

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2.4

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Eighty-seventh Session
Geneva, Switzerland, CIGG
18 – 22 November 2024

CRITICAL REVIEW - PART IV

Note: For general information about the critical review, please see CX/EXEC 24/87/2. For each of the committees that have met since June 2024, a separate appendix on issues for the critical review is included in CX/EXEC 24/87/2, CX/EXEC 24/87/2 Add.1 and CX/EXEC 24/87/2 Add.2.

A. New work proposals submitted for approval by CAC47

1. Among the roles of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is to assist in the management of the Commission's programme of standards development. One important aspect of this is conducting a critical review of the proposals to undertake new work.
2. This document is a compilation of new work proposals that are being submitted for approval by CAC47 as well as new work proposals that the Codex Secretariat has received since CAC46 that do not fall under an active committee. The work proposals are being presented in this compiled format in order to provide an overarching view of the proposed areas of new work with the aim of supporting the CCEXEC in fulfilling its mandate of assisting in the management of the Commissions programme of standard setting.
3. CCEXEC86 already considered the new work proposals that were submitted by the committees that had met up to May 2024.
4. Table 1 provides an overview of all new work proposals submitted by active Codex committees since CAC46, and includes the recommendations related to those that were reviewed by CCEXEC86 with the relevant references, including where to find the project documents.
5. Table 2 includes a new work proposal(s) submitted directly to the Codex Secretariat.
6. There are 23 new work proposals for consideration, including priority lists for food additives, pesticide and veterinary drug residues, from 10 active committees (8 general committees and 2 commodity committees), and one new work proposal submitted by a Member. This is equivalent to the number of new work proposals submitted to the last two sessions of CAC. One general committee (CCMAS) and one commodity committee (CCFFP) did not submit any new work proposals. In the case of the latter, its limited mandate meant it was not in a position to solicit new work proposals. There were no new work proposals forthcoming from the two coordinating committees that met this year (Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean).
7. Approximately one third of the work proposals will consider the revision of existing texts, an important function to ensure that the Codex Alimentarius remains relevant and up to date. Just over one third of the new work proposals focus on commodity standards, two of which will address revision or replacement of existing texts and one of which can be considered a new food source. There are three priority lists and six proposals for new guidelines or codes of practice.

Table 1: Proposals to undertake new work or revise a standard submitted by active committees

Committee /Proposer	New work proposal	Reference and project document	CCEXEC recommendations	Explanatory Notes
CCSCH	Standard for sweet marjoram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/SCH, Appendix VII • Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/3 	CCEXEC86 recommended that CAC47 approve the four new work proposals submitted by CCSCH (REP24/EXEC1, para 15)	See CX/EXEC 24/86/2 – Appendix 1, Topics 5 – 7 for Chairperson’s and Codex secretariat comments
	Standard for dried seeds-coriander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/SCH, Appendix VIII • Annex II of CX/CAC 24/47/3 		
	Standard for large cardamom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/SCH, Appendix IX • Annex III of CX/CAC 24/47/3 		
	Standard for cinnamon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/SCH, Appendix X • Annex IV of CX/CAC 24/47/3 		
CCFO	Revision to Codex standards on fats and oils to reduce trans-fatty acid intake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/FO, Appendix XI • Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/4 	CCEXEC86 recommended that CAC47 approve this new work proposal (REP24/EXEC1, para 18)	See CX/EXEC 24/86/2 – Appendix 2, Topic 7 for Chairperson’s and Codex Secretariat comments Codex contribution to the WHO target to eliminate trans fat from the global food supply
	Standard for microbial omega-3 oils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/FO, Appendix XII • Annex II of CX/CAC 24/47/4 		
CCFH	Revision of the <i>Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of viruses in food</i> (CXG 79-2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/FH, Appendix VIII • Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/5 	CCEXEC86 recommended that CAC47 approve the three new work proposals submitted by CCFH (REP24/EXEC1, para 22)	See CX/EXEC 24/86/2 – Appendix 3, Topics 5-7 for Chairperson’s and Codex Secretariat comments
	Revision of the <i>Guidelines for the control of Campylobacter and Salmonella in chicken meat</i> (CXG 78-2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/FH, Appendix IX • Annex II of CX/CAC 24/47/5 		

