

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2021/87-CF(REV1)

December 2021

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: Request for comments on the approach/methodology for the *review of contaminant/staple food combinations for future work of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (Forward work-plan for CCCF)*

DEADLINE: 25 February 2022

BACKGROUND

1. For background information, please refer to the discussion held at the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods¹ and the data/information provided in the relevant working paper² available on the CCCF14 webpage³.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

2. Codex members and observers are invited to provide comments on the approach/methodology proposed for the review of contaminant/staple food combinations for future work of CCCF by replying to the questions provided in the Annex (extract of CX/CF 21/14/17, paragraph 52) to this Circular Letter⁴.
3. Comments submitted will be considered by the Codex, JECFA and Host Country Secretariats to prepare a revised document for consideration by CCCF15 (2022).

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

4. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
5. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting "Enter" in the "My reviews" page, available after login to the system.
6. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
7. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>.
8. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

¹ REP21/CF, paras. 219-223

² CX/CF 21/14/17

³ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCCF&session=14>

⁴ Codex webpage/Circular Letters:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>

Codex webpage/CCCF/Circular Letters:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/related-circular-letters/en/?committee=CCCF>

ANNEX

1. Whether the list of staple foods (see See Table 2 of CX/CF 21/14/7 for the list of interest of staple foods) should be further developed by CCCF, if so how:
 - 1.1 Which other staple foods to include.
 - 1.2 How to refine of the current broad categories.
 - 1.3 If this work should be part of a separate paper developed by an EWG.
 - 1.4 Other aspects not considered above.
2. If screening of publications provides sufficient information on contaminants in staple foods for prioritizing work:
 - 2.1 If not, please indicate what should be changed or added. Note that in-depth analysis hampers the ability to screen large numbers of publications.
3. How the 'list of interest' should be compiled:
 - 3.1 How to weigh results for combinations resulting from the different sources, i.e. results from CCCF work and GEMs/Food Contaminants database (with bias) against results from articles.
 - 3.2 Whether the number of records in the GEMs/Food database can be used as additional consideration for certain contaminants.
 - 3.3 Which criteria to use for selection of staple food-contaminant combinations to be included in the list.
 - 3.4 Other aspects not considered above.
4. How the 'list of interest' should be used:
 - 4.1 If the list should be developed further before choosing combinations for follow-up, and if so, how.
 - 4.2 How to select new topics from the list to be explored, i.e. which other factors to take into account (see examples in Section 7.3 of CX/CF 21/14/17).
 - 4.3 What an appropriate follow-up should be for such combinations, e.g. develop a discussion paper in an EWG.
5. How the 'list of interest' should be maintained:
 - 5.1 If there should be periodic updates or is a single exercise sufficient.
 - 5.2 Who should maintain this list.
 - 5.3 Other aspects to be considered.
6. Other aspects not covered by points 1-5 above that may be of interest/concern.