



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

Forty-fifth Session

Budapest, Hungary

9-13 March 2026

COMMENTS OF PANAMA

Panama thanks the Codex Secretariat and the countries that led the various electronic working groups for the preparation of the documents submitted for consideration by the Committee.

Panama recognizes the importance of the CCMAS's work in strengthening the international harmonization of analytical methods and sampling plans, which contributes to the development of effective food control systems, facilitates international trade, and promotes the protection of consumer health.

Panama supports efforts aimed at improving the consistency, accessibility and clarity of the information contained in the CXS 234-1999 standard, as well as those aimed at strengthening the technical guidance available to Codex product committees and competent authorities.

Panama also considers it important that the work of the CCMAS be carried out in close coordination with other relevant Codex committees, in order to ensure the coherence of the normative system and avoid duplication.

Agenda item 2: Matters referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other subsidiary bodies

Panama takes note of the matters referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other subsidiary bodies.

Panama recognizes the importance of the CCMAS's role in providing specialized technical advice on methods of analysis and sampling, in support of the normative work developed by the product committees and other horizontal Codex committees.

Panama considers it important that the CCMAS continue to collaborate closely with the relevant committees when the evaluation or ratification of analytical methods and sampling plans is required, in order to ensure the consistency and applicability of Codex standards.

Agenda item 3.1: Methods of analysis and sampling submitted by Codex subsidiary bodies

Panama appreciates the work done in evaluating the provisions on methods of analysis and sampling plans proposed by the Codex auxiliary bodies.

Panama recognizes the importance of the analytical methods included in the Codex standards being scientifically sound, adequately validated, and appropriate for their purpose.

Panama considers it important that the ratification process takes into account aspects such as:

- interlaboratory validation of methods;
- its applicability to different food matrices;
- the availability and accessibility of the methods for official laboratories.

Panama supports the ratification of methods that meet the criteria established by the Committee.

Agenda item 4.1: Review of methods of analysis in commodity standards (fish and fishery products, fats and oils, cereals, pulses and legumes and derived products)

Panama appreciates the work done in reviewing the methods of analysis included in standards for products, particularly in sectors such as fish and fishery products, fats and oils, cereals, pulses and derived products.

Panama believes that the periodic review of analytical methods is essential to ensure that Codex standards

reflect available scientific and technological advances.

Panama supports efforts to update and harmonize analytical methods where necessary, taking into account their suitability for different food matrices.

Agenda item 4.2: Retyping of ISO 1871 for determining protein in quinoa

Panama takes note of the proposal regarding the reclassification of the ISO 1871 method for the determination of protein in quinoa.

Panama believes that the reclassification of analytical methods should be based on available scientific evidence and validation of the method's performance for the specific matrix.

Panama supports decision-making based on scientific evidence and the practical experience of laboratories.

Agenda item 5: Review of CXS 234

Panama recognizes the importance of continuing to review and update the methods included in CXS 234-1999, in order to ensure their relevance and usefulness to Codex users.

Agenda item 5.1: Fruit juices workable package

Panama appreciates the work done in developing a manageable set of analytical methods applicable to fruit juices.

Panama believes that identifying a clear and manageable set of methods can facilitate the practical application of the standard by competent authorities and laboratories.

Agenda item 5.2: Cocoa products and chocolate workable package

Panama recognizes the importance of continuing to review the analytical methods applicable to cocoa and chocolate products, in order to ensure that the recommended methods are appropriate for their purpose and reflect the current state of analytical science.

Agenda item 5.3: Sugars and honey workable package

Panama supports the work aimed at establishing a manageable set of analytical methods applicable to sugars and honey, which can contribute to improving the clarity and accessibility of the information contained in the CXS 234-1999 standard.

Agenda item 6: Methods of analysis for precautionary allergen labelling

Panama recognizes the importance of developing appropriate analytical methods that can support the implementation of precautionary labelling regarding allergens in food.

Panama considers the availability of reliable and validated analytical methods to be fundamental to supporting the management of risks associated with food allergens.

Panama supports the continuation of the Committee's work on this matter.

Agenda item 7.1: Review of sampling plans in CXS 234-1999

Panama appreciates the work of the electronic working group led by New Zealand and co-chaired by Germany.

Panama believes that improving the information on sampling plans contained in standard CXS 234-1999 could contribute to strengthening the coherence of the Codex system.

Panama views with interest the proposal to develop an electronic database that integrates ratified analytical methods and sampling plans.

Panama supports the continuation of work on this matter.

Agenda item 7.2: Sampling plans for bulk materials/heterogenous lots including mycotoxins

Panama recognizes the technical challenges associated with sampling bulk products and heterogeneous batches, particularly in the case of contaminants such as mycotoxins.

Panama believes that the development of additional guidance on the design of sampling plans for these situations could be of great use to product committees and competent authorities.

Panama takes note of the proposal to develop a guide that could be incorporated as an annex to CXG 50-2004.

Panama considers it important that this work be carried out in coordination with the Codex Committee on Food Contaminants.

Agenda item 8: Harmonization of names and format for principles identified in CXS 234

Panama appreciates the work of the electronic working group chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by Chile.

Panama recognizes that harmonizing the terminology and format of analytical principles can contribute to improving the clarity and consistency of CXS 234-1999.

Panama takes note of the proposals to align the definitions with recognized international references, such as those developed by:

- International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
- International Bureau of Weights and Measures
- International Organization for Standardization
- ASTM International

Panama supports the continuation of the GTE's work to advance the harmonization of the identified provisions.