Committee /Proposer	New work proposal	Reference and project document	CCEXEC recommendations	Explanatory Notes
	Revision of the <i>Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of Listeria monocytogenes in foods</i> (CXG 61-2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/FH, Appendix X • Annex III of CX/CAC 24/47/5 		
CCCF	Revision of the <i>Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts</i> (CXC 55-2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/CF17, Appendix VII • Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/6 	CCEXEC86 recommended that CAC47 approve the two new work proposals submitted by CCCF (REP24/EXEC1, para 31)	See CX/EXEC 24/86/2 Add 1 – Appendix 1, Topics 8-9 for Chairperson’s and Codex Secretariat comments
	Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/CF17, Appendix IX • Annex II of CX/CAC 24/47/6 		
CCFA	Priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/FA, paragraph 137, Appendix XI 	CCEXEC86 recommended that CAC47 endorse the priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA (REP24/EXEC1, para 37)	See CX/EXEC 24/86/2 Add 1 – Appendix 2, Topic 13 for Chairperson’s and Codex Secretariat comments
	New work on proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/FA, paragraph 103(iv), Appendix IX 	CCEXEC86 recommended that CAC47 approve the new work on proposed draft food additive provisions of the GSFA (REP24/EXEC1, para 38)	
	Standard for baker’s yeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/FA, Appendix XIII • Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/7 	<p>CCEXEC86 recommended that CAC47 approve the new work on the development of a standard for baker’s yeast, noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that baker’s yeast was not a food additive but a food ingredient; • that CCFA remained an appropriate subsidiary body to undertake this work; 	See CX/EXEC 24/86/2 Add 1 – Appendix 2, Topics 14 for Chairperson’s and Codex Secretariat comments

Committee /Proposer	New work proposal	Reference and project document	CCEXEC recommendations	Explanatory Notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the importance of Members having appropriate expertise engaged with CCFA when conducting this work; and the need to encourage CCFA to coordinate with the International Standards Organization (ISO) to avoid duplication and ensure consistency 	
CCMAS	No new work proposals		n/a	For information
CCPR	Priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REP24/PR Paragraph 261(i-ii), Appendix X 	For review by CCEXEC87	See CX/EXEC 24/87/2 – Appendix 1, Topic 5 for Chairperson’s and Codex Secretariat comments
CCFICS	Guidance on appeals mechanism in the context of rejection of imported food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REP24/FICS, Paragraph 86, Appendix III Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/11 	For review by CCEXEC87	See CX/EXEC 24/87/2 Add1 – Appendix 1, Topics 2- 5 for Chairperson’s and Codex Secretariat comments
	Guidance on the standardization of the representation of sanitary requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REP24/FICS, Paragraph 91, Appendix IV Annex II of CX/CAC 24/47/11 		Note that although good progress was made at CCFICS, work on three existing texts are ongoing in the Committee and planning of the next session should consider that additional new work does not delay completion of existing work.
	Revision to the <i>Principles and guidelines for the exchange of information between importing and exporting countries to support the trade in food</i> (CXG 89-2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REP24/FICS, Paragraph 100, Appendix V Annex III of CX/CAC 24/47/11 		The length of time to the next session was a factor in submitting 4 new work proposals with the aim of ensuring efficiency.
	Principles for the digitalisation of National Food Control Systems (NFCSSs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REP24/FICS, Paragraph 103, Appendix VI Annex IV of CX/CAC 24/47/11 		

