



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

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CRITICAL REVIEW - PART I¹

1. Procedural background for the critical review

1.1 According to the *Procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, Part 2, Critical review*, in the *Codex Procedural Manual*, “An ongoing critical review shall ensure that proposals for new work and draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption continue to meet the strategic priorities of the Commission and can be developed within a reasonable period of time, taking into account the requirements and availability of scientific expert advice”. Furthermore, “The Commission decides, taking into account the outcome of the ongoing critical review conducted by the Executive Committee, that a standard should be elaborated and also which subsidiary body or other body should undertake the work”.

1.2 In line with this, and taking into account the comments of the Chairpersons and the Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC is invited to critically:

- review standards and related texts submitted to the Commission for adoption;
- monitor the progress of standards development; and
- review proposals for new work or revision of standards.

2. Examining proposed standards before submission to the Commission for adoption

2.1 The critical review process shall ensure that draft standards submitted to the Commission for adoption have been fully considered at committee level. The Executive Committee examines proposed standards from Codex committees before they are submitted to the Commission for adoption:

- for consistency with the mandate of Codex, the decisions of the Commission, and existing Codex texts;
- to ensure that the requirements of the endorsement procedure have been fulfilled, where appropriate;
- for format and presentation; and
- for linguistic consistency.

3. Monitoring progress of standards development

3.1 The Executive Committee reviews the status of development of draft standards against the timeframe agreed by the Commission and shall report its findings to the Commission. CCEXEC may propose an extension of the timeframe; cancellation of work; or propose that the work be undertaken by a committee other than the one to which it was originally entrusted, including via the establishment of a limited number of subsidiary bodies, if appropriate.

¹ This document addresses the Codex committees that held sessions in January and February 2025.

3.2 *Criteria to facilitate the conduct of monitoring progress of standards development*²

3.2.1 When progress on a standard is delayed due to the need for scientific advice, the Executive Committee could encourage FAO and WHO to schedule an expert consultation to provide such advice in a timely manner, and recommend suspension of work until such time as scientific advice became available.

3.2.2 When scientific advice has been provided and a standard has been under consideration for more than five years, the Executive Committee should urge the committee concerned to take action within a specified timeframe.

3.2.3 When an item has been considered for several sessions without any progress and there is no prospect of reaching consensus, the Executive Committee could propose suspension of work at a particular step in the elaboration procedure for a specified period of time or discontinuation of work, or corrective action to be taken to achieve progress, fully taking into consideration the information provided by the subsidiary body concerned.

4. **Proposals to undertake new work or to revise a standard**

4.1 Prior to approval for development, each proposal for new work or revision of a standard shall be accompanied by a project document, prepared by the committee or Member proposing new work or revision of a standard. The decision to undertake new work or to revise standards shall be taken by the Commission taking into account a critical review conducted by CCEXEC.

4.2 The critical review includes:

- examination of proposals for development/revisions of standards, taking into account the “*Criteria for the establishment of work priorities*”, the strategic plan of the Commission, and the required supporting work of independent risk assessment;
- identifying the standard setting needs of developing countries;
- advice on the need for coordination of work between relevant Codex subsidiary bodies;
- advice on establishment and dissolution of committees and task forces, including ad hoc cross-committee task forces (in areas where work falls within several committees); and
- preliminary assessment of the need for expert scientific advice and the availability of such advice from FAO, WHO or other relevant expert bodies, and the prioritization of that advice.

4.3 The decision to undertake new work or revision of individual maximum residue limits for pesticides or veterinary drugs, or the maintenance of the *General standard for food additives* (including methods of analysis and sampling), the *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed* (including methods of analysis and sampling), the Food Categorization System and the International Numbering System, shall follow the procedures established by the committees concerned and endorsed by the Commission.

4.4 *Discussion papers*³

Discussion papers are important discussion tools for committees before proposing new work. Discussion papers are listed for information purposes only.

5. **Ongoing development of the supporting documentation for the critical review**

5.1 The documents to support the critical review have evolved over time with the aim of better supporting this task. CCEXEC72 (2016)⁴ welcomed a new structure for the critical review documents and the delivery of relevant documents in instalments to ensure timely availability; indicated the value of more information and insights from the Chairpersons on committee work; and highlighted the importance of maintaining a horizontal view of the work of committees and the interactions between committees.

