

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4, 5, 7, 8

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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Comments of Nigeria

Agenda Item 4: FINAL ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS

CX/CAC 19/42/3 Rev.1

CCFH

Alignment of the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CXC 52-2003) with Histamine Control Guidance

Nigeria 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.

CCSCH

Proposed Draft Standard for Dried or Dehydrated Garlic

Nigeria supports adoption of the proposed draft standard for dried or dehydrated garlic at step 5/8.

Rationale

Garlic is one of the most widely used spices in the world. Having international standard for this product will contribute to safe trade in dried or dehydrated garlic.

CCFA

Proposed Draft Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives arising from the 86th JECFA meeting

Nigeria supports the recommendations.

Rationale

Scientific evaluations conducted by JECFA indicated no adverse health effect of the additives.

Draft and Proposed Draft Food-Additive Provisions of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995)

Nigeria supports adoption at step 5/8

Rationale

The respective commodity standards contained a reference to Table 3 of the GSFA on either a general basis or for specific functional classes hence the two can be classified as ADI not specified.

Provision for Trisodium citrate in FC 01.1.1 Fluid Milk (plain) -For adoption at Step 8

Nigeria does not support the use of trisodium citrate in fluid milk (plain).

Rationale

Adoption of this provision at GMP does not constitute a guarantee for prevention of the entry of these categories of products in a country where there is no capacity for verification

Proposed Draft Provisions related to FC 01.1.2 (Other fluid milks (plain)) with the technological function of emulsifier and stabilizer (for adoption at Step 5/8)

Nigeria does not support inclusion of the additives listed in FC 01.1.2 (Other fluid milks (plain)).

Rationale

Addition of additives in these food categories could mislead the consumer as the additives can also have the thickener properties.

Provisions in Table 1 and 2 of the GSFA in food categories 14.1.4 and 14.1.5 (For adoption at Step 8)

f) Food Category No. 14.1.4 Water-based flavoured drinks, including "sport," "energy," or "electrolyte" drinks and particulated drinks

g) Draft and proposed draft provisions in Table 1 and 2 of the GSFA in food categories 01.0 through 16.0, with the exception of those additives with technological functions of colour (excluding those provisions discussed in point

(i) or sweetener, adipates, nitrites and nitrates, the provisions in food category 14.2.3 and its subcategories, and provisions awaiting a reply from CCSC, CCPFV or CCFO2 (For adoption at Step 5/8 and 8)

Nigeria supports adoption of provisions in Table 1 and 2 of the food categories

Rationale

Available data indicate no safety concerns

Revision of the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989) (Proposed draft)

Nigeria 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.

Revised Food-Additive Provisions of the GSFA in relation to the alignment of the thirteen (13) Standards for Milk and Milk Products (ripened cheese), two standards for sugars, two Standards for Natural Mineral Waters, three (3) Standards for Cereals, Pulses and Legumes and three (3) Standards for Vegetable Proteins

Nigeria supports approval of this new work

Rationale

The work is necessary to ensure alignment of the food additives provisions of commodity standard with the GSFA as the single authoritative reference document for food additives.

Revised Food-Additive Provisions of the GSFA in relation to the Alignment of Provisions for Ascorbyl Esters (Ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304) and Ascorbyl stearate (INS 305)) and the Standards for Infant Formula and Formula for Special Dietary Purposes Intended for Infants (CXS 72-1981) and Follow-up Formula (CXS 156-1987)

Nigeria supports the adoption of the revisions on alignment of food additive provisions.

Rationale

All the food additive provisions in all the CODEX commodity standards should always refer to the respective provisions in the GSFA as the single reference source.

Revised Food-Additive sections of the three standards for Cereals, Pulses and Legumes and three Standards for Vegetable proteins, i.e. Standards for Wheat flour (CXS 152-1985); Couscous (CXS 202-1995); and Instant noodles (CXS 249-2006); and Wheat protein products including wheat gluten (CXS 163-1987); Vegetable protein products (VPP) (CXS 174- 1989); and Soy protein products (CXS 175-1989)

Nigeria supports the adoption of the amendments of the food additives sections of the listed standards.

Rationale

There is need to amend the old food additive sections of the respective standards, once alignment of the provisions in the GSFA has been completed for consistency.

CCPR

MRLs for different combinations of Pesticide/Commodity(ies) for Food and Feed proposed by adoption by CCPR49.

Nigeria 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).

