request made by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) to clarify whether the terms of reference of the Coordinating Committees allowed for regional views to be raised in plenary on issues discussed in Codex.
- 1.2 The CCGP confirmed that the terms of reference of the Coordinating Committees allow for the formulation of regional positions on all issues discussed in the framework of Codex, which are of strategic importance for the region.
- 1.3 A procedure agreed at the eighteenth CCLAC Meeting currently provides guidance to Member Countries on regional positions regarding issues relevant to the region. This has helped to present a more coordinated approach on issues that are strategic for CCLAC Member Countries and has also improved the region's ability to establish strong and balanced positions at international Codex meetings.
- 1.4 Therefore, as part of the preparations for the twenty-second CCLAC, the CCLAC Coordinator and the host country Secretariat discussed issues of regional interest for consideration at the twenty-second CCLAC. Codex working documents relevant to the region for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and final reports of the various Codex Committees pertaining to the same period in which the comments, concerns and recommendations of CCLAC members are clearly set out were considered with this in mind. The "Regional Workshop for the popularization of Codex Alimentarius work in CCLAC Countries 2020-2022" was also held.
- 1.5 The purpose of this document is to consider Codex work relevant to the CCLAC region, identify areas and ways to address these issues and establish a coordinated approach to them.

2. ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO THE REGION

- 2.1 Because responses to previous surveys sent to CCLAC members have been disappointing, with a response rate of 27 percent in 2020 and 52 percent in 2021, the Coordinator and the CCLAC Secretariat decided to plan an event designed to encourage participation and direct contact with countries for the collection of information relevant to the region's concerns and progress. The event "Regional Workshop for the popularization of Codex Alimentarius work in CCLAC Countries 2020-2022", held on 28-29 July, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 August 2022, was attended by 24 of the 33 Member Countries, representing 72 percent of the region.
- 2.2 Furthermore, there was follow-up on those agenda items listed by the Codex Committee, as well as those of the Electronic Working Groups (eWGs) hosted by CCLAC Member Countries. Challenges related to Codex activities were highlighted and the strengthening of national and regional food safety control systems was identified as a priority concern. The implementation of Codex Alimentarius standards and supplementary activities performed by FAO and WHO support this effort.
- 2.3 The table below shows some key aspects of Codex work relevant to the region covered by subcommittee plenary meetings. Most of the meetings were held virtually, which allowed more delegates to be involved in subcommittee activities. Prior to COVID-19 and its aftermath, concerns had been expressed about the lack of participation by some Member States due to a lack of resources. Information was therefore obtained to establish which agenda items had been most discussed and had been the subject of the most recent debates, attended by almost all Member Countries during plenary and postplenary committee meetings. Overall, most members confirmed that virtual meetings had increased the frequency and improved the effectiveness of

regional communication. Members also provided their views on possible forms of cooperation by encouraging discussion of such issues.

Table 1 - Agenda items by Codex Committee that CCLAC Member Countries mainly addressed during meetings.

Committee	Agenda items	Country leading the discussion or posing the question	Remarks
General Subject Committees			
Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods - CCCF	Sampling plan(s) for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based foods, including foods for infants and young children.	Brazil (co-chair)	Support the Chair's proposal (15µg per kg with support for review in 5 years) in order to reach consensus and mention the importance of risk mitigation measures.
Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods - CCCF	Maximum Levels (MLs) for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin in nutmeg, chilli, dried paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric.	Brazil (co-chair)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Draft associated sampling plans. 2) Propose discussion in CCSC6 because of concern that no specific categories have been identified for most culinary herbs.
Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods - CCCF	Maximum Levels (MLs) for cadmium in cocoa and cocoa products.	Ecuador (Chair)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The proposed MLs for the ready-to-eat cocoa powder category (100% of total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis) and a commitment to ensure an acceptable rejection rate for all regions were approved.
Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods - CCCF	Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans.	Peru (Chair) Ecuador (co-chair)	Support advancement of the document to step 5/8.
Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods - CCCF	Maximum levels for methylmercury in certain fish species (orange roughy, forkbeards and conger eels) and associated sampling plan.	Various	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support the MLs for lead in some food categories. 2) Support the MLs for methylmercury in some fish species. 3) Mention the importance of differentiating between different situations that are detrimental and hinder the search for solutions.
Codex Committee on Food Additives- CCFA	Discussion paper on the use of certain food additives in wine production.	Chile (leading the discussion paper)	The document will be presented at CCFA53 next year, 2023.
Codex Committee on Food Hygiene - CCFH	Proposed draft decision tree (revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene) (CXC 1-1969).	Brazil introduced the agenda item Honduras and Jamaica, among others	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The "Tools for Critical Control Point (CCP) Identification" at the forty-fifth Session of the CAC for adoption at Step 5/8 and subsequent inclusion as Annex 2 to the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC1-1969) (Appendix III, Part A); and