5.2 Further structural revisions were made in the documents submitted to CCEXEC77 (2019)⁵ to improve readability and give more prominence and emphasis on information and insights from the Chairpersons of committees. CCEXEC78 (2020) being presented with a review of the critical review⁶ requested the Codex Secretariat to consult and bring proposals to CCEXEC on how to give more weight to the outcome on the critical review at CAC.⁷

² CCEXEC58 (2006).

³ CCEXEC63 (2009).

⁴ REP17/EXEC1, paragraphs 7-14.

⁵ CX/EXEC 19/77/5.

⁶ CX/EXEC 20/78/4.

⁷ REP20/EXEC1, paragraph 52(iii).

5.3 As indicated at CCEXEC86 (2024),⁸ the Codex Secretariat is carefully reviewing the critical review documents to ensure a consistent approach including on the degree to which information from the committee reports should be included therein. This will continue to evolve as documents are developed for upcoming sessions of CCEXEC.

5.4 To further facilitate the work of CCEXEC in its critical review of new work proposals and making recommendations to CAC on work priorities, the Codex Secretariat is presenting an overview of all new work proposals for CCEXEC88. Hence, new work proposals are compiled in CX/EXEC 25/88/2 Add. 3.

6. Structure of appendices

6.1 The work of the different committees is addressed in separate appendices.

6.2 The structure of the appendices for each committee is as follows:

1. General information on the committee and session
2. Overall comments (Codex Secretariat/Chairperson)
3. Status of work items (Overview)
4. Specific comments on individual work items (Codex Secretariat/Chairperson)

7. List of appendices

Appendix 1: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa, 25th Session (CCAFRICA25)

Appendix 2: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific, 17th Session (CCNASWP17)

Appendix 3: Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, 23th Session (CCFFV23)

⁸ REP24/EXEC1, paragraph 11.

Appendix 1

1. General

Committee	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA25)		
Host	Uganda	Chairperson	Mr Hakim B. Mufumbiro
Session reported on	CCAFRICA25	27-31 January 2025	
Next session	CCAFRICA26	2027 (TBC)	
Report	REP25/AFRICA		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

The 25th FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA25) was successfully conducted as a physical meeting in Kampala, Uganda. There was very good participation with 24 Member countries, eight Observer organizations, as well as four Member countries and one Member Organization from outside the region attending the session.

CCAFRICA25 considered two new work proposals and agreed to forward the new work proposal on a regional standard for braised or boiled, salted and unsalted, dried fish (Africa) to CAC48 for approval. The proposal for new work on developing a regional standard on precooked cereal vegetable granules ("tiacry") would be resubmitted for consideration by CCAFRICA26.

Chairperson's comments:

CCAFRICA25 supported and hosted by the Government of Uganda was extremely successful and expected deliverables and outputs from the session were achieved.

There was demonstrated increased appetite in the region with regard to development and submission of proposals on account of the three new areas of work that were submitted for potential consideration. It was observed that there was still a limitation in the region related to using the *Guideline on the application of the criteria for the establishment of work priorities* (criteria applicable to commodities) as set out in the *Codex Procedural Manual*. This calls for the need to undertake practical training in the region on the criteria in order to improve the quality of the new work item proposals for development of regional standards.

The keynote address placed significant emphasis on enhancing and strengthening the collaboration between Codex and African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) to foster standards harmonization and implementation in the region. Members welcomed the initiative and highlighted the need to establish active coordination mechanisms between food safety communities and other stakeholders, build capacity for multi-sectoral collaboration in food standards development work including cross-sectoral data sharing to strengthen food control systems in the region.

At the strategic and tactical level, there was strong support to continue to implement the prioritized activities for the current strategic plan (2020–2025) as these were still relevant as well as the different channels of engagement of Members in the communication work plan. Additionally, the Members expressed their commitment towards implementation of the new Codex strategic plan evidenced from the preliminary work undertaken through an in-session physical working group in which a range of potential activities were identified and agreed to.

While welcoming the recently adopted *Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food* (CXG 103-2024), there was urgency expressed by Members to undertake an initial analysis or review of the *Regional guidelines for the design of control measures for street vended foods* (Africa) (CXG 22R-1997) to ensure consistency with recently revised and adopted texts and identify any gaps therein that would serve as the basis for a potential revision of the regional guidelines.

At the leadership level, CCAFRICA25 agreed to recommend to CAC48 that Gambia be appointed as the next Coordinator for Africa. Members expressed appreciation for the outgoing Coordinator (Uganda) for the excellent work of Codex in the region while warmly welcoming the next Coordinator.

