

INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Committee on Cereals Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL) held its eleventh session from 7 to 30 April 2025, working by correspondence. In agreement with the host country, the United States of America, CCCPL11 held discussions during 7-24 April 2025, and adopted the report during 28-30 April 2025 using the Codex Online Platform. Mr Ken Lowery, Senior International Issues Analyst, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), chaired the Session, which was attended by ** Member Countries, one Member Organization, and ** Observer Organizations. The list of participants is contained in Appendix I.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. Mr. Ken Lowery, Chairperson of CCCPL11, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The Chairperson emphasized that CCCPL11's primary focus was to initiate the work on the development of a group standard on whole millet grains, with the aim of developing the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the work to be undertaken by an Electronic Working Group (EWG) that would report back to CCCPL12.
3. Dr Allan Azegele, the Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), and Dr Sarah Cahill, the Codex Secretary, also addressed the meeting.

Division of competence¹

4. CCCPL11 noted the division of competence between the European Union (EU) and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II of the Procedure of CAC, as presented in CRD01.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 1)²

5. CCCPL11 adopted the provisional agenda as its agenda for the session.
6. CCCPL11:
 - (i) noted suggestions from Members to include the consideration of the need for a revision of the *Standard for wheat and durum wheat* (CXS 199-1995), as well as other standards, under agenda item 4, Other business;
 - (ii) recommended that interested Members consider preparing proposals for new work (including both discussion papers and project documents) to facilitate discussion of such proposals at future sessions; and
 - (iii) suggested that such proposals should take into consideration a more horizontal approach e.g. developing group standards to ensure the inclusiveness of Codex Standards.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda Item 2)³

7. The Chairperson introduced this item, referring to CX/CPL 25/11/2 regarding the matters for information, and providing a summary regarding the matters for action.
8. It was highlighted that CX/CPL 25/11/2 was primarily for information purposes, with matters for action from 43rd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis (CCMAS43) (2024) and CAC44 (2021) to be considered in future CCCPL sessions if deemed necessary.

Discussion

Matters for action from CCMAS43 regarding provisions for ash in CPL standards

9. The Member States of the European Union noted that ISO 2171:2023 permitted ash determination at either 550°C or 900°C. While the 900°C method offered a shorter analysis time, it required more costly equipment. The 550°C method remained widely used due to its lower cost. Studies confirmed that both methods produced equivalent results and could be applied depending on available resources.
10. A Member was of the view that information on ISO 2171:2023, particularly the comparative study of the two temperatures, should be submitted to CCMAS for further consideration. If the study confirmed equivalent results, the Member considered that both temperatures should be accepted for ash determination.

¹ CRD01 (European Union)

² CX/CPL 25/11/1

³ CX/CPL 25/11/2; CRD02 (Zambia)

11. Another Member noted that ISO 2171, proposed for ashing cereal products, included two discrete temperatures, which complicated method selection. The presence of additional methods (e.g., AOAC 923.03 at 550°C and ICC 104/1 at 900°C) further contributed to this complexity. Inclusion of ISO 2171 could permit both approaches, raising challenges for Codex method typing as outlined in the Procedural Manual. The Member therefore proposed that CCCPL further examine the original intent of the ashing temperatures in relevant CPL standards and consider the implications for selecting a Type I method, in order to provide CCMAS with sufficient information.
12. In response to the above comments, the Codex Secretariat drew CCCPL11's attention to the question raised by CCMAS43, namely, "to determine the original intent for ashing temperatures in the relevant standards, and whether two provisions for ash at 550°C and 900°C for some commodities (i.e. CXS 152, CXS 154, CXS 155, CXS 172, CXS 173, CXS 202) could be acceptable to allow CCMAS to endorse recommended methods for these provisions as Type I." It was further noted that ISO 2171 had already been included in CXS 234 as a Type I method for ash determination (along with AOAC 923.03 and ICC 104/1) in various CPL products.
13. Due to the complexity of the issue, the Codex Secretariat proposed the establishment of a small group of interested Members and Observers to further study the matter. The group would be tasked with engaging in consultations, including communication with their national counterparts to CCMAS, and developing specific suggestions for consideration by CCCPL12. To assist in this process, the Codex Secretariat committed to preparing and providing relevant background information to facilitate the group's work.
14. CCCPL11 noted the limited interest at this point to establish a small group on this subject, as suggested by the Codex Secretariat.

