

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8.2

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CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

Twenty-ninth Session

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

9-13 February 2026

AGENDA ITEM 8.2: DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR DATA COLLECTION ON SECTION 3.2.3 FOOTNOTE (C) (DECISION TREE) – FOLLOW UP ON THE CAC47 DIRECTIVE

(Submitted by Syrian Arab Republic)

Purpose:

This document aims to:

- Report on developments following the submission of CRD13 by the Syrian Arab Republic to CCFO29 concerning the need for a reassessment of the applicability of footnote (c) in Section 3.2.3 of the Codex Standard for Olive Oils and Olive-Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981).
- Summarize the outcome of informal consultations held between delegations during multilateral preparatory meetings for CCFO29.
- Propose the establishment of an Electronic Working Group (EWG) to oversee the structured and coordinated collection of scientific data that reflects the natural variability in the composition of authentic olive oils, to support the review of the applicability of Section 3.2.3 Footnote (c) of the Codex Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981).

Background

Following the submission of Conference Room Document 13 (CRD13) to CCFO29, in which the Syrian Arab Republic presented the rationale for advancing coordinated data collection efforts related to the applicability of footnote (c) in Section 3.2.3 of the Codex Standard for Olive Oils and Olive-Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981) and in the lead-up to CCFO29, the Syrian delegation, supported by several CCNE delegations undertook informal consultations as part multilateral preparatory meetings, including a meeting with the Chairperson of CCFO and the Codex Secretariat.

These exchanges provided an opportunity to discuss modalities for managing future data collection efforts. They reaffirmed broad consensus around the need for a scientifically grounded and inclusive approach within the Codex Alimentarius workflow to assess regional variability in olive oil composition, particularly in relation to authenticity markers such as Δ^7 -stigmastenol and Δ ECN42.

Outcome of Informal Consultations and Input Received

Delegations consulted, agreed that a structured mechanism was needed to oversee data collection activities. The proposal to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) under CCFO emerged as the preferred option, offering an inclusive and transparent mechanism to coordinate this work.

A key consideration raised during the consultations was the importance of ensuring that the EWG includes relevant Codex Observers, particularly technical organizations such as the International Olive Council (IOC), whose expertise is critical to the scientific validity and global acceptance of the resulting data.

Proposal

The Syrian Arab Republic proposes the establishment of an Electronic Working Group (EWG) with the following Terms of Reference:

• Objective:

To coordinate the collection, sharing and submission of data by Codex members and observers relevant to

the applicability of footnote (c) of Section 3.2.3 of the Codex Standard for Olive Oils and Olive-Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981) with a view to informing any potential revisions.

•Scope:

- Define agreed-upon sampling and analytical protocols based on internationally recognized methods.
- Facilitate the submission and review of data from interested Codex Members and Observers, including both new and existing datasets.
- Ensure active participation of key Observers, notably the International Olive Council (IOC), and relevant regional bodies, such as the Arab Olive Bureau.
- Seek support of FAO, international and regional organizations to enable the analysis and interpretation of results in the context of cultivar, geographic, and seasonal variability, especially regarding Δ^7 -stigmastenol and Δ^8 -stigmastenol.

•Working Languages:

English and Arabic.

•Chairing Arrangements:

To be determined at Plenary discussions once the EWG is endorsed by CCFO29.

•Timeline:

The EWG will begin work following endorsement by CCFO29 and aim to deliver interim outputs for review by CCFO30.

Request to CCFO29

The Syrian Arab Republic invites the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) to:

- Endorse the establishment of the Electronic Working Group as described above;
- Encourage broad participation from both Codex Members and Observers.