

INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) held its twenty-third session in Mexico City, Mexico, from 25 February to 1 March 2025, at the kind invitation of the Government of Mexico. The session was chaired by Ms Andrea Genoveva Solano Rendón, Head, Unidad de Normatividad, Competitividad y Competencia, Secretaría de Economía, Mexico. The session was attended by delegates from XX Member countries, one Member Organisation and XX Observer Organisations. A list of participants is contained in Appendix I.

OPENING

2. Mr Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubon, Secretary of Economy, Mexico, addressed CCFFV23, underscoring that Mexico's endeavors and CCFFV's mission were grounded in shared values and a commitment to consumer protection. The Secretary further expressed privilege and pleasure in welcoming delegates whose work improves the health of countless individuals, highlighting Codex's vital yet often invisible role in this field. The Secretary concluded his intervention by recalling that Codex standards promoted fair practices in the food trade, contributing to ensuring safe food, enhanced health and nutrition, support for agriculture, and responsiveness to consumer needs.
3. Mr Leonel Cota Montaña, Undersecretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mexico, opened his intervention by recalling the increase in agricultural exports reached by Mexico in 2024. The Undersecretary further mentioned the key products driving this growth, which included, among others, avocados, tomatoes, asparagus, and dates and in this context noted the contribution of CCFFV that for over 38 years, has enhanced trade dynamics with sibling nations, prioritizing consumer protection.
4. Ms Lina Pohl, FAO Representative to Mexico, Mr José Moya Medina, PAHO/WHO Representative to Mexico, the Vice-Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), Mr Khalid Al Zhrani (Saudi Arabia), and the Codex Secretary, Ms Sarah Cahill (via a video message), also addressed the meeting.

Division of competence¹

5. CCFFV23 noted the division of competence between the European Union (EU) and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II, of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)²

6. CCFFV23 adopted the agenda with the following additions, under Agenda Item 7 (Other business):
 - proposal for new work on fresh turmeric; and
 - proposal for new work on broccoli.
7. CCFFV23 also agreed to establish two in-session working groups (IWGs), open to all Members and Observers and working in English, French and Spanish, to consider the following items and prepare recommendation for the plenary:
 - Draft standard for fresh dates (agenda item 3) (co-chaired by India and Saudia Arabia); and
 - Proposed draft standard for fresh curry leaves (agenda item 4) (chaired by India).

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda item 2a)³

8. CCFFV23 noted that most items were for information purposes and that the matter arising from CAC46 on moisture content for fresh dates would be considered under agenda item 3.
9. CCFFV23 took note of the discussions on the following matters.

Matter from CCEXEC86 regarding the encouragement of more Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups

10. A Member noted that the recommendation from CCEXEC86 lacked actionable steps for achieving progress. It was highlighted that, given the sovereignty of nations, direct engagement between Members could be challenging. As an intergovernmental body, Codex should take the lead in facilitating mentorship programmes among Members.

¹ Division of competence between the European Union and its Member States (CRD01)

² CX/FFV 25/23/1; CRD06 (Fiji); CRD11 (Mexico); CRD17 (Ghana); CRD18 (Mexico); CRD29 (Mexico)

³ CX/FFV 25/23/2; CRD07 (Kenya); CRD11 (Mexico)

11. Another Member shared their experience with a Codex Trust Fund (CTF) project, which included hands-on trainings and a mock session. Interested countries were encouraged to approach the CTF Secretariat for participation.

Matter from CCFL47 regarding the use of the term “wild” in the *Standard for berry fruits* (CXS 349-2022)

12. A Member proposed that CCFFV could determine whether “wild” constituted a claim. If classified as a claim, the provisions of *General guidelines on claims* (CXG 1-1979) would apply; otherwise, CCFFV should provide a clear definition for this term.
13. Another Member supported retaining “wild” in the *Standard for berry fruits* (CXS 349-2022), emphasizing the challenge consumers face in distinguishing between wild and cultivated varieties. It was noted that these belong to different varieties and that requiring the Latin name on labels would ensure clarity for consumers.
14. The Codex Secretariat clarified that matters related to claims fell under the mandate of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL), rather than CCFFV. It was further noted that the food labelling section in the *Standard for berry fruits* (CXS 349-2022) had been endorsed, and the standard had been published. As requested by CCFL, for future cases where CCFFV includes the term “wild” in the labelling section, a proper justification should be provided to CCFL for endorsement.

