

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
Organization

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK

(CX/CAC 25/48/10)

(Comments of Benin, China, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Zambia)

Benin

Dans le document disponible, les 12 nouvelles propositions de travail soumises à l'examen du CAC48 et émanant des organes subsidiaires du Codex comprennent : des propositions de nouvelles dispositions relatives aux additifs alimentaires, trois normes régionales, deux normes de produits, la révision de deux codes de bonnes pratiques, un nouveau code de bonnes pratiques et la conversion d'une norme régionale en norme mondiale, ainsi que deux listes de priorités à évaluer par les comités d'experts compétents.

Position : La République du Bénin soutient l'approbation de nouveaux travaux pour l'élaboration de la norme régionale (région Afrique) pour le poisson braisé ou bouilli, salé et non salé, séché (Afrique).

La République du Bénin n'a pas d'objection par rapport aux autres propositions de nouveaux travaux de normalisation.

Elle suivra la discussion en plénière sur la norme relative au lait de chamelle pasteurisé et les nouveaux travaux sur l'élaboration de principes pour l'analyse des risques liés aux nouvelles sources alimentaires et aux systèmes de production (NFPS) et pourra donner sa position sur ces deux travaux.

China

Proposal for development of a standard for pasteurized camel milk

China would like to thank the effort of United Arab Emirates (UAE) for submitting this improved proposal, and New Zealand, as the host country for the CCMMP and the International Dairy Federation) IDF for the gap analysis, and also welcome the circular letter for collecting data from member and observers.

China, as one of the co-authors of the proposal, supports the development of Codex Standard for Pasteurized Camel Milk. Establishing a harmonized standard will both protect public health and provide a predictable technical basis for fair practices in international trade.

Camel milk, widely consumed in certain regions, is recognized for its unique nutritional and sensory characteristics. However, raw camel milk may pose microbiological risks, including contamination with pathogens such as *Brucella spp.* and *Salmonella spp.*. Establishing harmonized parameters for pasteurization, safety and quality criteria for the pasteurized camel milk would effectively reduce these risks, ensuring hygienic quality and protecting consumer health.

Given that camel milk differs from bovine milk in composition and properties, a dedicated standard for pasteurized camel milk would ensure safety requirements are tailored to the product's specific characteristics, while maintaining its nutritional integrity.

In the absence of a Codex standard, importing and exporting countries may apply differing inspection, testing, and labeling requirements, resulting in unnecessary technical barriers to trade. An international Codex standard would provide a common technical reference for all Members, enhancing predictability and fairness in global trade of camel milk and its products.

Furthermore, developing this standard would strengthen regulatory coherence and science-based oversight. A Codex standard grounded in validated scientific evidence and risk analysis would enable national authorities to align domestic regulations, ensuring consistency and practicality in implementation.

In summary, China supports the development of Codex Standard for Pasteurized Camel Milk and stands ready to work constructively with all Members to advance this work in the interest of global food safety and fair trade.

Proposals to undertake new work or revise a standard arising from active subsidiary bodies

Comments on the appropriate committee for the conversion of the regional standard for laver Products (Asia) (CXS 323R-2017) into a worldwide standard

China supports the new work proposal submitted by CCASIA on the conversion of the Regional Standard for Laver Products (CXS 323R-2017) into a worldwide standard. Considering that laver products are not classified under any committee, it is important to determine which committee would be suitable to elaborate the standard.

Based on the biological taxonomy, natural classification of seaweed and the continuity of the committee's professional processes, it would be appropriate for Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) to undertake this work.

1. Seaweed is a general term for primitive, lower plants growing in the marine intertidal zone and the ocean. There is a fundamental distinction between seaweeds and vegetables in plant taxonomy. Seaweeds belong to polyphyletic groups of primitive lower plants, while vegetables belong to monophyletic groups of terrestrial higher plants.

2. In FAO annual report "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture", which consistently includes seaweed alongside aquatic animals like fish, crustaceans, and mollusks in its statistics, constituting global aquatic product production collectively.

3. If CCFFP undertakes the development of the international standard for laver products, it would be natural to continue the professional review processes and leverage its expertise for aquatic products, which also aligns with CAC principles of consistency and professionalism.

