



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

**CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS**
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS

CCGP34

Codex Committee on General Principles

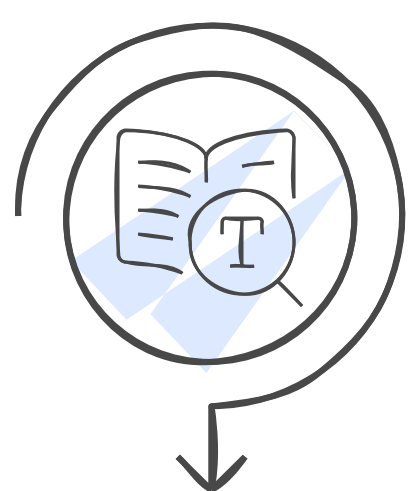
**Proposed updates to the Guide to
the Procedure for Amendments and
Revision of Codex Standards and
Related Texts of the *Codex
Procedural Manual***

Prepared by the Codex Secretariat

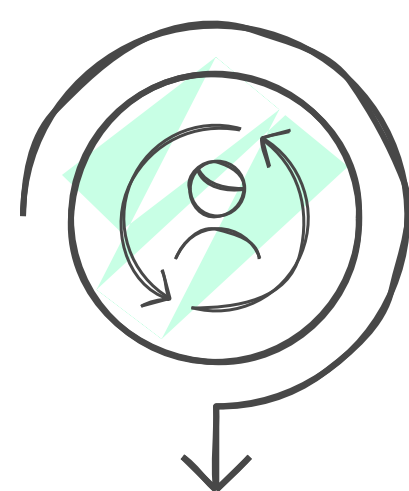
Hotel Barrière, Lille
France

Agenda item 5: Updates to the Guide to the Procedure for Amendments and Revision of Codex Standards is a revision to the proposal made to CCGP33