Conclusion

15. CCFFV23:
 - agreed to encourage Codex Members and Observers to: (i) actively engage in opportunities to contribute to discussions in CCEXEC and CAC; and (ii) submit discussion papers or new work proposals on NFPS through existing mechanisms;
 - acknowledged the concerns raised by CCFL regarding the use of the term “wild” in product names and noted the need for appropriate explanations in future cases; and
 - requested that CAC consider developing an actionable mentorship mechanism, including twinning programmes, to assist less active Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups.

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS ON THE STANDARDISATION OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (Agenda item 2b)⁴

16. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) presented their activities relevant to the work of CCFFV, with UNECE delivering its presentation via video recording and OECD presenting in person.
17. CCFFV23 thanked both organizations for their presentations and ongoing collaboration.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR FRESH DATES (AT STEP 7) (Agenda item 3)⁵

18. India, as Chair of the electronic working group (EWG) and IWG, speaking on behalf of the Co-Chair Saudi Arabia, introduced the IWG report (CRD02) and summarized the key conclusions. The IWG agreed to delete the values for the minimum moisture content and set maximum value to 85%, and clarified that the term “fresh” did not depend on water content. Regarding the provisions concerning sizing, the IWG decided to delete the Tables 1 and 2 under Section 4 on Provisions concerning sizing, recognizing that these requirements were optional and that they were adaptable to trade practices, and depending on varietal differences, there was separate sizing for the Tamar stage which was not covered under this draft standard. Furthermore, some standards developed by CCFFV did not have the specific tables under Section 4 on Provisions concerning sizing. Additionally, the IWG made editorial revisions, including updating references to footnote, and alignment of the draft standard to the Proposed layout for standards for fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV layout).
19. CCFFV23 agreed to consider CRD02 as the basis for discussion.

⁴ CX/FFV 25/23/3; CRD11 (Mexico)

⁵ REP22/FFV Appendix IV; CX/FFV 25/23/4; CRD2 (Report of the in-session working group on draft standard for fresh dates); CRD4 (Draft standard for fresh dates (Prepared by the Chairs of the EWG based on the comments received on CL 2021/86/OCS-FFV)); CRD7 (Kenya); CRD11 (Mexico); CRD12 (Morocco); CRD15 (Nigeria); CRD16 (Algeria); CRD17 (Ghana); CRD19 (Senegal); CRD21 (Bangladesh); CRD22 (IUFOST); CRD23 (Uruguay); CRD24 (Oman); CRD25 (State of Libya); CRD26 (Bahrain); CRD27 (European Union)

Discussion

20. CCFFV23 agreed with all the revisions outlined in CRD02 and made the following decision taking into account the discussions at the Session.

Tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class

21. The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) did not support the 1% tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class, stressing that it should be set at 0% in line with “Extra” Class requirements. The EUMS recalled that CAC41 had confirmed that the provision for decay in “Extra” Class was optional; and depending on the nature of the produce, the tolerance might not be applicable or necessary. The EUMS maintained their view that a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class was not in conformance with the requirements for “Extra” Class, which was a special status granted to a produce of exceptionally high quality, and it required more careful production.
22. Other Members expressed the views that a 1% tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class was necessary due to the following reasons:
- Due to the perishable nature of fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV), no producer, packer, or shipper could ensure that every exported FFV would arrive in perfect condition. Fractional percentages were impractical for sampling.
 - The 1% tolerance did not permit the sale of decayed produce or compromise consumer safety; it was strictly a quality inspection measure. Any decayed produce had to be removed before the lot was offered for sale.
 - Without this tolerance, a single decayed FFV in a shipment of any size could result in the downgrading of entire lots, negatively impacting trade and producer income.
 - Many private trading agreements included similar tolerances, and their absence in quality standards often led to conflicts and unnecessary rejections.
 - A 1% tolerance was considered practical, as fractional percentages were not always feasible, and a decayed fruit was counted as a whole unit.
 - The draft standard was at Step 7, and the provision for decay in “Extra” Class had been duly considered by CCFFV based on the consensus. Further, it was deemed consistent with the established framework for “Extra” Class and should be retained.
23. CCFFV23 agreed to retain the 1% tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class, noting the reservation of EUMS for the reasons stated in paragraph XX.

