

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 7

NFSDU/43 CRD22

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Forty-third Session

Düsseldorf, Germany

7 – 10 March with report adoption by virtual mode on 15 March 2023

Comments by Malaysia and Dominican Republic

Malaysia

Part 2: REQUESTS FOR NEW WORK. Proposal 2.1

Harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in foods and food supplements

Proposal by Argentina and Malaysia

There is a clearly a need for a probiotic guideline because of the lack of international guideline on probiotic-containing products traded in all continents. There is a lack of regulations in many countries, and in those countries with regulations, these have different provisions and have taken on different approaches.

The scope of the proposed guidelines has been clarified in this revised proposal, responding to previous comments by delegations. It includes establishment of harmonized definition, minimum requirements, for the consistent interpretation and application of the definition of probiotics and guidelines in the FAO/WHO consultation of 2001, as well as labelling parameters for probiotics for use as an ingredient in foods and food supplements. Health claims on probiotics are excluded from the scope of this work as there is an existing Codex guideline on nutrition claims.

The proposed guideline addresses several aspects not covered by the current Codex horizontal standards or guideline and will not duplicate any of the existing Codex text. It is not intended to re-open any discussion on the provisions currently included in the existing horizontal Codex Standards.

We have performed a self-assessment of the new work proposal, based on the updated prioritization mechanism in 2022. We are of the belief that the proposed guideline will have a high positive impact on the health of target groups, which includes all stages of the life cycle. The guideline can also be expected to have a high positive impact on food safety as it will include minimum safety and characterization criteria. The proposed guideline will have a high positive impact on trade practices as it will promote regulatory harmonization of probiotics across the world, thereby facilitating global trade while contributing to consistent fair trade practices. Additionally, as probiotic containing products are traded in 200 countries, involving high trade figures, and its potential health impact on many population groups, the guideline is anticipated to a have a high positive global impact.

In conclusion, Argentina and Malaysia urges all delegates of the CCNFSDU to approve this proposal for a probiotics guideline as high priority new work in this session of the Committee. Many countries await this guidance from Codex for enactment of their national regulations and guidelines so that there can be more harmonized approach to regulating the use of probiotics in food and supplements.

Dominican Republic

Criteria:

Spanish:

Aquí están los criterios:

Criterion / Criterio	More information / Más información
Impact on the health of the target group	Answer:

<p>Spanish: Impacto en la salud del grupo objetivo</p>	<p>The target group is breastfed babies from three months to twelve months.</p> <p>The potential of the proposal is to prevent or reduce cases of childhood methemoglobinemia, caused by the consumption of nitrate levels present in spinach, beets and chard vegetables.</p> <p>The modification proposed in the target age group is of a high impact category, since methemoglobinemia is "a picture of acute intoxication typical of children under one year of age".</p> <p>Spanish: Respuesta: El grupo objetivo es bebés lactantes de tres meses a doce meses.</p> <p>El potencial de la propuesta es prevenir o reducir casos de metahemoglobinemia infantil, originados por el consumo de niveles de nitratos presentes en las hortalizas espinacas, remolachas y acelgas.</p> <p>La modificación planteada en el grupo etario objetivo es de categoría de alto impacto, ya que la metahemoglobinemia es " un cuadro de intoxicación aguda típico de niños menores de un año".</p>
<p>Impact on food safety</p> <p>Spanish: Impacto en la seguridad alimentaria</p>	<p>Answer:</p> <p>The proposed modification may have a positive impact on the food safety of infants up to 12 months, at the same time, which will allow compliance with the WHO promotion of only breastfeeding for babies up to six months (24 weeks).</p> <p>The positive impact on food safety is of a high impact category, since it will prevent poisoning and negative effects on the health of nursing babies due to the consumption of levels of nitrates in stages of life that their digestive system is not prepared for its correct absorption.</p> <p>Spanish: Respuesta: La modificación propuesta podrá incidir de manera positiva en la seguridad alimentaria de los bebés lactantes hasta 12 meses, a la vez, que permitirá se cumpla con la promoción de la OMS de solo lactancia materna para bebés hasta los seis meses (24 semanas).</p> <p>El impacto positivo en la seguridad alimentaria es de categoría de alto impacto, puesto que evitará intoxicaciones y efectos negativos en la salud de bebés lactantes por consumo de niveles de nitratos en etapas de vida que su sistema digestivo no está preparado para su correcta absorción.</p>

<p>Impact on business practices</p> <p>Spanish: Impacto en las prácticas comerciales</p>	<p>Answer:</p> <p>We understand that there are no technical impediments to the trade of these foods, since with the modification, what will only happen is that they will be administered to babies older than 12 months.</p> <p>We believe that business practices will be affected in a low category by the proposed amendment.</p> <p>Spanish: Respuesta:</p> <p>Entendemos que no existen impedimentos técnicos al comercio de esos alimentos, ya que, con la modificación, lo que ocurrirá únicamente es que ellos se administrarán a bebés mayores de 12 meses.</p> <p>Consideramos que las prácticas comerciales se verán afectadas en una categoría baja, por la modificación propuesta.</p>
<p>overall impact</p> <p>Spanish: Impacto global</p>	<p>Answer:</p> <p>We understand that the proposal has a global impact from ensuring that the WHO policy and the experts of only breast milk in the first six months of life of babies are maintained.</p> <p>We understand that the global impact of the modification is of a high category, for the benefit of the health of babies under 12 months.</p> <p>Spanish: Respuesta:</p> <p>Entendemos que la propuesta tiene un impacto global a partir de asegurar que se mantenga la política de la OMS y los expertos de solo leche materna en los primeros seis meses de vida de los bebés.</p> <p>Entendemos que el impacto global de la modificación es de categoría alta, en beneficio de la salud de los bebés de menos de 12 meses.</p>