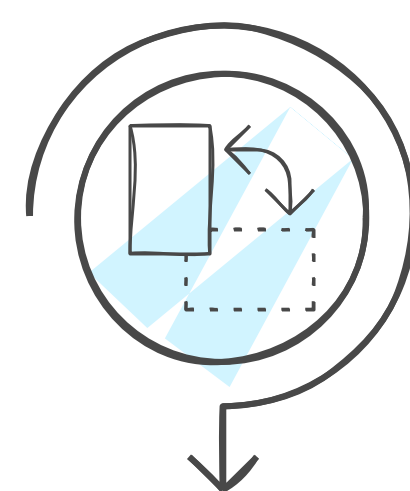
Key focus areas



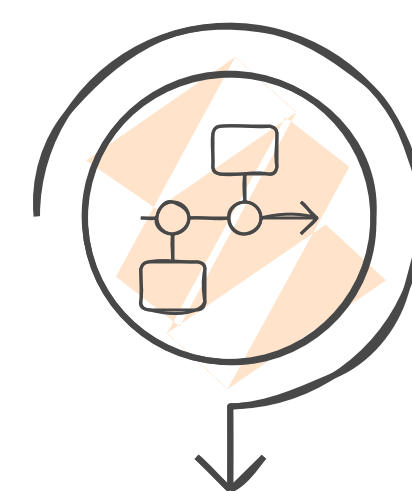
Clearer
Definitions



Improved
Workflows



Transparency
in Updates

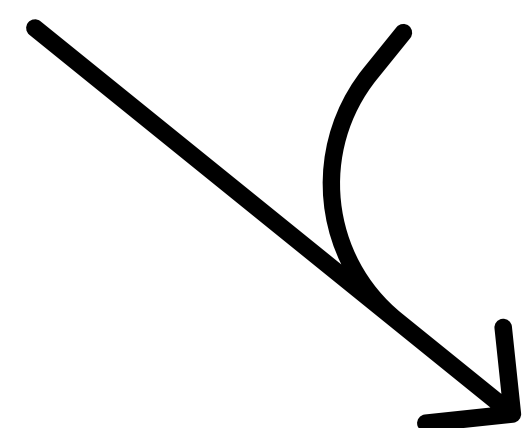


Version
Control



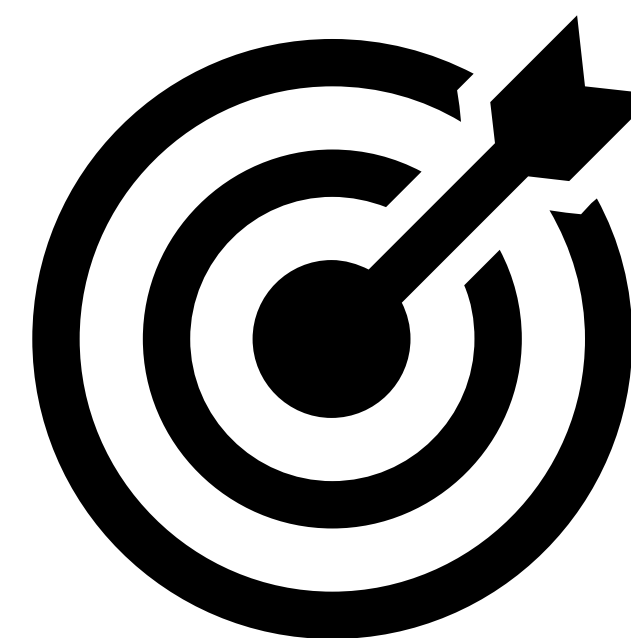
The revised proposal

- Clear and mutually exclusive definitions for correction, amendment and revision.
- Process-driven approach prioritizes substance and established procedures over rigid categories of update.
- Alignment with FAO publishing policies, shifts publications to the FAO Knowledge Repository.
- Benefits include enhanced transparency and accessibility, with usage metrics to inform future updates.



Sources

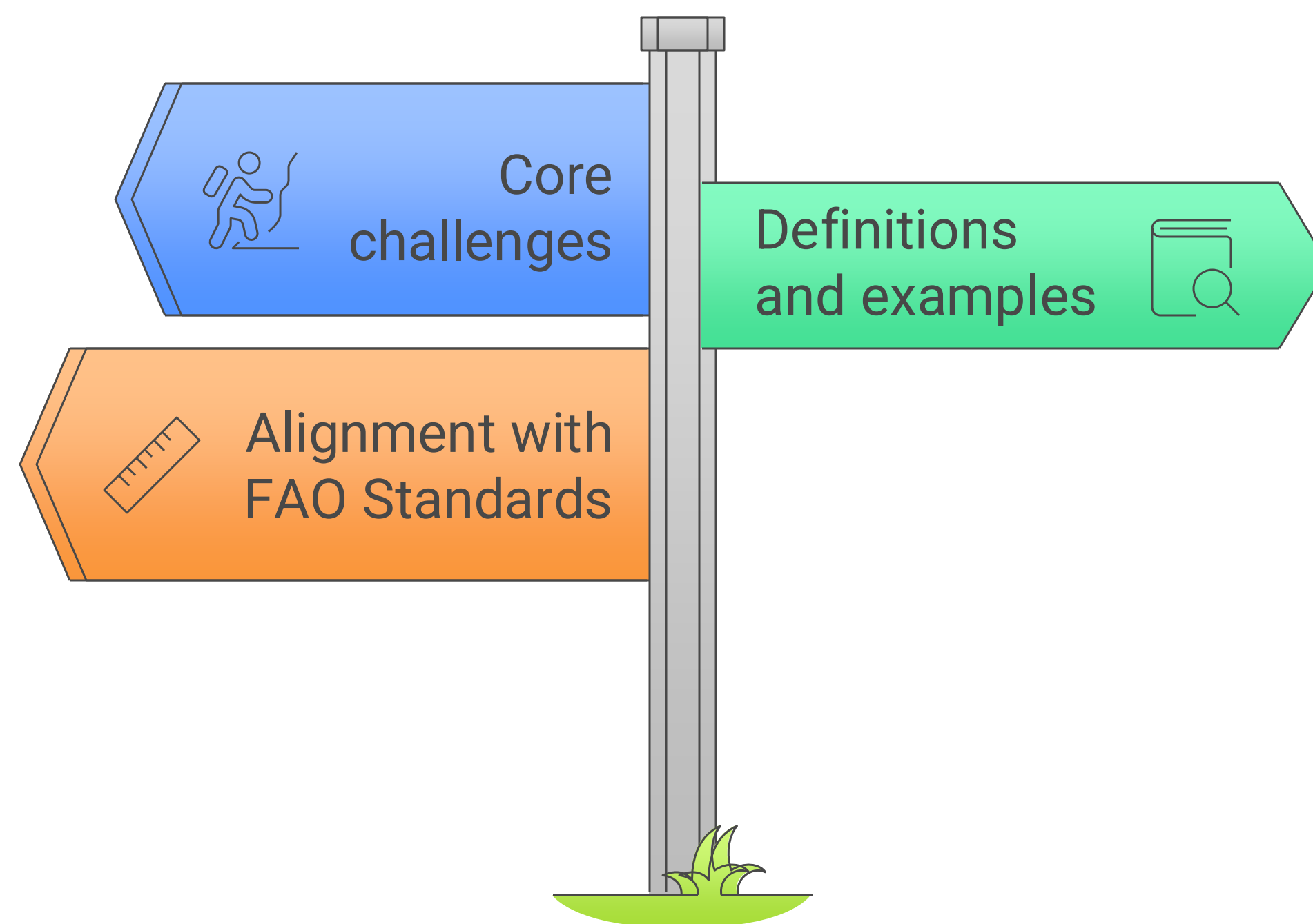
- Feedback from CCGP33 discussions
- Responses to circular letter CL 2024/25-GP
- Review of the *Codex Procedural Manual*
- FAO publishing standards