Conclusion

24. CCFFV23 agreed to forward the draft standard for fresh dates to CAC48 for adoption at Step 8, noting that the provisions on food labelling and food additives have already been endorsed by CCFL and CCFA, respectively (Appendix II).

Other matters

25. The EUMS emphasized the importance of providing consumers with clear and accurate information on the nature of dates, given the existing Standard for dates in Annex B of the *General Standard for Dried Fruits* (CXS 360-2020) and the proposed adoption of the new standard for fresh dates. To clarify the distinction between “fresh dates” and “dates,” the EUMS recommended revising Annex B of CXS 360-2020, particularly Section 1 on Description and Section 4 on Labelling, as outlined in CRD27. It was underscored that the product name should be specified as “dried dates” or “re-hydrated dates” and, where applicable, supplemented with the phrase “dates coated with glucose syrup”. These revisions would ensure that consumers receive reliable and transparent information about the products available on the market.
26. In response to the question as to whether CCFFV was the appropriate committee to make recommendations on revisions to Annex B of CXS 360-2020, the Codex Secretariat clarified that, based on the discussions within CCFFV on the levels of moisture content in this commodity and noting that CCFFV was adjourned *sine die*, CCFFV, with its expertise on dates, could make recommendations to CAC for consideration. This would help facilitate the smooth adoption of any proposed revisions.

27. Members expressed the following views:

- The proposal to revise Annex B of CXS 360-2020 was premature and could impact national standards and trade practices;
- The revision may be considered by CCPFV or CAC, given that CCPFV was adjourned;
- Annex B of CXS 360-2020 already allowed dates to be dried, washed, preserved, or processed by drying, and that “fresh dates” had a limited shelf life unless treated by freezing; and
- Annex B of CXS 360-2020 should be revised to clarify that processed dates with a water content exceeding 20% could not be classified as dried fruit, as they required a cold chain to maintain quality until reaching the final consumer. A dried date was scientifically and technically defined as having a water content of less than 20%. To reflect this distinction, a proposal was made to add a footnote to Annex B stating: “Treated dates with a water content higher than 20% require a cold chain until the final consumer.”

28. CCFFV23 also noted a proposal by the Chairperson to forward the issue to CCEXEC and CAC and request a further clarification on the distinction between the standards for “fresh dates” and “dates”, and to encourage Members to submit new work proposals for a possible revision of Annex B of CXS 360-2020. However, there was no consensus on this proposal.

Conclusion

29. CCFFV23 took note of the proposal in CRD27 submitted by the EU.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR FRESH CURRY LEAVES (Agenda item 4)⁶

30. India, Chair of the EWG and IWG, speaking on behalf of the IWG Co-Chair Saudi Arabia⁷, introduced this item. It was noted that the IWG had reviewed the proposed draft standard in CRD10 section by section and made further revisions. The IWG report was presented in CRD03.

31. CCFFV23 agreed to consider CRD03 as the basis for discussion of this item.

Discussion

32. CCFFV23 considered the recommendations contained in CRD03 and took the decision to move the bullet points regarding the tolerance under Section 5.1.1 “Extra” Class to 5.1.2 Class I as these requirements were best suited under this class, and in line with the proposals of the IWG.

33. In response to a request for clarification on whether provisions regarding food additives needed to be submitted to CCFA for endorsement when it was indicated that no food additives were permitted in a product, the Codex Secretariat clarified that, in accordance with the Codex Procedural Manual, all food additive provisions in commodity standards must be referred to CCFA for endorsement. The Secretariat further clarified that if the use of food additives was not permitted in a product, CCFA would consider the food additive provisions as being for information only.

Conclusion

34. CCFFV23 agreed to forward the standard for fresh curry leaves to CAC for adoption at Step 5/8, noting that the provisions on food additives and food labelling would need to be endorsed by CCFA and CCFL, respectively, before CAC adoption (Appendix III).

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE REVIEW OF EXISTING FFV STANDARDS (Agenda item 5)⁸

35. Germany, as Chair of the EWG, introduced the item, recalling that CCFFV22 requested the EWG to review existing FFV standards to ensure their alignment with the layout for FFV standards, consider necessary updates, and note the need for proposals for possible revisions of such standards.