On the whole, the work being undertaken through CCAFRICA is extremely impactful in the region especially contributing positively to the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Recommendation of CCAFRICA25
For decision by the Commission	
1. New work on the development of a regional standard for braised or boiled, salted and unsalted, dried fish (Africa)	Approval
For information	
2. Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for “tiacry”	
3. Amendment to the CCAFRICA meeting agenda to include matters of interest to the region arising from regional and other international organizations	

4. Specific comments

1. New work on the development of a regional standard for braised or boiled, salted and unsalted, dried fish (Africa), paragraph 62(i), Appendix IV
Status and Secretariat’s comments: Senegal presented a new work proposal on developing a regional standard for braised or boiled dried fish. CCAFRICA25 noted a general support for the proposal and considered whether the best pathway would be development a regional standard or propose new work to the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) to consider revising the standard CXS 236-2003 that covered boiled dried salted fish products. Following a thorough discussion, CCAFRICA25 agreed to start new work on the development of a regional standard for braised or boiled, salted and unsalted, dried fish (Africa) and forward the project document to CAC48 for approval. It was noted that this product was generally consumed in the African region, and the elaboration of the standard for this product would protect consumer health, support harmonization of the different requirements, and hence facilitate intra-African trade. It was pointed out that the existing Codex standards for the different types of dried fish, e.g. <i>Standard for boiled dried salted anchovies</i> (CXS 236-2003), <i>Standard for smoked fish, smoke-flavoured fish and smoke-dried fish</i> (CXS 311-2013), <i>Standard for salted fish and dried salted fish of the Gadidae family of fishes</i> (CXS 167-2018), did not cover this type of product due to the differences in production methods. The new work proposal is in line with the criteria for new work proposals and the format for commodity standards in the <i>Codex Procedural Manual</i>. No need for scientific advice is envisaged. Chairperson’s comments: Noting the general support and interest from the region to start development of new work for braised or boiled, salted and unsalted, dried fish (Africa), with continued support from the Members in the development process, the work will be delivered on time. It will require Members in the region to effectively engage in electronic and physical working groups (EWGs and PWGs) for progress to be made. Observing from the participation of the Members in other EWGs, this could be viewed as a risk that could be mitigated through continuous reminders by the Coordinator for Members to join and participate in the work. Considering that the scope of the proposal was widened, it will require to tap into several resources and expertise in order to arrive at an agreed text. The vital input by Members during CCAFRICA25 refined and aligned the project document in preparation for approval of the proposed new work by the Commission.
2. Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for “tiacry”, paragraph 68
Status and Secretariat’s comments: Senegal proposed new work on precooked cereal vegetable granules commonly known as “tiacry”, which was highly consumed in a number of countries in West Africa. Following a constructive discussion, CCAFRICA25 agreed to request Senegal, working with interested Members and in consultation with the Coordinator, to update the proposal taking into account the comments made at the session, and resubmit it to CCAFRICA26.

Chairperson's comments:

The proposal was well received by Members considering that cereals are mainly staple foods in Africa and hence significantly contribute to food security. A number of gaps in the project document were identified during the session that require addressing such as aligning the project document with the requirements of the *Codex Procedural Manual* (Section on the *Criteria for the establishment of work priorities*) and the necessity to reconsider the scope of work to better reflect the nature of the product in different countries within the region. This further justifies the urgent need to train Members in the region on the application of the criteria for establishment of work priorities as this will go a long way in enhancing the capacity of Members in developing robust proposals for development of regional standards. It was also noted during the session the importance of clearly defining the issues that need to be addressed as the results would be useful in determining the Codex deliverable to be developed and the approach to follow. Considering the wealth of comments generated and limitation of time for discussion the matters, Members agreed to consider the items at the next CCAFRICA session once the proposal is submitted by Senegal.

3. Amendment to the CCAFRICA agenda to include matters of interest to Africa arising from regional and international organizations, paragraph 23(vii)

Status and Secretariat's comments:

CCAFRICA25 agreed to inform CAC48 of the intention of CCAFRICA to amend the agenda for its session to include matters of interest to the region (Africa) arising from regional and other international organizations. This will extend the information sharing to ensure synergies and avoid duplication through inclusion of Observers, especially those from the region.