Focus

Guidance rather than strict rules allows
flexibility for future updates

Navigating the proposal





Challenge 1: Distinguishing amendments from revisions and the inconsistent application these terms

The proposal includes:

- definitions for correction, amendment and revision that are specific and clear;
- defined boundaries for the application of each change type (correction, amendment and revision) for more consistent use; and
- mandatory documentation within a corrected, amended or revised Codex standard to identify what has been done to change it from the previous version.



Challenge 2: Separating the process of updating standards from the terminology to describe the updated document

The proposal includes decoupling of the procedural route from the terminology.

For example, an amendment does not automatically require a full project proposal unless indicated by the Commission.

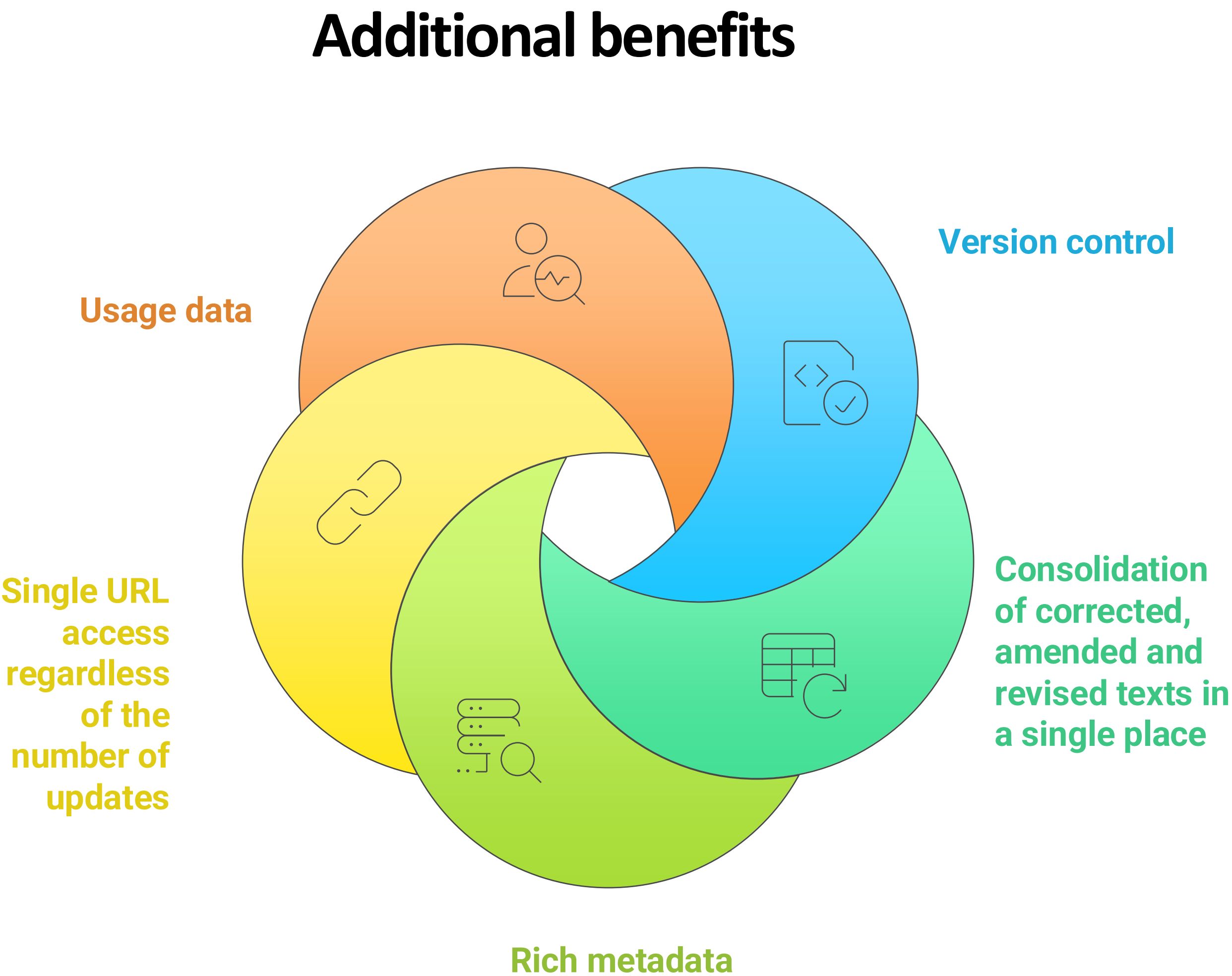
**Challenge 3: Effecting
changes to the *Codex
Procedural Manual* that are
sustainable, do not interfere
with or promote
reinterpretation of
established practices or
result in undesirable
subsequent changes**