⁶ CX/FFV 25/23/05; CX/FFV 25/23/5-Add1; CRD03 (Report of the in-session working group on the draft standards for fresh curry leaves chaired by India and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia); CRD07 (Kenya); CRD09 (Indonesia); CRD10 (Draft standard for fresh curry leaves (Prepared by the Chair of the EWG based on the comments received on CL 2024/90-FFV); CRD11 (Mexico); CRD12 (Morocco); CRD15 (Nigeria); CRD17 (Ghana); CRD19 (Senegal); CRD21 (Bangladesh); CRD23 (Uruguay).

⁷ With India's invitation and CCFFV23's agreement, Saudi Arabia served as the co-Chair of the IWG.

⁸ CX/FFV 25/23/06; CRD05 (Comments on the potential approach for reviewing the existing FFV standards); CRD28 (Proposal for the alignment with the FFV layout of the Standard for Avocado and the Standard for Asparagus, prepared by the Chair of

36. The EWG Chair further explained the process and methodology followed by the EWG as contained in CX/FFV 25/23/06, and that the EWG had selected the *Standards for Avocado* (CXS 197-1995) and the *Standard for Asparagus* (CXS 225-2001) to carry out this initial work. The EWG Chair finally noted that in concluding its work, the EWG identified both editorial changes to align the standards with the FFV layout and substantial changes, which were highlighted in its report, and further submitted to CCFFV23 for consideration.
37. The Codex Secretariat presented CRD05, noting that, as per the EWG report, it appeared that the alignment with the FFV layout would comprise more than editorial changes only. As a result, should a more comprehensive review of FFV standards be necessary, CCFFV could consider adopting a structured approach to establish a priority list of standards for consideration and subsequently develop a single project document incorporating all these standards requiring revision. This approach would facilitate their comprehensive revision at the next stage.
38. The Codex Secretariat further noted that CRD05, suggested potential criteria for creating a priority list for FFV standards' review and update, noting, at the same time, that the Codex Procedural Manual also provided mechanisms to review standards and that the Committee could define its preferred approach. The Codex Secretariat concluded his intervention by explaining that CCFFV would need to decide whether to continue with the alignment exercise, including editorial changes only, or proceed with the consideration of also technical revisions, which would then need to follow the established Codex procedures.

Discussion

39. CCFFV23 thanked Germany and the EWG for the thorough analysis conducted and noted the following views:
 - the focus of CCFFV should be on the alignment of existing standards with the established FFV layout, as requested by CCFFV22;
 - the need for adherence to Codex procedures, including the use of Circular Letters (CLs) and the submission of project documents, particularly regarding proposal for substantial/technical changes to FFV standards, including those for the standards for avocado and asparagus;
 - the methodology used by the EWG was sufficient to continue with the alignment work;
 - the approach to developing a prioritization list for FFV standards could be supported, should a need for revisions of FFV standards be identified, drawing parallels with the work of other Codex bodies;
 - It was important to count on the active participation of more Codex Members in future works related to the alignment; and
 - the need to avoid national positions e.g. the creation of a priority list, from impeding progress, was also noted.
40. CCFFV23 agreed that the methodology for the current review of FFV standards needed to focus on alignment with the FFV layout only, and that substantial/technical changes would need to be addressed separately and as deemed necessary, following the established Codex procedures.
41. Based on this decision, CCFFV23 requested that Germany, as the EWG Chair, provide revised versions of the *Standards for Avocado* (CXS 197-1995) and the *Standard for Asparagus* (CXS 225-2001) removing all the introduced substantial/technical changes, keeping only the editorial changes in line with the layout for the FFV standards. The revised versions would be further reviewed by the plenary.

Alignment of the *Standard for Avocado* (CXS 197-1995)

42. Germany, as the EWG Chair, prepared a revised version of the proposal for the alignment of CXS 197-1995, based on the comments and the recommendations of CCFFV23, which was included in CRD28.
43. CCFFV23 agreed to consider CRD28, as the basis for discussion of this item.

