

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 12

CAC47/CRD25

Original Language Only

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-seventh Session

Geneva, Switzerland, CIG

25-30 November 2024

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (CX/CAC 24/47/22)

(Comments of Argentina, Benin, Cabo Verde, Singapore, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, East African Community (EAC))

#### Argentina

##### 4.7.1 Evaluación de la inocuidad de alimentos derivados de animales y microorganismos de ADN recombinante:

*La Plataforma de la FAO sobre los alimentos modificados genéticamente emplea los sistemas únicos de identificación de la OCDE, ya que las otras dos bases de datos mantienen la misma información. De acuerdo a lo que conocemos e informa la FAO en la actualidad, la Plataforma de la FAO no incluye registros sobre animales y microorganismos modificados genéticamente, ni los alimentos derivados de otros tipos de biotecnologías, como la edición de genes. Añade además que teniendo en cuenta que tanto el CDB como la OCDE han iniciado debates técnicos con sus miembros sobre la elaboración de un identificador único para los animales modificados genéticamente y que el Grupo de acción intergubernamental especial del Codex sobre alimentos obtenidos por medios biotecnológicos se disolvió en 2007, la FAO ha pedido a los miembros del Codex sobre si la Plataforma debería alojar información relativa a la evaluación de la inocuidad de los productos alimentarios obtenidos a partir de animales modificados genéticamente y los productos alimentarios editados genéticamente en el futuro.*

Argentina agradece la información suministrada por la FAO en este punto y el pedido de comentarios a los Miembros del Codex. En este sentido Argentina está de acuerdo que la FAO incluya en la "Plataforma sobre los alimentos modificados genéticamente" información sobre la evaluación de la inocuidad de los productos alimentarios obtenidos a partir de animales modificados genéticamente. Creemos que completaría la página y la transparencia sobre este tema y que contribuiría exitosamente con información útil para muchos países que todavía no han iniciado esta etapa en relación con la biotecnología.

Sin embargo, Argentina no está de acuerdo en incluir una nueva categoría de "alimentos editados genéticamente" y brindar información sobre ellos, considerando que no hay diferencias con el producto original y por lo tanto se lo considera igual al convencional. No habiendo información diferenciadora para brindar, no tiene sentido incluirlos en la página.

#### Benin

##### Contexte :

La FAO et l'OMS ont présenté plusieurs questions clés à la 47e session de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius qui reflètent les évolutions de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments et de la nutrition à l'échelle mondiale. Parmi les sujets importants figurent la célébration de la Journée mondiale de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, les progrès réalisés dans le cadre de la Décennie d'action des Nations Unies pour la nutrition et les mises à jour de la Stratégie mondiale de l'OMS pour la sécurité sanitaire des aliments. En outre, le travail collaboratif de la FAO et de l'OMS couvre des domaines essentiels tels que la résistance aux antimicrobiens (RAM), les régimes alimentaires sains, les conseils scientifiques au Codex Alimentarius et plusieurs nouveaux défis en matière de sécurité sanitaire des aliments. Le programme proposé par les deux organisations met l'accent sur la nécessité d'une coopération mondiale continue, de recherches et d'interventions stratégiques pour faire face aux risques en constante évolution en matière de sécurité sanitaire des aliments, tels que les

nouveaux systèmes de production, l'agriculture en intérieur et la fermentation de précision, qui façonnent les futurs systèmes alimentaires.

Les membres sont invités à prendre note des questions et des projets en cours de la FAO, de l'OMS et/ou exécutés conjointement par les deux organisations mères du Codex et à prendre les mesures nécessaires en accord avec les activités en cours dans leurs pays respectifs ou dans les communautés économiques régionales.

**Position :**

La République du Bénin apprécie le soutien inestimable de la FAO et de l'OMS pour faire progresser la sécurité sanitaire des aliments sur le continent. Cependant, l'Afrique est confrontée à des défis particuliers qui nécessitent une assistance ciblée supplémentaire. Pour mettre en place des systèmes de sécurité sanitaire des aliments résilients, l'Afrique appelle à une collaboration renforcée, à un renforcement des capacités techniques et à des ressources supplémentaires. Ces efforts garantiront que les cadres réglementaires et de sécurité sanitaire des aliments sont solides, équitables et alignés sur les objectifs de sécurité alimentaire et de commerce de la région, favorisant un environnement transparent et compétitif qui permet aux nations africaines de préserver la santé publique et de participer pleinement aux marchés mondiaux.