Chairperson's comments:

The region is constituted of eight Regional Economic Communities with six of them having observer status in Codex. Majority of trading in the region takes place within the different regional blocs which makes them very important in advancing food safety and quality matters. The coming into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area has also shone limelight to Codex as reflected in Annex 7 on Sanitary and PhytoSanitary Measures that provides provisions aiming to safeguard human, animal, and plant health within the liberalized continental marketplace. The African Union undertakes regional food safety and quality programmes in the continent as defined within the Food Safety for Africa. Within standardization field, the African Organization for Standardization continues to develop harmonized African standards that cover agriculture and food products mostly traded in the continent. The several ongoing initiatives that relate to food safety and Codex in the region provide strong justification to amend the CCAFRICA agenda to provide a platform for sharing ongoing activities of interest in the region from relevant regional and international organizations. Additionally, the effort would create synergies between the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031 and other continental/regional initiatives while enhancing and strengthening collaborations.

Appendix 2

1. General

Committee	Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP17)		
Host	Fiji	Chairperson	Dr Andrew Tukana
Session reported on	CCNASWP17	3-7 February 2025	
Next session	CCNASWP18	2027 (TBC)	
Report	REP25/NASWP		

2. Overall comments

Codex Secretariat's comments: CCNASWP17 was successfully conducted as a hybrid meeting in Nadi, Fiji. There was good and active participation with representatives from 10 Member countries in the NASWP region, one Member country and one Member Organization from outside the region, and one Observer organization attending the session. The hybrid modality facilitated the participation of one Member as well as colleagues from FAO and WHO's regional and global levels. CCNASWP17 considered two new work proposals, on development of a regional standard for galip nut and breadfruit flour, respectively, and agreed to forward both these to CAC48 for approval. CCNASWP17 also considered a discussion paper on a regional code of practice traditional underground oven cooking in the South West Pacific and agreed that a new work proposal on development. Chairperson's comments: CCNASWP17 had good participation and concluded successfully. The meeting facilitated productive discussions on crucial food safety and regulatory issues, strengthening regional collaborations. The proposed new work that the region will have to implement on a regional standard on breadfruit flour (led by Samoa) and a regional standard on galip nut (led by Papua New Guinea) will require both financial support, e.g. from the Codex Trust Fund, and technical support, including advice from the Codex Secretariat, to ensure that Codex work in the region remains successful. The CCNASWP17 participants commended Fiji for its exceptional commitment to regional collaboration by successfully hosting two consecutive CCNASWP meetings. Fiji extends its sincere appreciation to all delegates, experts, and stakeholders for their participation and contributions to the productive discussions.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Recommendation of CCNASWP17
For decision by the Commission	
1. New work on the development of a regional standard for galip nut (North America and the South West Pacific)	Approval
2. New work on the development of a regional standard for breadfruit flour (North America and the South West Pacific)	Approval
For information	
3. Discussion paper on developing of a regional code of practice on traditional underground oven cooking in the South West Pacific	

4. Specific comments

1. New work on the development of a regional standard for galip nut (North America and the South West Pacific), paragraph 84(i), Appendix IV

Status and Secretariat's comments:

Papua New Guinea presented a discussion paper and new work proposal on developing a regional standard for galip nut given its importance for the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and its trade potential.

Members in the NASWP region welcomed and supported the proposal. In light of comments and contributions made, CCNASWP17 refined the discussion paper and the new work proposal.

It was noted that the galip nut had good nutritional qualities, supported food security, and represented a growing industry of economic importance for the PICs.

Regarding food safety issues, Members reported that like all nuts, galip nuts had been associated with aflatoxins and food allergens. It was intended that these food safety hazards would be addressed through the *Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in tree nuts* (CXC 59-2005) and the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985).

CCNASWP17 agreed to forward the project document on the development of a regional standard for galip nut (North America and the South West Pacific) to CAC48 for approval.

The new work proposal is in line with the criteria for new work proposals and the format for commodity standards in the *Codex Procedural Manual*. No need for scientific advice is envisaged.

Chairperson's comments:

Galip nut supports food security and is a growing industry of economic importance for the PICs.

CCNASWP17 agreed to establish a EWG chaired by Papua New Guinea and co-chaired by New Zealand and Vanuatu that subject to approval of the new work by CAC48, would prepare a draft regional standard for galip nut for circulation for comments at Step 3 and consideration by CCNASWP18.

Fiji as the current coordinator will continue to liaise with Papua New Guinea and advice on the further process.

