



Food and Agriculture  
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**Agenda item 2**

**CX/MAS 26/45/2**  
**January 2026**

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

Forty-fifth Session

9-13 March 2026

Budapest, Hungary

### MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

#### A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 48TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CCEXEC88 AND CCEXEC89)

##### *Matters for information*

##### **Specific matters**

##### Standards and related texts adopted by the Commission<sup>1</sup>

1. CAC48 (2025) adopted the:
  - (i) methods of analysis, performance criteria and the sampling plan for inclusion in the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999), with the correction to the method for quick frozen fish sticks (fish fingers), fish portions and fish fillets – breaded or in batter, by the addition of a reference to Appendix VI to CXS 234-1999 and correction to the principle;
  - (ii) the Annex on “nitrogen to protein conversion factors” to CXS 234-1999, with the deletion of wheat protein products from the entry for the nitrogen to protein conversion factor (Nx) of 5.71 for wheat flour, and inclusion of the Nx of 5.71 for teheana as recommended by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNE), noting that the inconsistencies that existed for soy products would be addressed in the future; and
  - (iii) consequential amendments to the *Regional standards for teheana* (Near East) (CXS 259R-2007) and *doogh* (Near East) (CXS 332R-2018) to include a cross reference to the Annex on Nx factors in CXS 234-1999 consequential to the decision in (ii).
2. The Codex Secretariat notes that further to the corrections to the methods of analysis in paragraph 1(i) that have been adopted by CAC48, CCMAS45 is invited to consider a proposal for further amendments to these methods (see CX/MAS 26/45/4 Appendix I).

##### Standards and related texts revoked by the Commission<sup>2</sup>

3. CAC48 revoked methods of analysis for provisions in relevant commodity standards and in CXS 234-1999, with the exception of the entry for the method for salt saturation in salted fish and dried salted fish of the Gadidae family of fishes and the method for sampling preparation in Appendix VI to CXS 234-1999 (See paragraph 12 below).

##### Development of a standard for pasteurized liquid camel milk<sup>3</sup>

4. CAC48 reactivated the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP), to work by correspondence, with the flexibility to convene an electronic working group (EWG) as appropriate, to elaborate a commodity standard for pasteurized liquid camel milk. CCMMP may consult CCMAS on the identification and/or development of methods of analysis to support implementation of quality parameter provisions.

<sup>1</sup> REP25/CAC paragraphs 34, 63(ii) and Appendices III and VII (Part 1)

<sup>2</sup> REP25/CAC paragraph 38(i) and Appendix IV

<sup>3</sup> REP25/CAC paragraph 89(ii)

Referring issues to Codex committees and/or task forces adjourned *sine die*, dissolved, abolished or working by correspondence<sup>4</sup>

5. CCEXEC88 noted the challenges for CCMAS in dealing with issues related to Codex committees and/or task forces that had been adjourned *sine die*, dissolved, abolished or were working by correspondence and recognized that this situation was not limited to CCMAS, but also possibly to other general subject committees (e.g. CCFL).
6. CCEXEC88:
  - (i) proposed that in the short term, if the relevant committee was working by correspondence, CAC should request that the committee consider any questions from CCMAS relating to existing standards, or from another general committee, should the need arise;
  - (ii) noted that this option would only cover some of the potential questions coming from CCMAS or other general subject committees;
  - (iii) requested the Codex Secretariat to consider other possible ways forward, such as consultations with FAO, expert groups or the like, which would provide a means to address any potential questions from CCMAS relating to existing standards, irrespective of the status of the committee that developed the standard; and
  - (iv) noted that the 35th session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP35) would continue discussing how to undertake a technical review of new work proposals for which there may not be a relevant existing or active committee, and these questions could also be considered as part of that review.

### **General matters**

Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031<sup>5</sup>

7. CAC48 (2025) adopted the monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, as proposed by CCEXEC89 (2025), noting that it may be reviewed after two years when initial data is available and some experience has been gained on its use.

Improvements in the timeliness of documents<sup>6</sup>

8. CAC48, recognizing that the importance of timely delivery of documents and improved timeliness of documents was a shared responsibility, encouraged Members to brief their Permanent Representatives to FAO on the importance of timely translation and advocate for flexibility in translation options, including the use of technology, and reminded all Members, committees and EWGs of the importance of timely delivery of and more concise documents.

Leadership roles in Electronic Working Groups (EWGs)<sup>7</sup>

9. CAC48 encouraged FAO, WHO and experienced Members to support mentorship mechanisms to assist more Members to take up leadership roles in working groups.

Ensuring adequate and timely scientific advice for Codex standards<sup>8</sup>

10. CAC48 emphasized the importance of timely and adequately resourced scientific advice to support the development and adoption of science-based Codex standards; encouraged FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat to provide information on priorities and related costs to assist CAC in prioritizing requests and to support Members in securing resources for the Joint FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Programme; noted that support for scientific advice extends beyond financial resources to include access to data and expertise; and encouraged Members to promote engagement of national experts and timely data submission. CAC48 further noted the need for innovative approaches to address scientific advice needs and invited FAO and WHO to explore such approaches.

<sup>4</sup> REP25/EXEC1 paragraphs 37 and 38

<sup>5</sup> REP25/CAC paragraph 158(ii) and Appendix IX

<sup>6</sup> REP25/CAC paragraph 17(ii)

<sup>7</sup> REP25/CAC paragraph 17(iii)

<sup>8</sup> REP25/CAC paragraph 139

Development of databases<sup>9</sup>

11. CCEXEC89 recommended that any additional resources be used for the following priority areas:
- the update on the current databases (food additives, pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues);
  - the development of new databases (methods of analysis and sampling and contaminants in food); and
  - support to committees that would potentially be reactivated by CAC48.

