



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

**CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS**
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS

CCCF

Dear CCCF Delegates,

Firstly, I hope this letter finds you well. It is my distinct pleasure to inform you that the next Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food will be held in Panama. We are delighted and extremely grateful to Panama for offering to co-host this meeting and are very excited to work together to hold CCCF17 in Panama City.

Before I proceed any further, I again wish to express my sincere gratitude to you for taking the time to join us in Utrecht at CCCF16. Not only did the event provide a wonderful opportunity to meet you all in person, but your attendance and insightful contributions were also greatly appreciated. Thanks to your wholehearted cooperation we were able to get a lot of work done at the event. I sincerely believe that we will have a similar experience again at CCCF17 in 2024.

We rely on the hard work of our electronic working groups to develop standards and effective codes of practice. Indeed, many of you are taking part in the EWGs that are currently running under the leadership of chairs from Brazil, China, the European Union, India, New Zealand, and the United States as well as their co-chairs. Ultimately, the feedback you provide via the EWGs is critically important for preparing good discussions in the plenary session. Through your insights and guidance, I believe that we can once again continue to develop the important work that our Codex Committee is committed to.

With this letter I also want to take the opportunity to remind you that CAC45 “requested CCCF to undertake a review of all the MLs for total aflatoxins in three years’ time, if sufficient data were submitted by Members through GEMS/Food, but in any event to undertake this review in no more than five years’ time”. This year at CAC46, a similar provision was adopted for the MLs in spices. However, the review of the MLs is dependent on the availability of data. Therefore, I would strongly implore you to submit all the relevant data to the GEMS/Food contaminants database in a timely manner. We will revisit this issue once again during CCCF17.

The next CCCF is scheduled between the 15th to the 19th of April, 2024. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that on Sunday the 14th of April, we have reserved time for side events or preparatory discussions on agenda items. I would encourage all delegates to arrive in Panama City in sufficient time so as to be able to participate in these physical pre-meetings.

Working documents and other relevant information for the meeting will be published on the CCCF17 webpage on the Codex website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at: info@codexalimentarius.nl.

In the coming months I will send you a follow-up letter with further information. But for now I wish you, your family and all your friends a very happy holiday and a fantastic 2024! May the holiday season fill your home with joy, love, and laughter.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Sally Hoffer
Chair, Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