Committee /Proposer	New work proposal	Reference and project document	CCEXEC recommendations	Explanatory Notes
CCNFSDU	Standard for foods for older infants and young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/NFSDU, Paragraph 128(i), Appendix V • Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/12 	For review by CCEXEC87	<p>See CX/EXEC 24/87/2 Add1 – Appendix 2, Topics 5 for Chairpersons' and Codex Secretariat comments</p> <p>This work foresees replacement of two existing standards which need updating and the inclusion of new foods for which there currently are no Codex standard.</p> <p>The new CCNFSDU process work prioritization and management process was applied.</p> <p>CCNFSDU completed several work items ensuring space on its agenda for new work</p>
CCFFP	None as of now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/FFP, Paragraph 41 	n/a	<p>CCFFP36 noted the considerable interest in future Codex work on seaweed and other algae and agreed to inform CAC accordingly.</p>
CCRVDF	<p>Guideline for competent authorities on actions that may be taken when residues of veterinary drugs in food are below or above Action Levels, or there are no Action Levels established</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/RVDF27 Paragraph 111, Appendix VI • Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/14 	For review by CCEXEC87	<p>See CX/EXEC 24/87/2 Add.2 – Appendix 1, Topic 8 for Chairperson's and Codex Secretariat comments</p> <p>CCRVDF completed several work items ensuring space on its agenda for new work</p>
	<p>Priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA, extrapolation and establishment of action levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/RVDF27 Paragraphs 113, 114 (i, ii) and 140 (i), Appendix VII (Parts I, V and VI) 		<p>See CX/EXEC 24/87/2 Add.2 – Appendix 1, Topic 9 for Chairperson's and Codex Secretariat comments</p>
CCFL	<p>Guideline on the application of food labelling provisions in emergencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REP24/FL Paragraph 180, Appendix VI • Annex I of CX/CAC 24/47/15 	For review by CCEXEC87	<p>See CX/EXEC 24/87/2 Add2 – Appendix 2, Topic 5 for Chairperson's and Codex Secretariat comments</p> <p>CCFL completed several work items ensuring space on its agenda for new work</p>

Table 2: Proposals to undertake new work or revise a standard submitted by a Member

Committee /Proposer	New work proposal	Reference and project document	Critical review recommendation and comments	Explanatory Notes
India	Group standard for certain types of millets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circular letter, CL 2024/60-CAC 	For review by CCEXEC87	<p>India presented a proposal for new work for a group standard for certain types of millets to CAC46, which welcomed the proposal, requested Codex Secretariat to assess for completeness and to issue a circular letter to solicit comments from Members and Observers.</p> <p>The proposal was reviewed by the Codex and CCCPL secretariats, a discussion paper prepared, and project document updated, and a circular letter (CL) issued in October.</p> <p>Comments to date indicate divergent views. Some Members support this new work, while others question the necessity of developing this standard, citing the lack of trade issues for this product and suggesting that the scope should be further refined.</p> <p>There are two existing standards on millets, and it may be appropriate that any new work should also consider incorporation and update of existing millet standards.</p> <p>Approval of this new work would require reactivation of CCCPL.</p> <p>The comments in response to the CL are contained in CX/CAC 24/47/16 Add.1.</p>