2. New work on the development of a regional standard for breadfruit flour (North America and the South West Pacific), paragraph 84(ii), Appendix V

Status and Secretariat's comments:

Samoa presented a discussion paper and new work proposal on developing a regional standard for breadfruit flour.

Members in the NASWP region welcomed and supported the proposal. In light of comments and contributions made, CCNASWP17 refined the discussion paper and the new work proposal.

Members noted the importance of breadfruit as a staple food throughout the PICs and that breadfruit flour had an important role in ensuring food security, especially in light of climate change. As fresh breadfruit was highly perishable, its processing into flour would increase its preservation and reduce food waste. Moreover, breadfruit flour had a large market potential especially considering it was gluten-free.

CCNASWP17 agreed to forward the project document on the development of a regional standard for breadfruit flour (North America and the South West Pacific) to CAC48 for approval.

The new work proposal is in line with the criteria for new work proposals and the format for commodity standards in the *Codex Procedural Manual*. No need for scientific advice is envisaged.

Chairperson's comments:

CCEXEC and CAC48 should note that the proposed new standard will impact positively on the economy of the region through trade, and also food security and climate change.

The EWG chaired by Samoa and co-chaired by Australia and Fiji collaborates actively to collate and analyze data.

3. Discussion paper on development of a regional code of practice on traditional underground oven cooking in the South West Pacific, paragraph 83(iii)**Status and Secretariat's comments:**

Vanuatu presented a discussion paper on traditional underground oven cooking which was commonly used throughout the PICs and also used in other parts of the world.

Members welcomed and supported the proposal noting that it would be of interest to other regions too.

CCNASWP17 agreed to request Vanuatu to prepare a revised discussion paper with a project document on developing a regional Code of practice on traditional underground ground oven cooking in the South West Pacific taking into account the discussion by CCNASWP17, for consideration by CCNASWP18.

Chairperson's comments:

Traditional underground oven cooking could be a sensitive topic as it has been a custom practiced for centuries across the Pacific and other parts of the world.

Developing a regional code of practice on traditional underground oven cooking would require data to support its need. Countries that share the same practice are encouraged to collaborate on data collation.

Appendix 3

1. General

Committee	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)		
Host	Mexico	Chairperson	Ms Andrea Genoveva Solano Rendón
Session reported on	CCFFV23	25 February – 1 March 2025	
Next session	CCFFV24	TBC	
Report	<u>REP23/FFV</u>		

2. Overall comments

Secretariat's comments:

CCFFV23 was conducted as a physical meeting in Mexico City, Mexico with representatives from 27 Member countries, one Member Organization, and two Observer organizations attending the session.

Two in-session working groups were held to facilitate the discussions and progress the work on the two standards, on fresh dates and fresh curry leaves, respectively. After an extensive discussion on the provision for moisture content in fresh dates, CCFFV23 reached a consensus and agreed to forward the standard for fresh dates to CAC48 for adoption at Step 8. As for the standard for fresh curry leaves, CCFFV23 agreed to forward it to a future session of CAC for adoption at Step 5/8, noting that the provisions on food additives and food labelling would need to be endorsed by CCFA and CCFL prior to its adoption.

CCFFV23 considered two new work proposals, development of a standard for fresh turmeric and for fresh broccoli, respectively, and agreed to forward both proposals to CAC48 for approval. However, CCFFV23 requested Mexico to revise the project document for a standard for fresh broccoli to ensure full compliance with the *Codex Procedural Manual* and to submit it to CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.

Regarding the review of existing FFV standards, CCFFV23 agreed that the review should focus solely on alignment with the FFV layout. Any need for substantial or technical changes would be addressed separately, as necessary, in accordance with established Codex procedures.

CCFFV23 successfully completed all assigned tasks.

Chairperson's comments:

Since CCFFV22, significant progress has been made on several key topics by effectively using the EWGs, and no impediments were encountered. Delegations actively participated in discussions and reviewed documents prior to the session, which facilitated smooth decision-making. This reflects the commitment and effective collaboration of all delegations to ensure continuous progress.

The consensus reached on the standard for fresh dates stands out. This progress is the result of an exhaustive debate, specifically on the provisions on moisture content, which allowed for a solid and satisfactory agreement to be reached, and demonstrates CCFFV's remarkable ability to reach compromises and work effectively under well-established procedures.