Mexico

Propuestas para emprender nuevos trabajos o revisar normas surgidas de los órganos subsidiarios activos

México se abstiene en cuanto a las siguientes disposiciones:

- **Comité Coordinador FAO/OMS para África (CCAFRICA): Norma regional para pescado seco (braseado o hervido, con o sin sal).** El proyecto fue presentado por Senegal y cuenta con apoyo regional; sin embargo, su alcance se limita al ámbito regional africano.
- **Comité Coordinador FAO/OMS para América del Norte y el Pacífico Sudoccidental (CCNASWP): Normas regionales para galip nut (*Canarium indicum*) y harina de fruto del pan (breadfruit flour).** Ambas propuestas alcanzaron consenso regional y continuarán su desarrollo dentro del CCNASWP como trabajos de alcance limitado.
- **Comité del Codex para Asia (CCASIA): Conversión de la norma regional para productos de algas (laver products) en norma internacional.** La propuesta, presentada por la República de Corea y respaldada por la región de Asia, será revisada por el CCEXEC antes de definir el comité responsable. No se somete a aprobación en esta sesión.
- **Emiratos Árabes Unidos:** Norma para leche de camella pasteurizada.

México está a favor de la aprobación de los siguientes trabajos:

- **Comité del Codex sobre Contaminantes de los Alimentos (CCCF): Revisión de los Códigos de Práctica sobre alcaloides pirrolizidínicos, aflatoxina B1 y elaboración de un nuevo código sobre alcaloides tropánicos.**

El Comité Ejecutivo recomendó la aprobación de estos nuevos trabajos, los cuales actualizan y fortalecen los marcos técnicos para la gestión de contaminantes naturales en los alimentos.

- **Comité del Codex sobre Aditivos Alimentarios (CCFA): Actualización del GSFA y lista prioritaria de sustancias para el JECFA.**

El Comité Ejecutivo recomendó la aprobación de la actualización del texto y la lista prioritaria de sustancias que orientará las futuras evaluaciones del Comité Mixto FAO/OMS de Expertos en Aditivos Alimentarios.

- **Comité del Codex sobre Residuos de Plaguicidas (CCPR): Lista de plaguicidas priorizados para evaluación por la Reunión Conjunta FAO/OMS sobre Residuos de Plaguicidas (JMPR).**

El documento consolida la lista de sustancias seleccionadas para su evaluación científica durante el siguiente periodo. Su adopción permitirá mantener actualizados los Límites Máximos de Residuos y garantizar la coherencia entre los países miembros.

- **Comité del Codex sobre Frutas y Hortalizas Frescas (CCFFV): Norma para Cúrcuma fresca (Fiji, con China, India y Kenia) y Norma para Brócoli fresco.**

Ambos proyectos fueron aprobados por el Comité del Codex sobre Frutas y Hortalizas Frescas en su Vigésima Tercera reunión, y su aprobación fue respaldada por el Comité Ejecutivo en su 88 reunión.

Las propuestas cumplen con los criterios de admisibilidad y relevancia establecidos por el Codex, favoreciendo la transparencia comercial y el reconocimiento de productos hortícolas de interés internacional.

- **Unión Europea: Principios para el análisis de riesgo de nuevas fuentes y sistemas de producción de alimentos (NFPS).**

Mongolia

Mongolia strongly supports the proposal by the United Arab Emirates for the development of a Codex Standard for Pasteurized Camel Milk. Camel milk plays an important role in Mongolia's traditional food systems and rural economies. Establishing an international Codex standard will help ensure recognition of its distinctive characteristics, enhance consumer protection, and promote fair and transparent trade among producing and exporting countries.

Mongolia is prepared to actively participate in this new work and contribute relevant expertise to the drafting process.

Nigeria

CCAFRICA – Regional standard for braised or boiled, salted and unsalted, dried fish (Africa)

Nigeria supports the provision for the commission adopt Proposals to undertake new work on Regional standard for braised or boiled, salted and unsalted, dried fish (Africa).

Rationale

The proposed standard shall be designed to harmonize regulations and eliminate trade barriers that shall boost the exports and ensure fair trade for producers and importers within the region.

CCFFV – Standard for fresh turmeric Standard for fresh broccoli

Nigeria supports the proposal to the Commission to approve new work on development of a standard on fresh turmeric and fresh broccoli.

Rationale: There is a need to establish an international standard for fresh turmeric and standard for fresh broccoli as the proposed standards would address trade barriers, enhance exports, harmonize regulations and benefit producers by promoting fair trade practice.

