

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 5

CX/NASWP 23/16/5

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

Sixteenth Session

Nadi, Fiji

30 January - 3 February 2023

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION

(Prepared by the Coordinator for North America and South West Pacific)

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this document is to draw the attention to Codex work of specific relevance to the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP) with a view to stimulate a further discussion at CCNASWP16 and the identification of ways to address these issues.

2. WORK ITEMS OF SPECIFIC RELEVANCE TO THE REGION

Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

2.1 The 45th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC45) noted the progress made in the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (SP) and welcomed the comprehensive report on the implementation of the SP preliminary report and the analysis of the survey on the use and impact of Codex texts, recognizing its potential as an important tool for Codex. CAC45 further noted that there would be benefit in undertaking the elaboration of the next SP with the membership in parallel with the development of the monitoring framework led by the Codex Secretariat.

2.2 Codex Members in the NASWP region are encouraged to coordinate efforts to implement the work plan outlining the way forward for the Strategic Plan 2022-2025. This matter will be discussed under Agenda Item 6.

Statements of Principle concerning the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (SOP)

2.3 CCEXEC83 (2022) agreed that the sub-committee had completed its work to provide practical guidance to operationalize the SoP and promote their consistent application. It was noted that although the text as annexed to the CCEXEC83 report was not final with square brackets remaining, CCEXEC83 had considered it a serviceable document that fairly reflected the comments made and considered by the subcommittee.

2.4 CAC45 noted that through the process of developing the draft guidance, Members had been sensitized to the practical application of the SoP; endorsed the proposal to refer the draft guidance to the Chairpersons of Codex subsidiary bodies to facilitate deliberations on matters that fell within the scope of the SoP; and urged Members to take account of the draft guidance as appropriate during the process of standards development and advancement.

2.5 Codex Members in the NASWP region are encouraged to apply the draft guidance as appropriate.

CCEXEC subcommittee on the future of Codex

2.6 The changes to Codex procedures implemented during the pandemic and the 60th anniversary present timely opportunities to reflect on the future of Codex. The subcommittee was established by CCEXEC82 to take the lead on this issue with the aim of producing a blueprint on the future of Codex by CCEXEC84.

2.7 While the future of Codex was potentially a broad issue, the focus to date had been on preparedness in terms of working modalities and the evolution of working practices within Codex related to meeting formats, meeting schedules and working groups and other virtual informal working mechanisms. Consultation with Members and Observers are scheduled for March – April 2023.

2.8 CAC45 noted that the future of Codex was a work in progress and that there would be an opportunity in 2023 for all Members and Observers to engage on this topic.

2.9 Codex Members in the NASWP region are encouraged to actively engage in the work on the future of Codex.

CCEXEC subcommittee on new food sources and production systems (NFPS)

2.10 CAC45 agreed that the work done by the CCEXEC subcommittee and the information collected on NFPS had sensitized Codex to their challenges and opportunities and recognized the importance of Codex working in a flexible and timely manner to consider NFPS as an important topic in the development of international standards aimed at protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

2.11 CAC45 furthermore encouraged Members to submit proposals related to NFPS using existing Codex mechanisms, and Codex subsidiary bodies to consider NFPS in their deliberations.

2.12 CAC45 could not find consensus on the need for a new cross-cutting coordination mechanism for NFPS, and requested the Codex Secretariat to send a circular letter (CL) to Members and Observers to identify possible issues related to NFPS that the current structure and procedures could not address and options to address them for discussion at CAC46.

2.13 Codex Members in the NASWP region are encouraged to actively engage in the work on NFPS and respond to the CL that will be issued on this topic.

Draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride residues (cattle kidney, liver and meat)

2.14 As the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs (CCRVD25) (2021) was unable to reach consensus on the proposed draft MRL for zilpaterol hydrochloride in the Step procedure, the issue which was retained at Step 4, was forwarded to CCEXEC and thereafter CAC.

2.15 After lengthy discussions in CCEXEC and CAC, CAC45 adopted the MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride at Step 5 by vote. CAC45 furthermore agreed to retain the further elaboration of MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride in CAC, and welcomed the prospect of further informal consultation by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of CAC prior to CAC46 to facilitate consensus.

2.16 Codex Members in the NASWP region are invited to participate in informal consultations to encourage and enable sustained efforts to build consensus in advance of CAC46.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

2.17 CAC44 adopted the revised *Code of Practice (COP) to minimize and contain foodborne antimicrobial resistance* (CXC61-2005) and the *Guidelines on integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne antimicrobial resistance* (CXG94-2021).

2.18 Codex Members in the NASWP region are encouraged to take into consideration these Codex texts and to further develop their policies against AMR.

Codex Trust Fund (CTF)

2.19 Currently two countries in the NASWP region are having CTF projects, one is about to be approved for CTF support, and five other eligible countries in the region have submitted applications to CTF. Three countries in the NASWP region are donors to CTF. Thus, CTF is very important to the NASWP region.

2.20 Eligible countries in the NASWP region are encouraged to make the fullest use of the possibilities the CTF provides for strengthening effective participation in Codex, and donor countries are encouraged to continue providing support to CTF.

Ongoing standard setting work of relevance to the region

Table 1 provides an overview of other topics of special interest to Members in the NASWP region.

Table 1: Non-exhaustive list of ongoing Codex work of special interest to CCNASWP

COMMITTEE	TOPICS OF SPECIAL INTERESTS TO THE NASWP REGION
CCFICS	Guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud
	Guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS)
	Use of remote audit and verification in regulatory framework
CCFL	Guidance on innovation – use of technology in food labelling
	Guidance on precautionary allergen labelling
CCPR	Priority lists of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR
CCRVDF	Priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation/re-evaluation by JECFA
	Coordination of work between CCRVDF and CCPR
CCCF	MLs for total aflatoxins in ready-to eat peanuts, nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper, and turmeric and associated sampling plans
	Code of practice or guidelines to prevent or reduce ciguatera poisoning
CCFH	Proposed Draft Guidelines for the control of STEC in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses and sprouts
	Proposed Draft Guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production
	New work proposal on the development of Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food
	Revision of the <i>Guidelines on the Application of the General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood (CXG 73-2010)</i>
CCFA	<i>General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995)</i>
	Proposed draft revision to the <i>Class Names and International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989)</i>
CCNFSDU	Finalization of the Review of the <i>Standard for Follow-up Formula (CXS 156-1987)</i>
	General Principles for the Establishment of NRVs-R for persons aged 6 - 36 months
CCSCH	Draft Standard for Spices Derived from Dried Fruits and Berries (Part A - Allspice, Juniper berry, Star anise)

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 CCNASWP is invited to consider the above information and discuss the issues as proposed.