The standard for fresh curry leaves was forwarded for adoption by a future CAC session, pending endorsement of the provisions on food additives and food labelling. This demonstrates a clear commitment to ensuring consistency and compliance with international regulations.

CCFFV23 agreed to develop new standards for fresh turmeric and fresh broccoli, and tasked Mexico with revising the draft project document for the latter to ensure alignment with Codex procedures.

CCFFV23 agreed to focus the review efforts of existing fresh fruit and vegetable standards on ensuring consistency with current formats, leaving any substantial changes to be addressed independently, in accordance with Codex procedures. This cross-cutting approach ensures that the standards are consistent and adaptable to new proposals and the evolution of international standards.

In summary, CCFFV23 made considerable progress in the development of standards. Continued active participation in EWGs will be essential to ensure further progress on those standards which will be developed.

3. Status of work items

Topic	Job number	Target year	Recommendation of CCFFV23
For decision by the Commission			
1. Standard for fresh dates	N01-2016	CCFFV22	Adoption at Step 8
2. Standard for fresh curry leaves	N06-2022	CCFFV25	Adoption at Step 5/8
3. New work on developing a standard for fresh turmeric			Approval
4. New work on developing a standard for fresh broccoli			Approval
For information			
5. Work on the review of existing FFV standards			
6. Developing an actionable mentorship mechanism, including twinning programmes			
7. Future of CCFFV			

4. Specific comments

1. Standard for fresh dates, paragraph 24, Appendix II
Status and Secretariat's comments: CAC45 (2022) had adopted the standard at Step 5. Since then, an EWG had continued the discussion, and the provisions on food labelling and food additives had been endorsed by CCFL and CCFA, respectively. An in-session working group (IWG) was held during CCFFV23, and most of the outstanding issue were resolved. The plenary agreed with the revisions by the IWG. CCFFV23 agreed to retain the 1 percent tolerance for decay in "Extra" class, noting the reservation of the Members States of the European Union. CCFFV23 agreed to forward the standard for fresh dates to CAC48 for adoption at Step 8. Since CCFFV22 had recommended adoption at Step 5/8, which was supported by CCEXEC83, while CAC45 had adopted the standard at Step 5, the development of the standard needed one more CCFFV session for its deliberation compared to the envisaged timeframe. The format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style. While the work on the standard for fresh dates was completed by CCFFV23, questions arose in several occasions and different fora, regarding a possible need to harmonise the existing standard for dates, currently included as Annex B of the <i>General standard for dried fruits</i> (CXS 360-2020), with the standard for fresh dates following its adoption. While CCFFV23 could not agree on a way forward, further consideration will need to be given to the potential inconsistencies among the two standards, e.g. to revise Annex B of CXS 360-2020 or the possibility of merging the two standards into one, as deemed necessary. This is without prejudice to the fact that Codex Members can submit new work proposals to also address these issues, as outlined in the <i>Codex Procedural Manual</i>. In the same context, CCEXEC and CAC, noting that CCFFV, the body that developed the original standard for dates, is currently adjourned <i>sine die</i>, may consider assigning CCFFV, with its specialized expertise in dates, the task of performing a comprehensive analysis of the two standards and exploring the possible way forward. Chairperson's comments: A key achievements of CCFFV23 was the consensus reached on the standard for fresh dates, which has been forwarded for final adoption by CAC48, demonstrating a collaborative and effective effort among the Members. This success was the result of a thorough and collaborative debate regarding the provision for moisture content. This consensus was critical for moving the work forward.

2. Standard for fresh curry leaves, paragraph 34, Appendix III

Status and Secretariat's comments:

The work had been approved by CAC45 (2022). Since then an EWG had progressed the work.

An IWG was held during CCFFV23, which made further revisions.

CCFFV23 agreed to forward the standard for fresh curry leaves to a future session of CAC for adoption at Step 5/8, noting that the provisions on food additives and food labelling would need to be endorsed by CCFA and CCFL, respectively. This is in line with the procedures as outlined during CAC47.

The work is according to the envisaged timeframe and the format and presentation as well as language is according to Codex style.

Chairperson's comments:

The standard will be forwarded to a future CAC session, noting that the provisions on food additives and food labelling will be reviewed by CCFA and CCFL, respectively, before final adoption according to Codex procedures.