Discussion

44. CCFFV23 held a general discussion on the approach applied, considered the standard section by section and made the following comments and decisions.

the EWG, Germany); CRD08 (Kenya); CRD09 (Indonesia); CRD11 (Mexico); CRD13 (Chile); CRD15 (Nigeria); CRD17 (Ghana); CRD20 (El Salvador); CRD23 (Uruguay); CRD28 (Proposal for the alignment with the FFV layout of the Standard for Avocado and the Standard for Asparagus, prepared by the EWG Chair)

General discussion

45. CCFFV23 further discussed whether the required exercise of alignment of FFV texts with the FFV layout needed to focus on editorial changes only, or if technical and/or substantial changes also needed appropriate consideration during this exercise.
46. Members in favor of consideration of editorial changes only noted that any modifications needed to be limited to editorial amendments, thereby avoiding substantive revisions of the standard. These Members also pointed out that the introduction of new characteristics and provisions, would fall outside the scope of editorial revisions agreed upon by the committee. Furthermore, it was reiterated that in the event of any doubt regarding the purely editorial nature of a proposed change, a preference for reversion to the adopted *Standard for Avocado* as revised in 2013 was to be upheld.
47. Members in favor of consideration of technical and substantive changes proposed a more flexible approach, noting that the alignment with the FFV layout inherently allowed for the selection of appropriate characteristics as contained in the layout. These Members further noted that if the alignment was to proceed, it needed to be undertaken comprehensively, and that proceeding with only editorial changes could not be considered as an alignment. These Members also recalled that the definitions included in the FFV layout were established and agreed upon by CCFFV during the development of such a layout, and that this would also constitute a basis to supporting the more flexible approach.

Conclusion

48. CCFFV23 agreed to maintain the original wording of CXS 197-1995 as the basis for the discussion and to proceed with a purely editorial consideration of the standard section-by-section, noting that substantive and technical changes could be addressed through the appropriate Codex procedures.

Section 2 – Definition of Produce

49. CCFFV23 considered the proposal by a Member to edit footnote 2, based on its suggestive nature and the need for precise database citations, rejecting for this reason the inclusion of "any other suitable database" under the same footnote. The Member also noted that if specific databases, such as GRIN or other recognized sources, were used to provide scientific names or other data, they needed to be explicitly listed and if such specific citations were not available, the footnote should be omitted entirely.
50. The following issues were pointed out by Members on the above proposed changes:
- It was emphasized that Codex, as a scientific body, required verifiable sources for scientific names;
 - Some countries might rely on alternative databases due to limited access to established sources like the GRIN or Mansfeld databases and that the inclusion of "any other suitable database" in the footnote was intended to accommodate these diverse sources while ensuring cross-referencing for accuracy.
 - The need to refine the FFV standard layout to better address these varied referencing practices was also highlighted.
51. CCFFV23 agreed to include footnote 2 into square brackets for further consideration by the EWG.

Section 3. Provisions concerning quality

3.1 Minimum requirements

52. CCFFV23 agreed to revert to the text as included in CXS 197-1995, and agreed to:
- Replace the term "intact" with "whole";
 - Delete the bullet points "firm" and "fresh in appearance"; and
 - Edit the third to last bullet point, to improve clarity and in line with the decision regarding the use of "whole" in place of "intact", to read "having a stalk not more than 10 mm in length which must be cut off cleanly. However, its absence is not considered a defect on condition that the place of the stalk attachment is dry and whole".

Section 5. Provisions concerning tolerances

53. CCFFV23 considered the proposal by the EWG to move the text under "Section 5.1 - Quality Tolerance" under Section 5 since the introductory sentence, which stated "at all marketing stages tolerances in respect of quality

and size" was deemed incongruous with its placement under Section 5.1 as it implied a broader scope encompassing size tolerances as well.

54. The following issues were pointed out by Members on the above proposed changes:

- altering the placement of the text under Section 5.1 would also necessitate a careful revision of the numbering sequence, to ensure alignment and consistency with both general Codex commodity standard layouts and the FFV layout;
- retaining the text under Section 5.1 would facilitate the clear distinction between quality and size tolerances as reflected in CXS 197-1995; and
- descriptive text in Codex was typically included under sub-sections rather than main section.
- with reference to other published standards, such as the *Standard for Onions and Shallots* (CXS 348-2022), the words "and size" could be deleted from the provision to enable its placement under Section 5.1.

55. CCFFV23 agreed to include the text into square brackets for further consideration by the EWG.

Section 7. Provisions concerning marking or labelling

Section 7.1.1 Name of produce

56. CCFFV23 considered a proposal to include "avocado" in this section as the current wording lacked explicit identification of the product's name, potentially hindering consumer understanding.

57. CCFFV23 agreed to include the text in Section 7.1.1 into square brackets for further consideration by the EWG.

Section 7.2 Non-retail containers

58. CCFFV23 agreed to include "identification code" and the connected footnote in the standard, as per the text of CXS 197-1995.