B. New work proposals under development not falling under the purview of an active committee

8. CCEXEC86 noted the intention of Members from the Near East region to submit proposals for new work on a standard for spirulina and an international standard for camel milk.
9. The Codex Secretariat received a new work proposal for spirulina and upon review noted that it did not include a discussion paper which is particularly important in providing Members with the background and analysis on the need for new work. Thus, it has been returned to the submitter for further development.
10. To date, a new work proposal for a standard on camel milk has not been received.
11. The Codex Secretariat also received a proposal from the Republic of Korea to amend the *Standard for Kimchi* (CXS 223-2001) by adding the name “or kimchi cabbage” to each occurrence of “Chinese cabbage” to reflect a purported increase in the use of this common name for the main ingredient of kimchi and in their view the amendment would be editorial in nature. As this is the addition of a new common name, the Codex Secretariat considers that this to be a substantive rather than editorial amendment and therefore should follow the procedure for revision/amendment of standards developed by adjourned committees. Alternatively, CCEXEC87 might wish to advise whether this issue be entrusted to CCASIA, noting that any discussions on a global standard in a Coordinating Committee would be open to the full participation of all Codex Members and Observers and not just those of the Coordinating Committee.
12. The new work proposal on developing a group standard for certain types of millets as well as the two new work proposals mentioned above are all related to the development of commodity standards. The Codex Secretariat would like to highlight several points in this regard.
13. Firstly, CAC23, as part of its medium-term plan 1998-2002, highlighted the ongoing modernization and simplification of commodity standards, that required commodity committees, or committees developing commodity standards, review their standards and apply a more horizontal approach in order to facilitate their uptake by Codex Members i.e. the transfer of material from commodity standards to applicable general standards and consider incorporating similar products within the scope of a commodity or developing group standards. This does not preclude the elaboration of commodity-based standards that, depending on the nature of the product, could be written in such a way that would allow future enlargement of the scope by adding similar products. These considerations remain valid for any new work proposals and highlight that it may be important that such proposals are carefully reviewed to ensure this ethos is incorporated within the proposals before approval to facilitate the uptake and use by Members of any standards that may be developed.
14. Secondly, the committees responsible for work on two of these topics are currently adjourned *sine die* and would need to be reactivated; CCCPL for work on millets, and CCMMP for any work on camel milk. In the case of spirulina, the proposal does not readily fall into the terms of reference of any existing committee (active or adjourned). This presents a couple of challenges.
 - i. There is no relevant committee where the proposals can be appropriately reviewed or discussed by Members and Observers from a technical perspective, in advance of submission for approval. One approach to try to overcome this has been the use of a Circular Letter, as a means of seeking input from Members and Observers to gauge the interest of pursuing the proposed work and on the approach to be taken; however, this does not facilitate exchange among Members and Observers. This may be an area where some innovation is required, for example by recommending work proposals be reviewed by existing committees even if not really falling within their terms of reference (e.g. proposal for spirulina being sent to CCFFP as it is a food of aquatic origin) or temporarily reactivating an adjourned committee to meet in a resource efficient manner e.g. by correspondence or a short virtual session, for the sole purpose of reviewing a work proposal and without commitment to remain active.
 - ii. As the schedule of Codex meetings is already quite intense, this should be taken into consideration when approving new work proposals. While it is recognized that CAC may determine that a particular piece of work is of high priority, the ways of working should be considered taking into account the current meeting schedule, whether work can be assigned to an existing committee, the time and resources needed to reactivate an adjourned committee, and the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to support additional sessions. In this context CCEXEC may wish to advise CAC that in considering reactivation of any committee, the recommended ways of working and timelines are less resource intensive for host secretariats, Members, Observers and the Codex Secretariat and are feasible and appropriate.
15. To further explore the options available to review new work proposals as well as undertake new work within the existing Codex Structure in a resource efficient manner, CCEXEC could advise CAC to request the Codex Secretariat to prepare a paper on such options, and noting that CCGP meets between CAC47 and CAC48, could ask that CCGP, which is open to all Members, to review such a paper and the options therein and provide recommendations to CAC48.

C. Recommendations

16. CCEXEC87 is invited to:
- i. review the proposals for new work for development/revisions of standards, submitted since June 2024 taking into account the “Criteria for the establishment of work priorities”, the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, and the required supporting work of independent risk assessment and make recommendations to the Commission regarding the approval of new work, and considering all the new work proposals for consideration by CAC47 highlight as appropriate areas of high priority, issues related to work management within existing committees and provide guidance on any recommended work areas where there may be no obvious active committee;
 - ii. consider the related issues outlined in section B and make recommendations on how to ensure appropriate technical review of new work proposals which could include a CL to Members or a more innovative approach involving use of existing active committees or short-term reactivation of adjourned committee with a very specific task and timeline;
 - iii. consider the next steps to be taken in considering how options for undertaking new work on a range of new issues could be undertaken efficiently with reduced resources by for example proposing that CAC invite a paper on such issues to be presented to CCGP for review and recommendations for consideration by CCEXEC89 and CAC48;
 - iv. consider whether further guidance is needed beyond that recalled in paragraph 13 on how commodity related work could be addressed in a more horizontal manner to ensure more efficient development process and standards that are more widely applicable across Members; and
 - v. provide input on how this document on new work proposals can be further developed to support the critical review work of CCEXEC, and more broadly the assistance it provides in assisting the management of the Commission’s programme of standards development.