CCPR**Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed (CX/M 4-1989): Miscellaneous commodities not meeting the criteria for crop grouping**

Nigeria 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

Adoption of this will enable the setting of MRLs for the commodities in this class not meeting the following criteria: Similar potential for pesticide residues; morphology; production practices; edible portion; residue behavior and flexibility to set subgroup MRLs.

CCCF**Proposed Draft Revised MLs for Lead in selected Commodities in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995)**

Nigeria 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 proposed for wines are achievable.

CCCF**Proposed Draft ML for Cadmium for Chocolates containing or declaring <30% Total Cocoa Solids on a Dry Matter Basis**

Nigeria does not support adoption of ML of 0.3 mg/kg for Cadmium in chocolate products containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter.

Rationale

Cadmium contamination in food is a concern in many countries. The metal can accumulate in the kidneys leading to irreversible tubular renal dysfunction. Although JECFA indicated that cadmium in cocoa and cocoa based products could not pose a health concern, it still estimated a PMTDI for cadmium of 25µg/kg bw per month. Cadmium content in the data from Africa used for the analysis of occurrence of cadmium in chocolates (<30% of total cocoa solids) ranged from 0.01 - 0.02 mg/kg.

The low levels of cadmium in chocolate from Africa, reflects the use of good agricultural practices, good manufacturing practices and good hygienic practices.

Setting an ML of 0.3 mg / kg, which is 15 folds higher than the highest (0.02mg/kg) determined in chocolates from Africa, will jeopardize the efforts by African countries. Since Africa accounts for 75% of global production for cocoa and 93% of cocoa imports to Europe, adopting such a higher limit will consequently discourage efforts to prevent cadmium contamination in cocoa in Africa and in the long run be detrimental to African countries.

Draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of 3- Monochloropropane-1,2-diol Esters (3- MCPDEs) and Glycidyl esters (GEs) in Refined Oils and Food Products made with Refined Oils

Nigeria supports the adoption of the Code of Practice for the reduction of 3- monochloropropane-1,2-diol esters (3- MCPDEs) and glycidyl esters (GEs) in refined oils and food products made with refined oils.

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.

CCCF**Draft Guidelines for Rapid Risk Analysis following instances of Detection of Contaminants in Food where there is no Regulatory Level**

Nigeria supports the adoption of the Guidelines.

Rationale

The draft guidelines have been extensively clarified and improved. The current document is readily understandable and the decision tree is easy to follow. All reference to the term “emerging” has been removed and the chemicals to which the guidelines apply are clearly delineated, as are those excluded. The derivation of the “cut-off value” at 1 µg/kg was clearly explained and justified by example.

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CCMAS**Preamble and Document Structure for the General Standard on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CODEX STAN 234-1999)**

Nigeria supports the newly introduced preamble and the revised structure of the General Standard on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

Rationale

Introduction of preamble is necessary to clarify the role of Codex methods in trade. The revised structure will improve the clarity and accuracy of the text.

Agenda Item 5: ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS AT STEP 5 CX/CAC 19/42/5

CCFICS**Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) Programmes**

Nigeria 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

Nigeria express its concerns that Third Party Assurance programmes, are private standards and do not take into account the unique circumstances of producers in developing countries. Nigeria is concerned about the risk associated with the creation of a dual certification systems at the national level. Besides questions still remain about the legitimacy of these vTPA programme, as they are not developed in a broad-based inclusive manner and their affordability for small and medium-sized food businesses.

It is worth noting that most developing countries are still at the stage of basic food control schemes under pre-requisites requirements for food safety and product certification as per ISO Standards as enshrined in our various national food laws. This regime which has worked well for many countries. We do not think integrating vTPA programmes into governmental food control schemes is the way to go. This will be an unnecessary layer of control that will affect our producers and potentially could lead to trade barriers.

We are aware that the STDF recently initiated projects in some developing countries to test and assess how voluntary Third-Party Assurance (TPA) programmes may be used in practice by government authorities in developing countries to improve food safety outcomes. We understand that the outcome of this project will further inform the current ongoing work on Principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes. This further supports the evidence in most developing countries, that Third Party Assurance programmes (private standards) are not the basis for food control in most developing countries.

Nigeria wishes to remind that the Codex Alimentarius Commission is an intergovernmental standard setting body. Developing Codex guidelines to assess the performance of voluntary third party assurance programmes developed by some private entities does not fall in the mandate of the CAC.

