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JOINT FAO/WHO PROGRAM ON FOOD STANDARDS  
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
Third Session, Rome, 19-29 October 1965

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS  
REPORT OF FIRST MEETING, BERLIN, 23-24 SEPTEMBER 1965

1. The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis met for the first time on 23rd and 24th of September at Berlin under the chairmanship of Professor Dr. R. Franck. There were 27 delegates and observers representing 11 countries and 5 international organizations present. Dr. Ney and Mr. Mollenhauer were elected as rapporteurs.
2. With reference to the principal question of the frame of the Codex Chapter on Methods of Analysis, the Committee was of the opinion that a sub-division was advisable on the one hand into
  - A) Methods of general application and
  - B) Special methods for individual food items or groups thereof,and that Section A) and B) should be sub-divided into
  - 1) organoleptic methods
  - 2) physical and chemical methods
  - 3) microbiological and biochemical methods
3. The Committee discussed to what extent the methods developed by the Committee would be included in national legislations. The Committee was of the opinion that the Methods of Analysis should not necessarily be made part of national laws but should be accepted by countries for international settlement of disputes regarding standardised products.
4. The question was discussed whether the Codex Chapter on Methods of Analysis should contain only referee methods or also routine methods. It was agreed that priority should be given to referee methods. Furthermore, it was emphasized by several delegations that the Committee should examine existing Methods of Analysis and recommend them as Codex Methods as far as possible.

5. With reference to methods of sampling the Committee expressed the opinion that this also came within its terms of reference. It was informed that ISO, at the request of the Commission, is preparing a working document on general principles and statistical methods for sampling for the forthcoming session of the Commission at Rome. The representative of ISO also expressed the readiness of his Organization to prepare a paper on general sampling techniques for analytical purposes for the next meeting of this Committee. The Committee recommended that the respective document which had been prepared by the former European Council of the Codex Alimentarius and which is available in printed form should also be considered.
6. In agreement with the recommendation of the Commission the Committee decided to allot priorities to all those groups of foods which are at present dealt with by Codex Committees and which have reached a certain degree of advancement, particularly those involving special analytical problems.
7. Consequently, methods dealing with specific food items belonging to Part B) would be elaborated first before generally applicable methods of Part A) could be approached.
8. Referring to the final presentational form of the methods the Committee had before it Document ANALYS/65/5 which was based on ISO Document R 78. However, as the original document R 78 had not been made available to delegates, a final decision was postponed until the next meeting. By courtesy of ISO a copy of this document together with supplements and possible amendments will be circulated to members by the Secretariat. Meanwhile preparatory work could be based on Document R 78.
9. It was furthermore decided that individual countries represented, particularly those who are responsible for developing Codex Standards, should also prepare methods of analysis and make them available to the Committee for discussion and editing.
10. The following subjects were listed according to their priority and the countries named expressed their readiness to undertake this work, subject to confirmation by their competent authorities.

THE NETHERLANDS

Preservatives:  
Benzoic Acid, Sorbic Acid, Nitrates,  
Nitrites, Sulphurdioxide and  
Antioxidants:  
BHT, BHA, Gallates

UNITED KINGDOM

Sugars,  
Colouring Matters  
Margarine.

SWITZERLAND

Cocoa and chocolate products.

FRANCE

Honey.

USA

Processed fruits and vegetables.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF GERMANY

Fruit Juices, beginning with  
apple, orange and grape juices.

The drafts for analytical methods for Milk and Milk Products which had been prepared by ISO, IDF and AOAC will be circulated to members of the Committee for discussion at the next meeting.

The Secretariats of ISO/TC/34 and TC/93 expressed their readiness to send the relevant documents prepared within ISO to the countries mentioned above for discussion.

The Polish delegation expressed their readiness to prepare a paper proposing a programme of work on methods of organoleptic testing as well as on the possible contents of Chapter A) for the next meeting.

Work allotted above under Part B) should not be delayed by this.

11. The Committee decided to establish a bibliographical collection of publications and collections of analytical methods already in existence as well as of organizations dealing with analysis of foods. As a sample Document Number ANALYS/65-6 was distributed and the delegates were requested to complete this document as far as possible. Copies of an Orientation Report on Methods of Analysis by the Scandinavian Committee on Food Analysis will be sent to all members of the Committee.
12. It was decided that the editing and preparation of drafts in the official languages of FAO/WHO and in German should be carried out jointly by the Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission.