

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 10

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CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-sixth Session

COMMENTS FROM AUSTRALIA, CANADA, COOK ISLANDS, FIJI, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SAMOA, TONGA, VANUATU

Agenda item 10: New Work Proposal – Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Cell Culture Media Components

The above mentioned members express their support for proceeding with the proposed new work on the development of a guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of cell culture media components used in the production of cell-based foods.

The Members recognize that cell-based food production represents an emerging area of innovation within food systems, involving novel inputs and processes that may introduce specific food safety considerations requiring structured assessment approaches. As noted in the proposal, certain cell culture media components may not have a prior history of use in food and may remain in the final product, thereby necessitating appropriate risk assessment frameworks.

In this regard, the development of internationally harmonized guidance under Codex is considered timely and relevant. The Members note that the absence of such guidance may lead to divergent national approaches, potentially creating barriers to trade and inconsistencies in safety assessment outcomes. Establishing a Codex guideline would support competent authorities in ensuring consumer protection while facilitating fair practices in food trade.

The Members further acknowledge that, although the sector is still developing and trade volumes remain limited, Codex has an important role in proactively addressing emerging technologies, particularly where early guidance can contribute to coherent regulatory development and avoid future fragmentation.

While supporting the advancement of this new work, the Members emphasize the importance of:

- maintaining a clear and appropriately defined scope;
- ensuring alignment with existing Codex risk analysis principles and relevant texts;
- adopting a practical and proportionate approach that can be applied by all Members, including developing countries; and
- ensuring that the work remains focused on food safety considerations.

In conclusion, the Members support the approval of this new work proposal.