CCFH**Proposed Draft Code of Practice on Food Allergen Management for Food Business Operators**

Nigeria supports;

- The use of precautionary level for allergen management and

- Request for scientific advice from FAO/WHO related to thresholds and risk assessment to support decisions.
- The use of precautionary allergen labeling (e.g., “may contain”).

Rationale

The use of precautionary allergen labeling is appropriate particularly when it is not considered as replacement for implementation of measures necessary to prevent or minimize the presence of undeclared allergens.

The proposed code establishes the principles of allergen identification and sources of risk rather than providing prescriptive guidance. This will allow flexibility in its implementation and practices.

CCNFSDU

Review of the Standard for Follow-Up Formula (CXS 156-1987): Proposed Draft Scope, Description and Labelling for Follow-Up Formula for Older Infants

Nigeria supports 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

CCSCH

Proposed Draft Standard for Dried Roots, Rhizomes and Bulbs — Dried or Dehydrated Ginger

Nigeria supports adoption of the proposed draft standard for dried or dehydrated ginger

Rationale

Dried roots, rhizomes and bulbs – dried or dehydrated ginger are important agricultural commodities world-wide and especially in Africa (Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Togo, Senegal, Ghana, Cameroon etc). Having international Standard for this product will contribute to and facilitate safe trade.

Proposed Draft Standard for Dried Floral Parts – Dried Cloves

Nigeria supports adoption of the proposed draft standard for dried cloves

Rationale

Dried cloves are an important spice that is traded widely with significant economic importance. Having international standard for this commodity will contribute to facilitate safe trade.

Agenda Item 5a: ADOPTION OF CODEX TEXTS AT STEP 5 CX/CAC 19/42/5 Add. 1

CCFL

Proposed Draft Guidance for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers

Nigeria supports 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.

CCMAS

Proposed Draft Revised Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty (CXG 54-2004)

Nigeria supports the adoption of the guidelines on measurement uncertainty at Step 5.

Rationale

The guidance provided in the document will facilitate estimation of measurement uncertainty which is a critical element in the establishment of metrological traceability of the measurement results. This will assist countries to make a more scientifically-based judgement on the acceptance or rejection of food products in accordance with applicable specifications.

Agenda Item 7: PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK

CX/CAC 19/42/8

CCFICS**Project document for new work on the consolidation of Codex Guidelines related to equivalence**

Nigeria supports consolidation of all guidelines related to equivalence.

Rationale

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

CCFH**Project Document for New Work on Development of Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-producing Escherichia Coli (STEC) in beef meat, leafy greens, raw milk and cheese produced from raw milk, and sprouts**

Nigeria supports the new work on STEC and agrees that beef and leafy greens should be considered as 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) and it will enable countries better manage microbiological contamination of food with STEC.

Agenda Item 7 Add.1: PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK CX/CAC 19/42/8 Add.1**CCCF****Establishment of MLs for Lead in certain Food Categories**

Nigeria supports approval for new work on MLs for lead in certain food categories (food for infant and young children, eggs, egg products).

Rationale

This work will ensure public health protection by harmonizing the level of lead in food categories not included in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CXS 193-1995) (GSCTFF) and ensure fair practices in international food trade.

CCCF**Revision of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods (CXC 56-2004)**

Nigeria supports approval for new work to revise the Code of Practice for the Prevention and reduction of lead contamination in Foods.

Rationale

Revision of the COP would complement ongoing work by CCCF on lead, including revision of maximum levels (MLs) for lead in selected commodities in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (GSCTFF) and a discussion paper on future work on MLs for lead for inclusion in the GSCTFF.

CCCF**Development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans**

Nigeria supports the approval for new work to develop a code of practice for the reduction and prevention of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans.

Rationale

CAC has already adopted MLs for cadmium in chocolates and cocoa-derived products. The Code of Practice (COP) will provide guidance to Member States and the cocoa production industry on the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans during production and post-harvest processing: fermentation, drying and storing.

CCCF**Establishment of MLs for Aflatoxins in Certain Cereals and Cereal-based Products including Foods for Infants and Young Children**

(excluding those provisions discussed in point (i)) or sweetener, adipates, nitrites and nitrates, the provisions in food category 14.2.3 and its subcategories, and provisions awaiting a reply from CCSCH, CCPFV or CCFO.

Rationale

No exposure assessment data provided.