



CCFH

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Hope this letter finds you in good health. I want to formally convey to you that the 53rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH53) will meet once again in person in San Diego, California, United States, from Tuesday, November 29 -Friday, December 2, 2022, at the Intercontinental San Diego Hotel. Virtual report adoption will take place on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

On Sunday, November 27, 2022, there will be a Physical Working Group (PWG) on the draft Guidelines for the control of Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts. On Monday, November 28, 2022, there will be two additional PWGs—the PWG on the draft Guidelines for the safe use and re-use of water in food production followed by the PWG on Priorities and New Work/Forward Work Plan.

As much as we would have liked, unfortunately it was not possible to make this CCFH53 meeting fully hybrid. Although the CCFH53 meeting will be physical, in an effort to make it more accessible, CCFH53 will be broadcast in listening mode only via Zoom in English, French and Spanish. The broadcast option will not offer the possibility however to make interventions by those delegations participating only on Zoom. Therefore, in order to intervene, Codex Members and Observers need to have at least one delegate present at the PWGs and in plenary. This way, other members of the delegation can communicate their thoughts through their delegate present in plenary.

REGISTRATION

As this is a physical meeting, please note that only delegates participating in person are requested to register for CCFH53 on the Online Registration System via your Codex Contacts Points.

For those of you who have not yet registered and are planning to attend in person, we encourage you to register as soon as possible so that you may begin the formal visa application process where necessary.

For those of you who have previously registered, kindly confirm if you plan to attend CCFH53 in person in San Diego. It is important that we know how many delegates will join us in San Diego so that we may make appropriate seating arrangements in the plenary room.

In order to make the CCFH53 meeting as fruitful as possible, we encourage all delegates participating in person to arrive by Saturday, November 26th to attend any pre-planning meetings and the PWGs in advance of plenary.

CCFH53 AGENDA AND DOCUMENTS

CCFH52, which met earlier this year in February 2022, broke away from precedent where we had traditionally met in-person for all the previous 51 sessions of CCFH. Regardless of our two-plus year hiatus and our first endeavor into an all-virtual meeting with an abridged agenda, I believe the meeting was very successful and productive since we focused on items mainly in the Step procedure.

Fortunately for CCFH53, we return with our full agenda that will enable us to continue our work on (and hopefully advance for interim or final adoption) items in the Step procedure and also have meaningful discussions on new work and priorities for our Committee.

All working documents will be distributed for comment in advance of the session and Members are encouraged to submit their comments in writing. Some documents and accompanying Circular Letters have already been distributed, with more on the way in the coming weeks. The documents from the PWGs will also be available for comment as soon as they are finalized during the week of CCFH53.





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Please visit the CCFH53 webpage often to access all of the relevant committee documents and other information related to the upcoming meeting, including the “Information for Delegates” at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFH&session=53>.

We understand that the transition back to physical meetings may not be easy for all Codex Members and along with the Codex Secretariat, are endeavoring to do what is possible within available resources to facilitate members inputs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CCFH Secretariat at ccfh@usda.gov.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon whether in person in San Diego or on Zoom.

Dr. J. Emilio Esteban
CCFH Chairperson



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