

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8.1

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-fourth Session

Comments of Singapore

Agenda Item 8.1: New Food Sources and Production Systems: Need for Codex Attention and Guidance?" (CX/CAC 21/44/15 Add.1)

Singapore thanks the FAO and WHO for drawing Codex's attention to the emerging area of new food sources and production systems (NFPS).

Global market forces are driving up food demand and innovation in response to environmental pressures and climate change, and an increasing protein consumption due to a growing global population and rising middle class. Innovations and alternative methods to produce food more productively and sustainably are needed to ensure food security but must also be safe for consumption.

Recognising these challenges, Singapore has invested in research in NFPS through the Singapore Food Story R&D Programme since 2019. This programme provides for catalysing R&D in the development of productive, climate resilient, innovative, and sustainable technologies for agriculture and aquaculture, new bio-based food and ingredients, underpinned by a robust future-ready food safety system.

Food safety should be the principal consideration for NFPS. Singapore has developed supporting regulatory frameworks such as a novel food regulatory framework to address the safety of NFPS. Examples of new food that have been assessed and are now being manufactured or sold in Singapore include food additives that improve the taste of plant-based foods, fungal mycelial proteins, proteins derived from precision fermentation of microorganisms, and cell-based cultured meat.

Singapore is working with the FAO and some countries in discussing the safety aspects of cultured meat and would invite interested member countries to contact us for discussions.

It is anticipated that food from NFPS will contribute to a larger market share of food traded internationally, as these technologies mature. Given Codex's dual mandate of protecting consumer health and promoting fair trade practices in food trade, it is also important that the relevant Codex texts minimise barriers to trade of such food.

Aspects such as labelling, nutrition, and quality should be considered alongside food safety.

Singapore supports an inclusive approach to further discuss the way forward for Codex to work on NFPS and stands ready to contribute to the discussions.