Norway

Proposal on the conversion of the Regional Standard for laver products (Asia) (CXS 323R-2017) into a worldwide standard

With reference to Agenda item 5 and CX/CAC 25/48/10, part A. *New work proposals* Norway would like to provide the following comments:

We would like to thank CCASIA for the proposal to convert the Regional Standard for Laver Products (Asia) (CXS 323R-2017) into a worldwide standard.

Our suggestion would be to open the possibility of expanding the scope when converting the regional standard into a global standard, as this will reflect the increasing international trade and consumption of macroalgae. A global standard for more species will facilitate fair trade practices, improve transparency and food safety, and support the sustainable use of marine resources. This would also be in line with the intent of developing group standards.

We would also like to suggest assigning this new work to the Committee on Fish and Fishery products (CCFFP). Seaweed, although botanically distinct from fish, is an aquatic resource harvested and cultivated in marine environments and is therefore closely aligned with the scope and expertise of CCFFP.

Background

Expanding the scope

The existing regional standard on laver products is limited to red macroalgae (*Rhodophyta*) of the genus *Porphyra* (now often classified as *Pyropia*). However, international trade with seaweed products involves a wide range of species, reflecting regional differences in cultivation, harvesting, and consumption practices. Various brown, red, and green seaweeds are traded globally, including both wild-harvested and farmed species.

Seaweed (macroalgae) used internationally for human consumption includes a broader range of species — particularly brown algae (*Phaeophyta*) such as *Saccharina* and *Laminaria* (kelp), and green algae (*Chlorophyta*) such as *Ulva* (sea lettuce).

Norway is one of the leading producers of seaweed, with a long history of wild harvesting and aquaculture industry focused on sustainable production. The dominant species in aquaculture are sugar kelp (brown algae, *Saccharina latissima*), winged kelp (brown algae, *Alaria esculenta*), oarweed (brown algae, *Laminaria digitata*), and dulse (red algae, *Palmaria palmata*). Data on total production is limited but cultivated seaweed production has been steadily increasing. In 2023, approximately 600 tons of cultivated seaweed were harvested, up from 50 tons in 2015 used for both food and feed and sold domestically and exported. Please also note that the FAO (2022) report is not limited to the red algae but addresses all macroalgae species.

As international trade is not limited to one algal group or region but encompasses a broad spectrum of edible macroalgae with distinct characteristics and uses, a broader and harmonized standard is needed to protect the health of the consumer and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

Assigning it to CCFFP

CCFFP has already a mandate to deal with products derived from aquatic organisms and has long-standing experience in developing worldwide standards. Seaweed production and processing share many of the same environmental, biological, and post-harvest challenges as other fishery products — including marine contamination, spoilage control, and traceability requirements.

In Norway and many other countries, seaweed fall under the “blue sector” and are regulated and marketed alongside other seafood products.

It is our view that due to seaweed special biological and grow properties, seaweed should not be classified as a plant (such as vegetables, fruits and fungi).

Panama

English

Panama supports the agenda of new work presented at CAC48, recognizing its importance in addressing technological evolution and new food safety challenges. We support the European Union's initiative to develop Principles for Risk Analysis of New Sources and Food Production Systems (NFPS), as this work is crucial for the Codex to maintain its relevance in the face of innovation (e.g., cellular foods). We also support the adoption of new standards for fresh produce (such as broccoli and turmeric) and the conversion of the Regional Standard for Seaweed Products (Laver) to an international standard, which facilitates the integration of more products into global trade.

However, regarding the proposed Standard for Pasteurized Camel Milk, Panama shares concerns that question its feasibility. The lack of sufficient scientific evidence on pasteurization and authenticity markers, coupled with the low volume of international trade in this liquid product, suggests that it does not meet the Codex Work Prioritization Criteria. We urge the CAC to consider that food safety and fraud issues are already covered by existing horizontal texts, such as labeling standards and the Dairy Hygiene Code of Practice. Therefore, Panama recommends not initiating this new work at this time to ensure the efficient allocation of the Commission's limited resources.

We agree that work should proceed toward developing a standard for pasteurized camel milk, under the responsibility of the CCMMP, as it is the most appropriate committee for this task. We note that the work will conform to Section 2.6 of the Codex Procedural Manual, including relevant references, such as the forthcoming guidelines on food fraud prevention and control being developed by the CCFICS. We further support the recommendations to reactivate the CCMMP to work by correspondence, clearly define its mandate as agreed by the CCGP at its 34th session, and grant it the flexibility to operate through an electronic working group or virtual means, as appropriate.