3. New work on developing a standard for fresh turmeric, paragraph 89(i), Appendix VI

Status and Secretariat's comments:

Fiji presented a discussion paper together with a project document on developing a standard for fresh turmeric, highlighting the importance of the agriculture sector for food security and economic livelihood and that establishing a standard for fresh turmeric would enhance exports, safeguard consumer health, and promote fair trade.

Members expressed broad support for the new work proposal and a few amendments to the draft project document.

CCFFV23 agreed to forward the revised project document on developing a standard for fresh turmeric to CAC48 for approval.

The new work proposal is in line with the criteria for new work proposals and the format for commodity standards in the *Codex Procedural Manual*. No need for scientific advice is envisaged.

Chairperson's comments:

CCFFV23 agreed to the development of a standard for fresh turmeric.

4. New work on developing a standard for fresh broccoli, paragraph 92(ii)

Status and Secretariat's comments:

Mexico presented a discussion paper together with a project document on developing a standard for fresh broccoli, emphasizing the increasing global production and popularity. It was noted that since there was an already existing *Standard for quick frozen vegetables* (CXS 320-2015, Annex on broccoli), the new standard should be titled "Fresh broccoli" to ensure that there was distinction between the two products.

CCFFV23 acknowledged broad support for the proposal and its content, but noted that the project document did not adhere to the *Codex Procedural Manual's* required format and lacked information on the section on "Relevance to the Codex strategic objectives". Therefore, CCFFV23 requested Mexico to revise the project document for full compliance and submit it to CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.

The Codex Secretariat has received the revised project document, which is available [here](#). The document is in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the *Codex Procedural Manual*.

Chairperson's comments:

CCFFV23 noted the need for a clear distinction between fresh broccoli and quick frozen broccoli, the latter being included as an annex in the *Standard for quick-frozen vegetables* (CXS 320-2015), to help avoid confusion and ensure better understanding in international markets.

CCFFV23 agreed that Mexico would revise the project document for development of a standard for fresh broccoli to ensure its alignment with the Codex procedures before presenting it to CCEXEC. The revision which was essential to ensure the quality and consistency of the work has been completed.

5. Discussion paper on the review of existing FFV standards, paragraph 78, Appendices IV and V

Status and Secretariat's comments:

CCFFV23 agreed to re-establish an EWG to continue with the alignment of existing FFV standards with the FFV layout, focusing on editorial issues, including the *Standard for avocado* and the *Standard for asparagus* as edited during the session.

Chairperson's comments:

The alignment of existing standards with the layout for fresh fruits and vegetables should focus on ensuring consistency with the current layout, whereas proposals for substantial changes should be addressed separately in accordance with the *Codex Procedural Manual*.

6. Developing an actionable mentorship mechanism, including twinning programmes, paragraphs 10 and 15(iv)

Status and Secretariat's comments:

The work of CCFFV heavily depends on the successful work of EWGs and will continue to depend on these groups in the future. This approach ensures continuous progress but may challenge coordination, especially for countries with limited resources, potentially affecting timelines, views, information and even data, from different regions/Members if participation lags.

In this context, a Member also noted that the recommendation from CCEXEC86 regarding the encouragement of more Members to take leadership roles in Committee working groups did not include actionable steps. It was highlighted that, given the sovereignty of nations, direct engagement between Members could be challenging and that as an intergovernmental body, Codex should take the lead in facilitating mentorship programmes among Members.

CCFFV23 requested that CAC consider developing an actionable mentorship mechanism, including twinning programmes, to assist less active Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups.

Chairperson's comments:

Continuous participation and proper use of EWGs will be key to ensuring faster progress in the future.

7. Future of CCFFV

Status and Secretariat's comments:

Following the adoption of the standard for fresh dates and the standard for fresh curry leaves, the agenda of CCFFV will include the two new work item as outlined above, if approved by CAC, and the work on the alignment of its existing standards with the FFV layout.

Noting that no other proposals for new work in reply to the relevant circular letter had been received by CCFFV23, consideration could also be given as to whether CCFFV could convene its future sessions in a different modality, such as working by correspondence or virtual.

Chairperson's comments:

It is important to recognize the progress made with the adoption of the standard for fresh dates and the standard for fresh curry leaves. These standards represent significant steps towards improving food safety and international trade of these fresh products. The chairperson thinks that the virtual or correspondence work modality could be a practical solution for future CCFFV sessions, allowing Members to participate more efficiently and ensuring that progress on projects is maintained without the need for physical meetings. This could also facilitate broader participation from countries facing logistical or economic challenges in attending in-person meetings.