



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Twenty-third Session

DISCUSSION PAPER ON REVIEW OF REGIONAL CODE OF HYGIENIC PRACTICE FOR STREET- VENDED FOODS IN ASIA (CXC 76R-2017)

(Prepared by India)

INTRODUCTION

1. The 45th Session of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC45) had adopted the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969) and had requested that CCFH and other subsidiary bodies undertake necessary work on the alignment of all food hygiene texts with the latest version of CXC 1-1969, in line with its work management approach. This was because the adoption of the revision to CXC 1-1969 had concluded an extensive revision of that text, which is foundational to many Codex food hygiene texts and extensively cross-referenced in other Codex texts¹.
2. The 54th Session of CCFH agreed to forward the proposed draft guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8 (Appendix VI). Following adoption of this text by CAC47, and recalling the recent revision of CXC 1-1969, CCFH54 requested the relevant FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to review their respective texts on street vended foods to ensure consistency with CXC 1-1969 and the guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for foods and consider the necessary follow-up action (e.g., revision)².
3. The 47th Session of CAC adopted *Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food* (CXG 103-2024) at Step 5/8. CAC47 encouraged the relevant FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to review their respective texts on street vended foods to ensure consistency with CXC 1-1969 and the Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for foods and consider the necessary follow up action (e.g. revision), in line with the request of CCFH54³.
4. This discussion paper is being made available for Members and Observers' consideration prior to CCASIA23. Comments are requested on the paper including the need and feasibility of carrying out revision of the Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for Street Vended Foods in Asia.

BACKGROUND

5. The *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969) is the basis for all codes of hygienic practice developed by CCFH. This standard is widely used and referenced internationally, providing food business operators worldwide with the basis for producing food that is safe and suitable for consumption. Since its inception, HACCP has become the universal system for the control of food safety, on which most regulatory food control systems and international food safety standards (e.g. ISO 22000) are based.
6. Since its initial adoption in 1969, the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969) has been revised four times. At CCFH46 in 2014, CCFH began revision of CXC 1-1969 and its HACCP Annex with revised text recommended for adoption to CAC at CCFH51. This introduced significant changes to the text and format of the document which was split into 3 sections: the introduction, part one covering good hygienic practices (GHPs) and part two covering the HACCP system and guidelines for its application.
7. CAC45 adopted the final additions to the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969) completing another major revision. This means that all Codex food hygiene texts no longer follow the same format as, or cross-reference correctly to CXC 1-1969.

¹ REP22/CAC, para 58

² REP24/FH, para 170

³ REP24/CAC, para 60

8. CAC46 in approving new work on the development of guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food to be developed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), requested CCFH to carefully consider the relationship between the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969), these new guidelines and the regional guidelines/codes of practice on street vended foods which includes the *Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for Street Vended Foods in Asia* (CXC 76R-2017)

9. As per the discussion in CCFH54, the proposed draft guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food were complementary to the existing regional texts and aligned with the overall objective of the general principles for food hygiene⁴.

DISCUSSION

10. As requested at CAC47, CCASIA may review the *Regional Code of hygienic practice for street-vended foods in Asia* (CXC 76R-2017), in line with the request of CCFH54, to ensure consistency with the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969). Such a review would enable the updating of definitions and provisions to reflect the most recent revision of CXC 1-1969, ensure alignment of structure and content across related Codes of hygienic practice.

11. The *Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food* (CXG 103-2024) are complementary to the existing regional texts and aligned with the overall objective of the general principles for food hygiene. As per the definition of traditional markets in CXG 103-2024, street food markets are also considered traditional markets. CXG 103-2024 is aimed to provide competent authorities, food business operators (FBOs) and consumers with the necessary knowledge to strengthen food hygienic capacities in these markets to assure food safety in the framework of a One Health approach. In this context, CCASIA needs to assess the necessity of the review of the *Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for Street Vended Foods in Asia* (CXC 76R-2017) to ensure consistency with CXC 1-1969 and CXG 103-2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. CCASIA is invited to consider the following recommendations:

- (i) Establish an EWG to undertake a detailed analysis and comparison of CXC 76R-2017 with CXC 1-1969 and CXG 103-2024, and develop a specific proposal regarding whether, and how, CXC 76R-2017 should be revised.
- (ii) Establish terms of reference and timelines for the EWG.
- (iii) Send out a request for Members and Observers on behalf of the EWG to provide comments on the potential gaps between CXC 76R-2017 and the corresponding two texts and their interest in contributing to further discussions.

⁴ REP24/FH, para 134