Spanish

Panamá respalda la agenda de nuevos trabajos presentada a la CAC48, reconociendo su importancia para abordar la evolución tecnológica y los nuevos desafíos de inocuidad alimentaria. Apoyamos la iniciativa de la Unión Europea para desarrollar Principios para el Análisis de Riesgos de Nuevas Fuentes y Sistemas de Producción de Alimentos (NFPS), ya que este trabajo es crucial para que el Codex mantenga su relevancia frente a la innovación (ej. alimentos celulares). También respaldamos la aprobación de nuevas normas para productos frescos (como el brócoli y el turmeric) y la conversión de la Norma Regional para productos de alga marina (Laver) a una norma internacional, lo que facilita la integración de más productos al comercio global.

No obstante, en relación con la propuesta de una Norma para la Leche de Camella Pasteurizada, Panamá se alinea con las preocupaciones que cuestionan su viabilidad. La falta de suficiente evidencia científica sobre marcadores de pasteurización y autenticidad, sumada al bajo volumen de comercio internacional de este producto líquido, sugiere que no cumple con los Criterios de Priorización de Trabajo del Codex. Instamos a la CAC a considerar que los problemas de inocuidad y fraude ya están cubiertos por textos horizontales existentes, como las normas de etiquetado y el Código de Práctica Higiénica Láctea. Por ello, Panamá recomienda no iniciar este nuevo trabajo en este momento para asegurar la asignación eficiente de los limitados recursos de la Comisión.

Estamos de acuerdo en que avance el trabajo hacia la elaboración de una norma para la leche de camella pasteurizada, bajo la responsabilidad del CCMMP, por ser el comité más adecuado para esta tarea. Tomamos nota de que el trabajo se ajustará a la Sección 2.6 del Manual de Procedimiento del Codex, incluyendo las referencias pertinentes, como las futuras directrices sobre prevención y control del fraude alimentario en elaboración por el CCFICS. Apoyamos además las recomendaciones de reactivar el CCMMP para trabajar por correspondencia, definir claramente su mandato conforme a lo acordado por el CCGP en su 34.^a reunión, y otorgarle la flexibilidad de operar mediante grupo de trabajo electrónico o medios virtuales, según corresponda.

Republic of Korea

COMMENTS ON THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE REGIONAL STANDARD FOR LAYER PRODUCTS (Asia) (CXS 323R-2017) INTO A WORLDWIDE STANDARD

1. At the 23rd Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA23, 2025), the Republic of Korea submitted a discussion paper on the conversion of the *Regional standard for laver products* (Asia) (CXS 323R-2017) into a worldwide standard¹. During the discussion, there was general agreement among Members to support the new work proposal. Consequently, CCASIA23 agreed to forward the project document on the conversion of CXS 323R-2017 into an international standard to the 48th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48) for approval as new work (Appendix VIII, REP25/ASIA) and request CAC48 to consider assigning the appropriate committee to undertake this work.
2. At present, there is no Codex committee that has seaweeds explicitly included in its terms of reference. Therefore, it is necessary for CAC48 to determine which subsidiary body would be most suitable to elaborate the worldwide standard for laver products.
3. Considering that laver products are prepared with laver, a type of seaweed traditionally cultivated and harvested in marine environments, it would be natural and appropriate for the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) to be responsible for this work.
4. When the Republic of Korea first submitted a proposal for the development of a *Regional standard for laver products* (Asia) (CXS 323R-2017) in 2010 at the 17th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA17), CCASIA17 recommended that the proposal be considered by the CCFFP, noting that the Committee was most likely to have the technical competence for this type of product².
5. In addition, the Republic of Korea had previously submitted a discussion paper at the 36th session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fish Products (CCFFP36, 2024) proposing the inclusion of seaweeds within the Committee's terms of reference³. During that discussion, there was considerable support among Members for the future development of a Codex standard, code of practice, or related texts on seaweeds, and broad agreement that CCFFP was the most relevant Codex subsidiary body to undertake such work⁴.
6. On this basis, the Republic of Korea is of the view that the **Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)** is the most appropriate commodity committee to undertake the work on the conversion of

¹ ASIA23/CRD02

² REP11/ASIA, paragraph 144

³ FFP36/CRD02

⁴ REP24/FFP, paragraph 36

the *Regional standard for laver products* (Asia) (CXS 323R-2017) into a worldwide standard.

