

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 4, 5, 7

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty-second Session

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland, 8 - 12 July 2019

*Comments of Gambia*

#### GENERAL COMMENT

Gambia appreciates the opportunity to comment on the following agenda items.

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

CX/CAC 19/42/3 Rev.1

#### Final adoption of Codex Texts

#### Part 1 – Standards and related texts submitted for adoption

#### Draft standards and related texts submitted at Step 8

#### Alignment of the *Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CXC 52-2003)* with Histamine Control Guidance REP19/FH Para. 38, Appendix II, Step 8

**BACKGROUND:** The histamine control guidance developed by CCFH was adopted by CAC41.

At the 50th session, the committee was to identify an appropriate place for the control guidance in CXC 52-2003, and to consider whether the inclusion of the new guidance would require amendment of other sections of CXC 52-2003, which contain technical guidance on histamine.

The Committee agreed with the proposed alignment by the EWG with minor editorial changes, and a change proposed by Norway in a salt fish step.

**POSITION:** Gambia supports the placement of the proposed histamine control guidance in Code of Practice of Fish and Fishery Products(CXC 52-2003).

**RATIONALE:** The amendments and editorial corrections in CXC 52-2003 will provide consistency with the histamine control guidance adopted by CAC41.

#### Revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989) (Proposed draft) REP19/FA Para. 149 (i), Appendix IX Part A, ongoing work, At Step 5/8

**BACKGROUND:** At CCFA51 an in-session working group on INS made recommendations on: removal of four additives from the INS; changes to Functional Classes and Technological Purposes for Additives in the INS; assignment of an INS Number to  $\beta$ - carotene- rich extract from *Dunaliella salina* hence revision in section 3 and 4

- a) Deletion of INS names and numbers ie. 128 Red 2G and 1411 Distarch glycerol
- b) Changes to the functional classes and technological purposes for Methacrylate copolymer, basic INS No. 1205 from glazing agent to carrier or encapsulating agent.
- c) Change of name of carotenes algae to  $\beta$ -carotene- rich extract from *Dunaliella salina* INS 160a(iv)

**POSITION:** Gambia supports the proposed draft revisions.

**RATIONALE:** Red 2G does not have a JECFA ADI and as such, all provisions for Red 2G in the step process in GSFA would be discontinued.

#### MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies) for food and feed proposed by adoption by CCPR49, REP19/PR Para. 145, Appendix II, Step 5/8, ongoing work

**BACKGROUND:** The following compounds have been evaluated by JMPR and the CCPR is recommending their adoption during CAC42.

**POSITION:** The Gambia supports the adoption of Proposed draft MRLs at Step 5/8 REP19/PR Para. 145, Appendix II.

**RATIONALE:** Estimation of MRLs were based on residue data set obtained from trials conducted according to GAP. Dietary exposure levels of the compound were below the respective Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) or Acute Reference Dose (ARfD).

**Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CX/M 4-1989): Miscellaneous commodities not meeting the criteria for crop grouping, REP19/PR Para. 156, Appendix VII, Step 5/8 and 8**

**Class A : Type Miscellaneous Primary Food Commodities of Plant Origin**

**BACKGROUND:** The revision of the classification of food and feed has been a standing agenda item of CCPR. CCPR51 is recommending for adoption by CAC42 the new classes for Miscellaneous Commodities not meeting the criteria for crop grouping, proposed groupings (including any possible impact of the types on CXLs).

**POSITION:** The Gambia supports the proposal by CCPR51 for the adoption by CAC42 Class A : Type Miscellaneous Primary Food Commodities of Plant Origin and the proposed format and codes.

**RATIONALE:** This will enable the setting of MRLs for the commodities in this class not meeting the following criteria:

- Similar potential for pesticide residues
- Similar morphology
- Similar production practices
- Similar edible portion
- Similar residue behavior
- Flexibility to set subgroup MRLs

**Proposed draft revised MLs for lead in selected commodities in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193- 1995), REP19/CF Para. 44, Appendix II, Step 5/8**

**BACKGROUND:** In 2010 JECFA73 withdrew the PTWI for lead of 25 µg/kg bw and could not establish a new PTWI that would be considered health protective. Exposure to lead is associated with various neurodevelopmental effects making fetuses, infants and children most sensitive to lead poisoning. In order to protect the vulnerable groups, it was agreed at the 6th session of CCCF in 2012 that the maximum levels (MLs) for lead in various foods in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (GSCTFF) be revised. Since then lead in foods, including fruit juices, milk and milk products, infant formula, canned fruits and vegetables, fruits, and cereal grains (except buckwheat, cañihua and quinoa) have already been revised

- Lower ML from 0.2 mg/kg to 0.1 mg/kg for wines
- Establish a ML of 0.15 mg/kg for fortified / liqueur wines
- Cattle: From 0.5 mg/kg to 0.2 mg/kg.
- Pig: From 0.5 mg/kg to 0.15 mg/kg.
- Poultry: From 0.5 mg/kg to 0.1 mg/kg

**POSITION:** The Gambia supports the recommendation of lowering the maximum levels for lead in wines and edible offal from cattle, pig and poultry, as proposed by CCCF13.

**RATIONALE:** The approved MLs for wines are achievable. The MLs for edible offal were proposed without data from Africa but considering the significant import of edible offal to Africa and the need to promote public health and facilitate international trade, we support the proposed limits.