### Cabo Verde

**Background:**

The FAO and WHO have presented several key issues to the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission that reflect developments in food safety and nutrition globally. Noteworthy topics include the observance of World Food Safety Day, the progress under the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, and updates on WHO's Global Strategy for Food Safety. Additionally, FAO and WHO's collaborative work spans essential areas such as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), healthy diets, scientific advice to Codex Alimentarius, and several emerging food safety challenges. The agenda being advanced by the two organizations emphasizes the need for continued global cooperation, research, and strategic interventions to address the evolving risks in food safety, such as novel production systems, indoor farming, and precision fermentation, which are shaping future food systems.

Members are requested to take note of the matters and ongoing projects by FAO, WHO and/or executed jointly by the two Codex parent organisations and to take necessary actions to in line with activities going on in their respective countries or Regional Economic Communities.

**Position:**

Cabo Verde appreciates the invaluable support from FAO and WHO in advancing food safety across the continent. However, Africa faces distinct challenges that require further targeted assistance. To build resilient food safety systems, Africa calls for strengthened collaboration, technical capacity building, and additional resources. These efforts will ensure that food safety and regulatory frameworks are robust, equitable, and aligned with the region's food security and trade objectives, fostering a transparent and competitive environment that empowers African nations to safeguard public health and participate fully in global markets.

### Singapore

**Background:**

New Food Sources and Production Systems (NFPS) encompass a range of innovative approaches and technologies aimed at fostering a more diverse and sustainable global food system. This includes both traditional foods gaining global market traction and emerging technologies, such as cell-based foods and precision fermentation. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) has been engaged in discussions on NFPS since its 44th session (CAC44), with further deliberations in circular letters and at CAC45 and CAC46. It was concluded that existing Codex mechanisms are adequate for addressing proposals related to NFPS. Member countries were encouraged to submit discussion papers or new work proposals for consideration.

**Food Safety Challenges in Cell-Based Food Production:**

Cell-based foods introduce distinct challenges due to their novel production technologies. Both the FAO and WHO have identified existing hazards, as well as unique risks associated with cell-based food production. These include the use of unconventional ingredients and a limited understanding of best practices for manufacturing processes in this emerging sector.

**Singapore's Proposals:**

In response to these challenges, Singapore would like to propose two initiatives. The first is a *Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Cell Culture Media Components*, aimed at facilitating the assessment of food safety risks related to cell culture media components. This guideline provides guidance on the type of evidence required to assess potential food safety risks and will be presented to the Codex Committee on Food

Additives (CCFA). The second proposal is a *Code of Hygienic Practice for the Manufacture of Cell-Based Foods*, which offers guidance on Good Manufacturing Practices specifically tailored to cell-based food production. This code also addresses the application of Good Cell Culture Practice and seeks to prevent unhygienic practices while safeguarding public health. This proposal will be presented to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), and there is general consensus among consulted members for further discussion at CCFH.

**Key Considerations:**

The development of guidelines should adopt a modular approach to accommodate future industry advancements. Existing frameworks from non-food sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, should be considered to inform the development of these guidelines.

**For Codex Members' Support:**

Singapore seeks the support of Codex members for its proposals on cell-based food at the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) and Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH).

**South Africa**

**SA comments:** South Africa commends the FAO and WHO for the support in advancing food safety and nutrition globally. South Africa has taken guidance in many issues from the work of both the FAO and WHO including the celebration of the WFSO which is commemorated annually. The work of AMR and Strategies and Guidelines published by both organizations has been helpful in dealing with food control and food safety issues and national level including regulatory frameworks.

**United Republic of Tanzania****Tanzania Position**

Tanzania takes note of the matters of interest from FAO and WHO and commits to mobilize members in the region to take necessary actions to best take into consideration the policies of FAO and WHO.

**East African Community (EAC)**

EAC takes note of the matters of interest from FAO and WHO and commits to mobilize members in the region to take necessary actions to best take into consideration the policies of FAO and WHO.