Section 7.2.2 Commercial Specifications

59. CCFFV23 agreed to include "size expressed in minimum and maximum weight in grams or by number (by count)" in this Section, as per the text of CXS 197-1995.

Section 8. Food Additives

60. CCFFV noted the clarification provided by the EWG Chair as to the inclusion of the provisions for food additives under Section 8, noting that such an inclusion would be of technical nature and beyond the scope of editorial revisions.

61. The following issues were pointed out by Members on the above proposed changes:

- Deletion of this provision would create ambiguity regarding the permissible use of additives, leaving room for the unregulated use of substances like mineral oil and waxes, which were sometimes used as preservatives.
- The *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA, CXS 192-1995) provided sufficient guidance for permitted additives in commodity standard and that the provision could be hence deleted;
- The use of food additives, particularly waxes, was typically addressed on a commodity-by-commodity basis;
- Waxes were commonly used on avocados and other fruits with edible skins, and that the GSFA provided guidance on appropriate types of waxes.

62. The Codex Secretariat provided clarification on the division of responsibilities regarding food additives, noting that commodity committees were responsible for determining technological need of food additive and developing the food additive provision for specific commodities and that CCFA's role was limited to assessing the safety of proposed additives.

63. CCFFV23, noting that the inclusion of Section 8 would go beyond the scope of the alignment as established, agreed to delete the section.

Alignment of the *Standard for Asparagus* (CXS 225-2001)

64. CCFFV23 considered a further proposal prepared by the EWG Chair which reflected the approach used for the alignment of the *Standard for Avocado* and agreed to use the updated version of CRD28 as prepared by the EWG Chair as the basis for the discussion.

65. CCFFV23 considered the standard section by section and made the following comments and decisions.

DiscussionSection 2 – Definition of Produce

66. CCFFV23 agreed to include footnote 2 into square brackets for further consideration by the EWG.

Section 3. Provisions concerning quality*3.1 Minimum requirements*

67. CCFFV23 agreed to revert to the text as included in CXS 225-2001, and agreed to:

- Replace the term “intact” with “whole”; and
- Delete the bullet point “firm”.

Section 5. Provisions concerning tolerances

68. CCFFV23 agreed to include the text under Section 5 into square brackets for further consideration by the EWG..

Section 6.2. Packaging*6.2.2 Presentation*

69. CCFFV23 considered the proposal by a Member related to the use of “under” when describing presentation formats for asparagus. The Member explained that “in” was the more grammatically correct preposition, suggesting that asparagus “may be presented in one of the following forms” rather than “under”. Furthermore, they proposed a consequential adjustment to the first bullet point by deleting the word “in,” so it reads “bundles firmly bound.”

CCFFV23 agreed with the proposed changes to Section 6.2.2.

Section 7. Provisions concerning marking or labelling*Section 7.1.1 Name of produce*

70. CCFFV23 agreed to include the text in Section 7.1.1 into square brackets for further consideration by the EWG..

Section 7.2 Non-retail containers

71. CCFFV23 agreed to include “identification code” and the connected footnote in the standard, as per the text of CXS 225-2001.

Section 7.2.1 Nature of produce

72. CCFFV23 considered the proposal by a Member regarding the order of product identification and color indication. The Member observed that the current phrasing, “asparagus, followed by the indication” implied that the color designation would appear after the word “asparagus”. However, in commercial practice, the color indication typically preceded the product name, as in “white asparagus” or “green asparagus”. Therefore, the Member proposed modifying the wording to “asparagus, accompanied by the indication”.

73. CCFFV23 agreed with this proposal.

Section 8. Food Additives

74. CCFFV23 agreed to delete the section.

Other issues

75. The EWG Chair, following a request for clarification on the use of “shall be” versus “must be” in the standard, noted that the second one was in line with the FFV layout and exiting FFV standards and hence would be kept as necessary.

76. In response to a question relating to translation issues identified in Spanish version of the standard, the Codex Secretariat invited Members to submit comments on translation issues directly to them for their analysis and possible revision.

