



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

Twenty-third Session

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC45, CAC46 and CAC47)
AND ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CCEXEC83, CCEXEC84, CCEXEC85, CCEXEC86 and CCEXEC87)**

Adoption of standards

1. CAC45(2022)¹ adopted:
 - the *Standards for onions and shallot; and berry fruits*, at Steps 5/8; and
 - the amendment to the *Standard for Bananas* (CXS 205-1997).
2. CAC45² only adopted the draft standard for fresh dates at Step 5, encouraged all Members to submit comments at Step 6 particularly related to technical issues on the proposed minimum value for moisture content of 30% along with proposals and relevant new data that would allow CCFFV to consider solutions; and requested that CCFFV discuss the draft standard for fresh dates taking into account the comments made at CAC45.

Proposals for new work³

3. CAC45 approved new work on developing a standard for fresh curry leaves.
4. CAC45 did not approve the proposal for new work on developing a worldwide standard for Castilla lulo due to the limited volume of international trade; however, CAC45 approved new work on developing a regional standard on Castilla lulo under CCLAC.
5. CAC47(2024) noted that the regional standard for Castilla lulo (naranjilla) (Latin America and the Caribbean) had been submitted for adoption at Step 5/8, but since the endorsement process was still ongoing, it would be considered at the session of CAC that followed consideration by CCFA.

Future of Codex⁴

6. CCEXEC85(2023) agreed that rather than develop a blueprint for the future of Codex, it was more appropriate to use the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 to guide the future direction of Codex and to consider, in parallel, a working model for future Codex work; and that the document (i.e. CX/EXEC 23/85/3, Appendix II) describing the key elements of a model for future Codex work remained a living document that should be periodically reviewed in light of experiences and learnings.
7. CAC46(2023) endorsed the conclusions of CCEXEC85 regarding matters pertaining to the blueprint on the future of Codex.
8. CCEXEC86 (2024):
 - encouraged more Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups to ensure their sustainability and inclusiveness; while recognizing the challenges these Members may face and further encouraged the Codex Secretariat and experienced working group Chairs to proactively seek engagement of other Members and provide guidance and support.

¹ REP22/CAC, paragraph 59 and Appendix II

² REP22/CAC, paragraph 61 and Appendix III

³ REP22/CAC, paragraphs 62, 63 and Appendix V

⁴ REP23/EXEC2, paragraph 38; REP23/CAC, paragraph 7-8

- reminded Codex committees of the importance of good work management practices and prioritization of work to avoid the establishment of too many electronic working groups (EWGs) and the related burden on all concerned and ensure that agenda items can be adequately discussed within the available plenary session time.

Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031⁵

9. CCEXEC84(2023), CCEXEC85, CCEXEC86 and CCEXEC87(2024) discussed the draft of the elements to be included in the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and recommended its adoption by CAC47(2024).

10. CAC47:

- adopted the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031; and
- noted that the Codex Secretariat would present a monitoring framework at CCEXEC88 for review, and that comments on the revised version of the monitoring framework would then be sought from Members and Observers through a Circular Letter (CL) with the aim of submitting a final version to CAC48 for approval.

New Food Sources and Production Systems (NFPS)⁶

11. CAC46 highlighted the importance of addressing challenges posed by NFPS and the important role Codex could play in this, noted that the current working mechanisms were adequate to address any new work on NFPS that Members might propose, and encouraged Members to submit discussion papers or new work proposals, either to active Codex committees or to the Executive Committee through the Codex Secretariat.

Guidelines for new work proposals⁷

12. CCEXEC87 welcomed the Codex Secretariat's plans to develop practical guidelines for Members on the development of new work proposals and proposed that:

- the guidelines should encourage: development of group commodity standards; the drafting of commodity standards so as to facilitate future enlargement of their scope by adding similar products; and a review of standards that may have been developed by other organizations for commodities for which there is established international trade; and
- the Codex Secretariat engages with Members through the forthcoming FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to build awareness of the development of these guidelines, and also the Handbook on EWGs, and seek input on issues that Members would wish to see included in these guidelines.

13. CCEXEC87 encouraged Members to respond to committees' CLs seeking proposals for new work and prioritisation of compounds for evaluation, within the deadlines set out in those CLs.