Matters for action from CAC44 regarding labelling provisions for non-retail containers in CPL standards

15. A Member recalling that labelling provisions for non-retail containers should be aligned with the approach used in other commodity standards by referencing the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021) noted that the existing provisions on "labelling of non-retail containers" in CCCPL standards differed from CXS 346-2021, particularly in the omission of date marking and identification of non-retail container.
16. Members expressed support for considering this matter at CCCPL12.

Conclusion

17. CCCPL11:
 - (i) noted the matters for information provided in CX/CPL 25/11/2;
 - (ii) agreed to defer consideration of the request from CCMAS43 concerning provisions for ash in CPL standards to CCCPL12, in view of the complexity of the issue as outlined above (see paragraphs 9-14), and noting that the Codex Secretariat will provide background information to facilitate the discussion at CCCPL12; and
 - (iii) agreed to consider the matters from CAC44 related to labelling provisions for non-retail containers in CPL standards at CCCPL12.

DEVELOPMENT OF A GROUP STANDARD FOR WHOLE MILLET GRAINS (Agenda item 3)⁴

18. The Chairperson introduced the item, emphasizing that this was the core business for CCCPL11 and that there was a need for careful consideration of the approach to be taken, particularly in defining the characteristics and physical parameters of whole millet grains. To ensure the success of the work, the Chairperson proposed establishing an EWG to start working after CCCPL11, with the proposed ToRs.
19. The Chairperson invited comments on the EWG's ToRs, establishment, and working languages as well as proposals for chairing/co-chairing.

Discussion

20. Delegations expressed support for the Chairperson's proposal and emphasized that the development of a Codex group standard for whole millet grains presented a vital opportunity to raise the global trade profile of this cereal and ensure fair, safe, and inclusive standards for all. In shaping the structure of the new group standard, it was considered essential to adopt an approach that reflected the true diversity of millets. The standard was expected to be practical for international markets, while also flexible enough to accommodate regional differences in

⁴ CX/CPL 25/11/3; CRD02 (Zambia)

production and use. Furthermore, it was noted that the structure should be designed in a way that could eventually serve as a guide for similar efforts for other cereals in the future.

21. A Member highlighted that some group standards had already been developed by other Codex Committees. For example, the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) developed the *Standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries* (CXS 358-2024), and the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices developed the *General standard for fruit juices and nectars* (CXS 247-2005). The Member thus recommended that the EWG consider these Codex texts as a reference when developing the layout for the group standard for whole millet grains.
22. The above views received widespread support from other Members.

Conclusion

23. CCCPL11 agreed to establish an EWG chaired by India and co-chaired by Mali, Nigeria and Senegal, working in English and French, with the following terms of reference to:
 - (i) determine the structure of the group standard by identifying the most appropriate approach to accommodate the diversity of millets and address the specific needs of international markets, taking into account that the structure should also be potentially applicable to other cereals in the future;
 - (ii) set minimum quality and safety requirements that can serve as a single and consistent reference point for all types of millet grains, ensuring alignment with Codex principles and global trade practices;
 - (iii) determine the scope of the standard, including the types of millets to be included in the standard, whether and how to include existing millet standards, and whether or not pseudo-millets should be included; and
 - (iv) prepare a comprehensive report summarizing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations, along with a draft group standard.
24. CCCPL11 noted that the EWG could take into consideration the approach to group standards developed by other Codex Committees, where applicable and appropriate, and that the EWG report should be submitted to the Codex Secretariat at least three months before CCCPL12.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 4)

25. CCCPL11 noted that no other business had been proposed. It was also noted that a proposal to revise the *Standard for wheat and durum wheat* (CXS 199-1995), which should include both the discussion paper and the project document, would be submitted for consideration at CCCPL12.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Agenda item 5)

26. CCCPL11 was informed that CCCPL12 would be held in approximately two years' time with the final arrangements subject to confirmation by the host government in consultation with the Codex Secretariat.