**Matters for action**Reconsideration / review of methods of analysis, numeric performance criteria (NPC) and sampling plan in CXS 234-1999<sup>10</sup>

12. CAC48 requested CCMAS to reconsider the recommendation to revoke the method for salt saturation in salted fish and dried salted fish of the Gadidae family of fishes together with Appendix VIII (Part 1) of CXS 234-1999. (see also CX/MAS 26/45/3 paragraphs 3-5).
13. CAC48 noted the concerns raised regarding some of the example methods provided for certain NPC for salt and sodium, and requested CCMAS to review these example methods for their appropriateness (see also CX/MAS 26/45/3 paragraphs 6-7).

**B. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES****Matters for action or information****18th session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF18)**Matters referred to CCCF by CCMAS43<sup>11</sup>

14. CCMAS43 (2024) had requested CCCF to consider adding example methods for determining total aflatoxins (AFT) in cereals in the *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed* (CXS 193-1995), which would also incorporate the listing of EN 17641 as an example method for certain cereals and cereal-based products, including foods for infants and young children; and transferring all NPC from CXS 193-1995 to CXS 234-1999.
15. CCCF18 agreed to consider these requests at a future session, at such a time when work on the review of sampling plans and/or updating of NPC in CXS 193-1995 becomes more advanced.

**23rd session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA23)**Typing of the methods for determination of peroxide value in the *Regional standard for cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves (Asia)* (CXS 355R-2023)<sup>12</sup>

16. CCMAS42 (2023), noting that there was no validation data for the oil extraction step from rice establishing the performance (e.g. recovery, precision), requested CCASIA to undertake validation studies of the extraction method for the rice extraction step to establish the performance (e.g. recovery, precision) of the extraction procedure and to provide the data to CCMAS for review and reconsideration of the Typing.
17. CCASIA23 agreed to inform CCMAS that it was unable to provide the requested information at this time, while noting that CCASIA remained open to considering any information that might become available in the future, with a view to submitting it to CCMAS.

Nitrogen to protein conversion factors (Nx)<sup>13</sup>

18. CCASIA23 agreed to:
- retain the footnote including the Nx value in the *Regional standard for fermented soybean paste (Asia)* (CXS 298R-2009); and

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<sup>9</sup> REP25/EXEC2 paragraph 78(vi)

<sup>10</sup> REP25/CAC paragraphs 38(ii) and 41

<sup>11</sup> REP25/CF18 paragraphs 9-10

<sup>12</sup> REP23/MAS paragraph 28, REP25/ASIA paragraph 27

<sup>13</sup> REP25/ASIA paragraph 35

- inform CCMAS that no provision for protein had been included in CXS 298R-2009 and in some countries, protein content instead of total nitrogen was used as a quality factor.

### **12<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNE12)**

#### Methods of analysis and sampling plans in commodity regional standards developed by CCNE<sup>14</sup>

19. CCNE12 agreed to inform CCMAS that it had established an EWG to:
- review the completeness of the section on methods of analysis in the regional commodity standards and where methods of analysis have been provided, propose sampling plans as appropriate in light of the revised *General guidelines on sampling* (CXG 50-2004); and
  - for those standards where the section on methods of analysis was incomplete, review the need for methods of analysis and make recommendations for proposed methods as appropriate. If possible and appropriate suitable sampling plans could also be proposed.

### **8<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8)**

#### Replies to questions from CCMAS43 (see also CX/MAS 26/45/3 paragraphs 13-14)<sup>15</sup>

20. CCSCH8 agreed to change the method of analysis for light seeds in the *Standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – Small cardamom* (CXS 357-2024) to ISO 927, Type I with the test portion of 100 g (minimum).
21. CCSCH8 agreed to revise the name of the provision in, i) Annex I, Table A1- “Curcuminoids content (colouring power)” and ii) Method of analysis for turmeric, “colouring power (curcuminoids content)” to “colouring power expressed as curcuminoids”; in the *Standard for dried or dehydrated roots, rhizomes and bulbs – Turmeric* (CXS 359-2024).
22. Regarding the method for pungency, Scoville heat units in dried chilli and paprika, CCSCH8 agreed that ASTA 21.3 was preferred over the method ISO 3513. Accordingly, CCSCH8 recommended that CCMAS revoke ISO 3513 and replace it with ASTA 21.3 as a Type I method.
23. CCSCH8 recommended that CCMAS endorse ISO 927 as a Type I method for the determination of visible mould in cloves instead of Method V-8 Spices, Condiments, Flavors and Crude Drugs (Macroanalytical Procedure Manual, FDA Technical Bulletin Number 5)<sup>16</sup>.

#### Endorsement of methods of analysis in spices and culinary herbs standards

24. CCSCH8 agreed to forward the provisions on methods of analysis to CCMAS for endorsement in the following standards (see also CX/MAS 26/45/3 paragraph 16):
- Standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries, requirements for vanilla
  - Standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries, requirements for large cardamom
  - Standard for spices in the form of dried seeds, requirements for coriander

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

25. CCMAS45 is invited to:
- i. note the matters for information referred by CAC, CCEXEC (paragraphs 1-11) and other subsidiary bodies (paragraphs 14-19); and
  - ii. note that matters for action arising from CAC and other subsidiary bodies (paragraphs 12-13, 20-24) would be considered under Agenda Item 3 (Endorsement of methods of analysis and sampling).

<sup>14</sup> REP25/NE paragraph 23(i)

<sup>15</sup> REP25/SCH paragraphs 12-15, 18(v), 61(ii), 74(ii), 104(ii) and Appendices II-V

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/food/laboratory-methods-food/mpm-v-8-spices-condiments-flavors-and-crude-drugs#v32>