14. CAC47 welcomed the publication of the Handbook on EWGs and encouraged its use and noted the ongoing work on developing a practical guide on the preparation of new work proposals, noting the opportunities for Members to provide input.

MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

53rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives⁸ (CCFA53)

15. CCFA53(2023) endorsed the food additives provisions submitted from CCFFV (i.e., *Standards for onions and shallots; berry fruits; and fresh dates*) and noted that no food additives were permitted in these standards.

⁵ REP23/EXEC1, paragraph 115; REP23/EXEC2, paragraphs 54(i) (a), and REP24/CAC, paragraph 213

⁶ REP23/CAC, paragraph 206

⁷ REP24/EXEC1, paragraphs 63-79; REP24/EXEC2 paragraph 64 (i); REP24/CAC Paragraph 22 (ii & iii)

⁸ REP23/FA, paragraph 45 and Appendix IV, Part A

26th and 27th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Inspection and Export Certification Systems⁹ (CCFICS26 and CCFICS27)

16. CCFICS26(2023) agreed to inform other Codex Committees about the proposed review and update of the *Principles for traceability/product tracing as a tool within a food inspection and certification system* (CXG 60-2006)

17. CCFICS27(2024) agreed to continue with the review and update of the document.

33rd Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles¹⁰ (CCGP33)

18. CCGP33 (2023) agreed to inform other Codex committees of the ongoing work to update Section 2, Procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, Part 7 of the Codex Procedural Manual to better align with current practices in Codex and international publishing standards.

47th and 48th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling¹¹ (CCFL47 and CCFL48)

19. CCFL47(2023) agreed to endorse the labelling provisions in the *Standard for onions and shallots* (CXS 348-2022); the draft *Standard for fresh dates* and the *Standard for berry fruits* (CXS 349-2022).

20. Regarding the food labelling provision in the *Standard for berry fruits*, CCFL47 agreed to inform CCFFV of the concerns raised with regard to the potential use/application of the name “wild” This term was not clearly defined, and was only used once for the common name of wild cranberry, and that the term “wild” could be considered as a claim, according to the definition specified in the *General guidelines on claims* (CXG 1-1979).

21. CCFL48(2024) agreed to inform all committees to take note of the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985) and the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021) and strive to follow the format, the terminology and the flow to avoid the redundancy for any future labelling provisions.

42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling¹² (CCMAS42 and CCMAS43)

22. CCMAS42(2023) agreed to inform relevant Codex committees of the revised *General guidelines on sampling* (CXG 50-2004) and request these committees to review their sampling plans in light of the revised Guidelines; and to remind Committees that sampling plans should be developed as needed in compliance with CXG 50-2004 and not by a reference to CXG 50-2004. CCMAS will continue working on the information document comprising an e-book with the sampling plans applications for consideration by CCMAS43, to support implementation of CXG 50-2004.

23. CCMAS43(2024) noted the general support to continue the development of the information document.

23rd Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean¹³ (CCLAC23)

24. CCLAC23(2024) agreed to forward the proposed draft standard Castilla lulo (naranjilla) to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8, noting that the provisions on food additives and on food labelling would be forwarded for endorsement to CCFA and CCFL.

RECOMMENDATIONS

25. CCFFV23 is invited to:

⁹ REP23/FICS paragraph 117 (a-c); REP24/FICS paragraph 79

¹⁰ REP23/GP, paragraphs 69(iv)

¹¹ REP23/FL paragraphs 11b and 13; REP24/FL paragraph 34

¹² REP23/MAS paragraphs 76 and 81; REP24/MAS paragraphs 35 and 76

¹³ REP24/LAC, paragraph 81 and Appendix III

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- (i) note the matters for information arising from CAC, CCEXEC, CCFA, CCFICS, CCGP, CCFL, CCMAS and CCLAC;
 - (ii) encourage Codex Members and Observers to:
 - (a) actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions in CCEXEC and CAC ;
 - (b) submit discussion papers or new work proposals on NFPS using existing mechanisms available in Codex;
 - (iii) acknowledge the concerns raised by CCFL regarding the use of the term "wild" in the product name and emphasize the need to provide appropriate explanations for future cases; and
 - (iv) consider matters from CAC45 on draft standard for fresh dates (paragraph 2) under agenda item 3.