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			2) The consequent amendment of Section 3.7 of Chapter 2 of CXC 1-1969 to refer to Annex 2 (Appendix III, Part B).
Codex Committee on Food Hygiene - CCFH	Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in Raw Beef, Leafy Greens, Raw Milk and Cheese Produced from Raw Milk, and Sprouts.	Chile (chair of the eWG)	<p>Chile, with the assistance of France, New Zealand and the United States of America as co-chairs, is leading the electronic Working Group on the development of draft guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in Raw Beef, Leafy Greens, Raw Milk and Cheese Produced from Raw Milk, and Sprouts.</p> <p>The latest version of these draft guidelines has been posted on the web page of the fifty-third Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) and is currently open for comments from all members and observers (CL 2022/56/OCS-FH). A face-to-face working group meeting will take place immediately prior to the fifty-third CCFH to consider the comments received before discussing the draft guidelines in the plenary session of the fifty-third CCFH.</p>
Codex Committee on Food Hygiene - CCFH	Guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production.	Honduras (Chair) Chile (co-chair)	<p>Honduras, with the assistance of the United States of America and Chile as co-chairs, is in charge of managing the proposed draft guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production. The latest version of these draft guidelines has been posted on the web page of the fifty-third Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) and is currently open for comments from all members and observers (CL 2022/48/OCS-FH). A face-to-face working group meeting will take place immediately prior to the fifty-third CCFH to consider the comments received before discussing the draft guidelines in the plenary session of the fifty-third CCFH.</p> <p>A workshop on the safe use and reuse of water in food processing was held in Honduras from 11 to 13 October 2022 to explore some aspects of the practical application of guidance in this area.</p>
Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses - CCNFSDU	General principles for establishing NRVs-R for persons aged 6 to 36 months.	Costa Rica (eWG member)	Some minor amendments are necessary to ensure that the provisions contain the most up-to-date references and to accommodate developments in the section on food additives.
Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)		Various	<p>3) Revision of the General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG50-2004).</p> <p>4) Review of analytical methods in CXS234: fats and oils workable package.</p>
Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues- CCPR	Guidelines on performance criteria for methods of analysis for the determination of	Various	1) Concern about the use of environmental inhibitors was a cross-cutting issue that could include veterinary medicines, fertilizers, feed additives, etc.

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	pesticide residues in food and feed.		<p>2) Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989).</p> <p>3) General agreement to re-establish the eWG and to continue work on the Guidelines in the light of comments received in response to CL 2021/38-PR. 192.</p>
Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues- CCPR	Amendment of the portion of commodities to which maximum residue limits (MRLs) apply and which is analysed	Agenda item raised by Ecuador	<p>Ecuador asked the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) to clarify provisions for the portion of commodities to which MRLs apply and which is analysed with regard to Group 014 (Assorted fruits – Inedible peel) and Group 006 (Assorted tropical and subtropical fruits – Inedible peel) to ensure that commodity classifications in the <i>Guidelines on the portion of commodities to which MRLs apply and which is analysed</i> (CXG 41-1993) and the <i>Classification of Food and Feed</i> (CXA 4-1989) are harmonized, in order to safeguard the health of consumers and avoid adverse effects on trade.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to forward this request to the Electronic Working Group on the Revision of the Classification, which is chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by the Netherlands.</p>
Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods - CCRVDF	Maximum residue limits (MRLs) for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver and muscle).	Various	Under discussion, document circulated for comments.
Commodity Committees			
Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products - CCFFP			No specific issues identified: ongoing work on sardine species to be included in the sardine standard and interest in work on seaweeds.
Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables - CCFV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed draft standard for onions and shallots. - Proposed draft standard for berry fruits. - Proposed draft standard for fresh dates. 	Mexico (Chair)	Adoption at Step 5/8 - Appendices II, III, VI respectively.
Codex Committee on Fats and Oils- CCFO	Amendment/revision of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS)	Mexico (chair of the eWG)	Chile expressed its reservation on the definition as it included a reference to the whole fruit and, in its

Committee	Agenda items	Country leading the discussion or posing the question	Remarks
	210-1999): Inclusion of avocado oil.		view, avocado oil is derived only from the mesocarp.
Codex Committee on Fats and Oils-CCFO	Proposed draft revision of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Inclusion of Sacha Inchi oil.	Peru	Subject to approval by CAC45. The draft will be prepared for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration by CCFO28 (2024).
Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs - CCSCH	Proposed draft standard for dried or dehydrated chilli pepper and paprika.	Mexico	<p>Mexico submitted the following comments through CRD9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed change to Table 1: Dried or dehydrated chilli pepper and paprika - Proposed change to Table 3: Physical requirements for dried or dehydrated chilli pepper and paprika - Proposed change to Table 4: Method of analysis
Codex Alimentarius Commission and Executive Committee			
Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission - CCEXEC	Application of the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science and the Extent to which other Factors are Taken into Account.	<p>Ecuador (regional coordinator)</p> <p>Uruguay (geographical representative)</p> <p>Several countries involved in submission of the Conference Room Document (CRD)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The position that science is respected as the basis for decision-making was maintained; there is no need for interpretative guidance, since the Procedural Manual is clear, and votes could be taken if strictly necessary; OLFs must be tested, or they should not be taken into account; and there is no need for a revision of the Procedural Manual or the Statements of Principle. 2) Members mentioned that their strategy would be to refer to the recommendations of the scientific advisory bodies and follow the Procedural Manual to reach consensus, taking note of reservations in such a way as not to impede the progress of standards. 3) The countries of the region submitted a counterproposal on the diagram and the framework for using the Statements in different situations.
Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission - CCEXEC	New food sources and production systems	<p>Ecuador (regional coordinator)</p> <p>Uruguay (geographical representative)</p>	See Agenda item 2.
Codex Alimentarius	MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride	Ecuador and several Member Countries from the region that	Report by the Chair of the CAC available on the Codex website.