Conclusion

77. CCFFV23 agreed to re-establish an EWG chaired by Germany, working in English, to continue with the alignment of existing FFV standards, including the *Standard for Avocado* and the *Standard for Asparagus* as edited during the session (Appendices IV and V), with the FFV layout.
78. The EWG would submit its report at least three months before CCFFV24.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK (replies to CL 2024/75-FFV) (Agenda item 6)⁹

79. CCFFV23 noted that no new work proposals had been submitted in reply to CL 2024/75-FFV and agreed to request that the Codex Secretariat issue a Circular Letter requesting proposals for new work, for consideration by CCFFV24.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 7)¹⁰

80. CCFFV23 considered the two new work proposals submitted under this agenda item.

Proposal for new work on fresh turmeric

81. Fiji introduced the discussion paper on the development of a standard for fresh turmeric (CRD06) and highlighted the importance of the agriculture sector for food security and economic livelihood. Establishing an international Codex standard for fresh turmeric would enhance exports, safeguard consumer health, and promote fair trade.

Discussion

82. Members congratulated Fiji for preparing the proposal and expressed broad support for CCFFV to undertake the new work.
83. Regarding trade volume data for fresh turmeric, Members noted the challenge of differentiating between fresh and dried turmeric due to limited data. It was suggested that the Codex Procedural Manual could consider addressing data limitations in the development of standards, particularly for new work proposed by developing countries. It was recalled that a similar issue had previously been noted during the discussions on fresh curry leaves and was addressed by CCEXEC.
84. CCFFV23 agreed to consider CRD06 section by section, made editorial corrections (e.g., changing “aromatic” to “culinary,” removing “developing countries,” and eliminating “life-giving properties”), and took the following decisions.

Title

85. It was agreed to retain the term “fresh” in the title of the standard (i.e. fresh turmeric), as this would make a distinction between the proposed standard from the existing Codex *Standard for dried or dehydrated roots, rhizomes, and bulbs—Turmeric* (CXS 359-2024) developed by the Committee on Spices and Culinary herbs (CCSCH).

Section 3. Main Aspects to be covered

86. CCFFV23 agreed to include provisions for food additives under this section and to make reference to the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995) under Section 6 “Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents as well as other ongoing work”.

Section 9. Proposed timeline for completion of new work

87. CCFFV23 replaced the Table on timelines with the following general text that would provide flexibility for the periodicity of convening Committee meetings

It is expected that the development of this standard be conducted in three CCFFV meetings or less, depending on the agreement reached by CCFFV.

⁹ CX/FFV 25/23/7

¹⁰ CRD06 (Fiji); CRD18 (Mexico); CRD29 (Mexico)

Conclusion

88. CCFFV23 agreed to:

- forward the proposal for new work on fresh turmeric to CAC48 for approval (Appendix VI);
- establish an EWG chaired by Fiji and co-chaired by China, India, and Kenya, working in English, to prepare, subject to the approval of the new work, a proposed draft standard for fresh turmeric for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCFFV24; and
- request the EWG to submit the report at least three months before CCFFV24.

Proposal for new work on fresh broccoli

89. Mexico introduced the discussion paper on the development of a standard for fresh broccoli (CRD29) and emphasized that with the increasing global production, broccoli's popularity had grown internationally, as part of the menu. The proposed standard would address trade barriers, harmonize regulations, and benefit producers by promoting fair trade practice. Broccoli's short growth cycle provided economic benefits through supporting local economies. Mexico noted that since there was an already standard existing standard for frozen broccoli (CXS 320-2015, Annex on broccoli), the new standard should be titled "Fresh Broccoli" to ensure that there was distinction between the two products.
90. CCFFV23 noted broad support for the proposal but observed that the Project Document did not adhere to the format required by the Codex Procedural Manual and lacked key content, including the section on "Relevance to the Codex Strategic Objectives." Consequently, the document was not ready for review.

Conclusion

91. CCFFV23 agreed to:

- request Mexico, with support from other interested Members, to revise the Project Document to ensure full compliance with the Codex Procedural Manual. The revised Project Document would be submitted to CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat;
- forward the revised Project Document on fresh broccoli to CAC48 for approval;
- establish an EWG chaired by Mexico and co-chaired by China and India, working in English and Spanish, to prepare, subject to the approval of the new work, a proposed draft standard for fresh broccoli for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration at CCFFV24; and
- request the EWG submit the report at least three months before CCFFV24.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda item 8)

92. CCFFV23 was informed that the exact time and venue of CCFFV24 would be determined by the Host Government in consultation with the Codex Secretariat.