

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14 and 16

CRD14

April 2023

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

16th Session

18-21 April 2023 (physical plenary meeting)

26 April 2023 (virtual report adoption)

Comments submitted by Kenya

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

The committee agreed for Kenya to support the adoption of the Provisional Agenda items as was circulated.

Agenda Item 2: Matters referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies

Kenya takes note of the Standards and related texts adopted at Steps 8 and 5/8 of the Procedure including consequential amendments by CAC45. Kenya purposes to actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions in CCEXEC and CAC (i.e., the operationalization of the SoP; the future of Codex; new food sources and production systems and monitoring the use of Codex standards) by providing replies to relevant CLs. Kenya also encourages this committee to actively take part in the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Codex to celebrate Standards throughout the year.

Agenda Item 3: Matters of interest arising from FAO and WHO including the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

Kenya would like to thank the joint FAO/WHO JECFA Secretariats on their work: the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives has addressed issues on residues of veterinary drugs and food additives; while the WHO work on dioxin and dioxin-like compounds and the recommendations on updating the REP database indicated a need to re-evaluate the 2005 WHO TEF values for dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs is welcome. Kenya further lauds the reliable information published on the Global Food Consumption Databases and ongoing activities to support countries to generate and to use data for risk analysis purposes, as this will significantly reduce costs of research in developing countries.

Kenya would also like to encourage the members of this committee to consider other issues of potential interest to the Committee like microplastics, Early warning systems for harmful algal blooms (HAB), Seaweed and food safety among others that the committee may consider important, that were raised by these expert committees.

Agenda Item 5: Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (at Steps 4 and 7)

Comment: Kenya supports the establishment of the proposed 0.15mg/kg ML for sugar, excluding white and refined sugar, At Step 3

Justification: Considering information available at GEMS/Food and definitions on the Standard for Sugars (CXS 212-1999), it was considered results reported as brown sugar as being “soft brown sugar” and the ones reported as “demerara” as being “raw sugar”. It was observed that the Database contains results of lead in “panela”, a non-centrifuged sugar, that is not covered by CXS 212. The value proposed took into consideration ALARA and rejection rate of less than 5%.

Kenya supports the establishment of a single ML of 0.02 mg/kg for the whole category of ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children as proposed by CCCF15 and adopted at Step 5 by CAC44 in 2022.

Comment: Kenya supports the establishment of a single ML of 0.02 mg/kg for the whole category of ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children as proposed by CCCF15 and adopted at Step 5 by CAC44 in 2022

Agenda Item 6: Code of Practice for prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products (at Step 7)

Kenya appreciates the work done by the EWG chaired by Nigeria and co-chaired by Ghana and supports the advancement of the CoP to step 8 by CAC46.

Agenda Item 7: Sampling plans for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children (At Step 4)

Kenya appreciates the work done by the EWG as chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by India and supports the proposed sampling plan for total aflatoxins in the selected food categories (certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children) for consideration in the advancement to the next step.

Agenda Item 8: Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan (at Step 4)

Kenya appreciates the work done by the EWG chaired by India and co-chaired by Senegal and takes note of the recommendations.

Agenda Item 9: Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans (at Step 4)

Comment: Kenya objects to the use of 20 µg/kg in Dried Nutmeg and Chilli and supports the use of a single ML of 10 µg/kg for all the mentioned spices as was discussed in CCCF15

Justification: The national legislation sets the ML at 10 µg/kg. The single ML facilitate trade across spices as discussed in para 187(i) of the CCCF15 report.

Comment 2: Kenya supports the associated sampling plans for all products mentioned in Part II of appendix I.

Agenda Item 10: Discussion paper on the prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning

Comment: Kenya supports the new work proposed on the development of a CoP in the Prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning in appendix I. Kenya also supports the proposed outline of the CoP in Appendix II and the Establishment of an EWG to handle this work.

Agenda Item 14: Review of Codex standards for contaminants

Comment: Kenya proposes that the committee should consider Kenya's reply to Agenda Item 14 as published on the CCCF16 website.

Agenda Item 16: Priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA

Comment: Kenya proposes that the committee should consider Kenya's reply to Agenda Item 16 as published on the CCCF16 website