Thailand

A. New work proposals submitted by active subsidiary bodies for approval by CAC48

Thailand has no objection to the new work proposal proposed by the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV), Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA), Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF), Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR), FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA), and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP), as presented in Table 1 of CX/CAC 25/48/10.

Issue of CCASIA: The conversion of the regional standard for laver products into an international standard

Thailand supports the new work proposal submitted by CCASIA on the conversion of the *Regional Standard for Laver Products* (CXS 323R-2017) into an international standard. Laver products are increasingly traded worldwide, not only within Asia but also across other regions, including North America, Europe, and Oceania. Therefore, elevating this regional standard to an international one would enhance food safety and promote fair trade among countries.

In this regard, Thailand considers it important that issues related to contaminants in laver products be taken into account, as they are directly relevant to consumer safety. It is noted that the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS 193-1995) currently does not include maximum levels (MLs) for seaweed or related products particularly for heavy metals such as cadmium, arsenic, and lead. Consequently, Thailand supports the development of a proposal by a Member to establish such MLs and to submit it to the CCCF for consideration as a new work, as agreed by CCASIA23.

Should the Commission decide to approve this new work proposal, Thailand has no objection to assigning either CCFFP or CCFFV to undertake this task, as both Committees have the relevant works and experience in developing commodity standards. However, if the Commission agrees to assign the work to CCFFP, it may be necessary to amend the Committee's Terms of Reference (TOR) to explicitly include "seaweeds and other algae." Expanding the scope in this way would also facilitate the future development of related standards proposed by Members.

B. New work proposals not falling under the purview of active subsidiary bodies

Issue: Proposal on the development of principles for the risk analysis of new food sources and production system (NFPS)

Thailand supports new work proposal and project document submitted by the European Union on the development of principles for the risk analysis of new food sources and production system (NFPS). We recognize the importance of this work in assisting countries to develop national regulatory frameworks and standards for NFPS, grounded in risk analysis principles, to ensure food safety and fair practices in both domestic and international trade.

We also believe that establishing clear and harmonized definitions for key terms such as "new foods," "new food sources," and "new production systems" will foster a common understanding among Members. Such clarity will facilitate more constructive discussions and informed consideration of issues that may be viewed differently across various NFPS types.

In addition, Thailand encourages the use of relevant existing Codex texts to support the development of these principles. We are also of the view that the concept of "history of safe use," which is often applied to distinguish conventional foods from new foods, should be further clarified--particularly in cases where a food may have a history of safe use in one country or region but not in others. The principles of risk analysis for such cases should be incorporated into the document to provide appropriate guidance for regulatory authorities and food business operators.

Furthermore, to facilitate the practical application of these principles, Thailand proposes that Codex consider the future development of guidance for implementation based on the adopted principles. This is possible for the next steps.

Should the Commission decide to approve this new work proposal, Thailand is of the opinion that that the establishment of an *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force may be an appropriate mechanism to undertake this work, given the specificity and diversity of NFPS. Such a physical Task Force would enable Codex to draw upon relevant expertise from Members, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the work. Codex has had positive experiences with similar Task Forces in the past, such as the *Ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (TFPHQFF) and the *Ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (TFFBT).

Zambia**CCFFV****Background**

It will be recalled that the CCFFV23 resolved to forward to the commission two new work proposals on standard for fresh turmeric and fresh broccoli

Comment

Zambia supports the initiation of new work on the development of Codex standards for fresh turmeric and fresh broccoli. Zambia recognizes that establishing international standards for these commodities is timely and important. The development of Codex standards for fresh turmeric and fresh broccoli will help address existing trade barriers, facilitate market access, and enhance export opportunities for producing countries. Furthermore, these standards will promote harmonization of quality and safety requirements, contributing to fair trade practices and improved transparency in international trade. By supporting this new work, Zambia emphasizes the need for globally recognized parameters to ensure the quality, safety, and fair marketing of fresh turmeric and fresh broccoli, ultimately benefiting producers, traders, and consumers.

CCPR**Approval of the Priority List of Pesticides for Evaluation by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)****Position:**

Zambia commends the Electronic Working Group (EWG) chaired by Australia and all Member Countries for their contributions to the advancement of this work. Zambia supports the proposed schedules and priority lists of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR under the categories of New Compounds, New Uses, and Periodic Review. The structured scheduling will promote timely and science-based assessments, ensuring that Codex MRLs remain current and relevant.