**Draft Code of practice for the reduction of 3- monochloropropane1,2-diol esters (3- MCPDEs) and glycidyl esters (GEs) in refined oils and food products made with refined oils, REP19/CF Para. 79, Appendix IV, Step 8**

**BACKGROUND:** Both 3-MCPDE and GE are produced during oil refining and have toxic effects on kidney and male reproductive organs, whereas their non-esterified forms are carcinogenic. They are formed during the heating process. Previously Codex established a COP (CAC/RCP 64-2008) which addresses mitigation measures for 3-MCPD (the non-esterified moiety) formation in acid-hydrolyzed vegetable proteins.

**POSITION:** The Gambia supports the adoption of the Code of Practice for 3-MCPDE and GE.

**RATIONALE:** The draft code has been modified to include all refined oils (including fish oil) and not only vegetable oils. Further changes were made based on technical submissions and in addition, some editorial changes were introduced. The COP is relevant to African refiners and should be adopted.

**Draft Guidelines for rapid risk analysis following instances of detection of contaminants in food where there is no regulatory level. REP19/CF,**

**Appendix V para. 87**

**BACKGROUND:** The guidelines apply to unregulated contaminants for which no Codex or national standards exist and is aimed at providing risk assessors and risk managers with guidance on ensuring the safety, while minimizing disruption or wastage, of the food supply.

**POSITION:** Gambia supports the adoption of the Guidelines.

**RATIONALE:** The draft guidelines have been extensively clarified and improved and the current document is readily understandable. The decision tree is also easy to follow.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**CX/CAC 19/42/5**

### **ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS AT STEP 5**

**Draft Principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes, REP19/FICS Para. 53, Appendix III, Step 5**

**BACKGROUND:** The proposed guidelines are intended to assist competent authorities in the effective assessment and transparent use of reliable voluntary third party assurance, information/data in support of their NFCS objectives. Its focus is the structure, governance and components of Voluntary Third Party Assurance (vTPA) programs that align and support NFCS objectives relating to protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in food trade.

**POSITION:** The Gambia does not support the adoption at step 5, of the draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes, REP19/FICS Para. 53, Appendix III.

**RATIONALE:** The Gambia reiterates her concerns which have been expressed severally in different fora including the Codex Alimentarius Commission that Third Party Assurance programs, are private standards and do not take into account the unique circumstances of producers in developing countries.

**Review of the Standard for Follow-up Formula: Proposed draft Scope, Description and Labelling for follow-up formula for older infants. REP19/NFSDU, 57 and App. III**

**BACKGROUND:** The discussions on the standard for follow-up formula has mainly focused on:

- Section A: follow-up formula for older infants: scope, product definition and labelling.
- Section B [Product] for young children: scope, product definition and labelling.
- Options for the structure of the Standard and the preamble

The review process involves a sequential order of first discussing and agreeing on the scope of the Standard before discussion on the structure and the preamble. CCNFSDU40 agreed on section A with regards to the scope, product definition and referred the section on labelling to CCFL for endorsement. CCNFSDU40 however, have not been able to reach consensus on section B due to divergent opinion on product definition.

**POSITION:** The Gambia supports the adoption of Section A: follow-up formula for older infants: scope, product definition and labelling.

**RATIONALE:** The provisions are necessary to enable countries better regulate follow-up formula for older infants.

**Proposed draft guidance for the labeling of non-retail containers : REP19/FL para 31 -66, Step 5**

**BACKGROUND:** These Guidelines apply to the labelling of non-retail containers of food, including the information provided in the accompanying physical documents or by other means, and the presentation thereof (excluding food additives and processing aids) , not intended to be offered directly to the consumer.

**POSITION:** The Gambia supports the adoption of the proposed draft guidance but recommends the amendment of the definition of "food business" to include "harvesting" the definition will read as follows:

“Food Business” means an entity or undertaking, carrying out one or more activity(ies) related to any stages of production, **harvesting** processing, packaging, storage and distribution(including trade) of food.

**RATIONALE:** The food value chain does not always start with farmed produce (production), but could start with raw materials that are harvested from the wild e.g. Baobab fruits and Shea nuts. A case which is common in Africa.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**CX/CAC 19/42/8**

### **PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK**

#### **Project document for new work on the consolidation of Codex Guidelines related to equivalence, REP19/FICS Para 32 (ii) and (iii) (b), Appendix II, Step 2/3**

**BACKGROUND:** The proposed draft guidance on the use of systems equivalence includes a significant number of concepts that overlap or duplicate existing Codex Guidelines, especially the Guidelines on the Judgment of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems (CAC/GL 53-2003) and the Guidelines for the Development of Equivalence Agreements Regarding Food Imports and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CAC/GL 34-1999).

**POSITION:** The Gambia supports the consolidation of all guidelines related to equivalence.

**RATIONALE:** The consolidation is necessary remove overlapping documents on equivalence. This could potentially prevent confusion especially where countries have to consult several documents in the process of equivalence determination.

#### **New work on development of guidelines for the control of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in beef, unpasteurized milk and cheese produced from unpasteurized milk, leafy greens, and sprouts, REP19/FH Para 76, Step 2/3**

**BACKGROUND:** According to FAO/WHO JEMRA report on STEC commissioned by CCFH47 (2015), STEC poses significant public health burden worldwide as well as the risk management challenges and trade.

During CCFH 50, United States and Panama co-chaired the PWG on CCFH Work Priorities and introduced the discussion paper and project document submitted by the United States, Chile and Uruguay on “Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in Beef, Unpasteurized Milk and Cheese produced from Unpasteurized Milk, Leafy Greens, and Sprouts as new work.

**POSITION:** The Gambia supports new work on STEC and agrees that beef and leafy greens should be considered the first priority commodities due to public health burden and impact on global trade.

**RATIONALE:** The STEC guidance document will complement already existing codex guidance (e.g control of salmonella in meat) to enable countries better manage microbiological contamination of food with

STEC.