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Commission - CAC		participated in the informal discussions organized by the CAC Chair	CCLAC will be consulted on the regional position to be adopted at the coming CAC45, in support of science and adherence to the Procedural Manual.

Table 2 - Topics relevant to the Electronic Working Groups (eWGs) hosted by Member Countries of the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

eWG	Development
<p><i>Host country: Chile</i></p> <p>Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) in Raw Beef, Leafy Greens, Raw Milk and Cheese Produced from Raw Milk, and Sprouts.</p>	<p>Annex covers specific guidance for the control of STEC related to sprouts that are intended to be consumed uncooked.</p> <p>Sprouts and home-grown sprouts, watercress and microgreens where the seed is not retained in the final product are not within the scope of this document. This Annex should be used in conjunction with the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969) and the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CXC 53-2003), including Annex II for sprout production.</p>
<p><i>Host country: Honduras</i></p> <p>Guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production.</p>	<p>Continue to develop the draft guidelines and annexes (fresh produce, fishery products and dairy sector), and requested FAO/WHO to schedule regular communication to facilitate consideration of JEMRA outcomes and obtain advice on any relevant issues.</p>
<p><i>Host country: Mexico</i></p> <p>Amendment/revision of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of avocado oil.</p>	<p>The recommendation is for the parameter values shared with us to be as up to date as possible and come from academic organizations, from internationally recognized testing laboratories accredited to ISO standards or from producers whose data are obtained from accredited laboratories, and that the method of obtaining the levels of desmethylsterols is accredited by the accreditation body of each country.</p> <p>The United States of America also recommends that the percentage of cholesterol be included in a footnote in Table 3 and requests corrections while continuing to collect information on tocopherols and tocotrienols in response to CL22_13e.</p>
<p><i>Host country: Peru</i></p> <p>Amendment/revision of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999): Inclusion of Sacha Inchi oil.</p>	<p>Proposed draft revision of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999): Inclusion of Sacha Inchi oil. The mandate of the group is subject to approval of new work, to prepare the proposed draft revision for circulation for comments at Step 3.</p>
<p><i>Host country: Brazil</i></p> <p>Sampling plan(s) for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children</p>	<p>Further develop the sampling plan considering the possibility of harmonizing the sampling plans for maize grain and flour, meal, semolina and flakes derived from maize with the sampling plan for Deoxynivalenol (DON) and fumonisins and the sampling plan for cereal-based foods for infants and young children with the sampling plan for DON, taking into account the points raised in paragraph 153 of REP22/CF15.</p>

3. DISCUSSION PAPERS FOR REGIONAL POSITIONS

Table 3 sets out agenda items for discussion of possible regional positions with the aim of advancing draft standards for the benefit of the region. Following the inclusion of keynote speeches to stimulate discussion and the exchange of information on topical issues, related to food safety and the work of Codex, these agenda items would be of key importance. CCLAC members reiterated support for the advancement of the various proposed draft standards in accordance with the scientific validation carried out mainly by Codex

subsidiary bodies, such as the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Nutrition (JEMNU). Members also accepted that these could be withheld on the basis of scientific evidence, in accordance with the Codex mandate and principles. This information was collected through e-mails received from contact points in the region.

Table 3 - Discussion papers for regional positions.

Codex Committee	Agenda item
Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods– CCRVDF	Draft standard for zilpaterol hydrochloride held at step 4.
Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses– CCNFSDU	Official inclusion of the work on the Guidelines for the development of nutrient profiles for front-of-pack labelling.
Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses– CCNFSDU	Finalize the update of the Standard for Infant Formula.
Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues– CCPR	Amendment of the portion of commodities to which maximum residue limits apply and which is analysed
Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods– CCCF	Approval of Maximum Levels of cadmium in cocoa powder (100% of total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis): at CCCF15 it was agreed to advance the ML of 2.0mg/kg to Step 5/8 for adoption by CAC45, noting the reservations of the European Union, Egypt, Uganda and Cameroon.
Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission– CCEXEC	Application of the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science and the Extent to which other Factors are taken into Account.
Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission– CCEXEC	Future of Codex, in relation to working modalities - virtual, hybrid, in-person.
Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission– CCEXEC	New food technologies.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is invited to:

- examine the issues raised, concerns and progress on these issues as summarized in Table 1 and 2 of this document;
- identify Codex work of regional interest not included in the document;
- consider ways to improve the ability to reach agreements and follow up on issues of regional relevance proposed by Members; and
- examine the topics included in Table 3 by identifying and, if necessary, adding topics for the establishment of possible regional positions, for approval as such, to be submitted to the relevant Committee or the Commission.