- The new paragraphs in Section 2 are drafted from scratch to clarify the process.
- Emphasize clarity and specificity—e.g., return to **revision** from **new edition**.
- Use of precise language rather than general terms such as **modification**.

Aim: create a flexible, sustainable process that respects established practices.

Alignment with FAO Publishing Policies

Codex standards shall be published in accordance with FAO policy without sacrificing efficiency or autonomy.



Correction

The proposed definition:

- fixing any editorial errors in a Codex standard or related text including: incorrect spelling; incorrect use of bold or italics; other incorrect formatting of text; an incorrect transcription; an incorrectly numbered or located footnote; and/or errors in translation.

A corrigendum is required.

The Codex Secretariat makes the update and notifies the Commission.



Correction example

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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STANDARD FOR NAMED VEGETABLE OILS

CXS 210-1999

Adopted in 1999. Revised in 2001, 2003, 2009, 2017, 2019.
Amended in 2005, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

CXS 210-1999

2

2022 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-fifth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in December 2022, amendments were made in Table 1 and Table 2 with regard to the values of the provisions for fatty acid C18:1 and C18:2, relative density, refractive density and saponification in sunflower seed oil.

2023 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-sixth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in December 2023, amendments were made in Section 4. Food additives, Section 8 Methods of analysis and sampling and in the Appendix, Section 5 Methods of analysis and sampling.

2023 Corrigendum

On 1 February 2023, the value for fatty acid C16:1 for pistachio oil (Table 1, column 4, row 7) was corrected to read ND-2.0 (instead of ND-0.2) to align it with the decision of the Forty-second Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2019.

2024 Amendments

Following decisions taken at the Forty-seventh Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in December 2024, avocado oil, camellia seed oil, sacha inchi-oil and soya bean oil- high oleic acid were added in Section 2. Description, Section 3. Essential composition and quality factors, Table 1 to Table 4 and amendments were made in Section 7.2 Labelling of non-retail containers.

2025 Corrigenda

On 28 January 2025, the value for relative density for almond oil (Table 2, column 2, row 1) was corrected to read 0.929 (instead of 0929).

On 19 February 2025, footnote b in Table 3 was corrected to read "The fatty acid values in this table apply to the vegetable oils described in Section 2.1 presented in a state for human consumption. However, in order to provide clarity in trade of crude oils, the values of the table may also be applied for the corresponding crude forms of the vegetable oils described in Section 2.1" instead of "Fractionated product from palm oil".

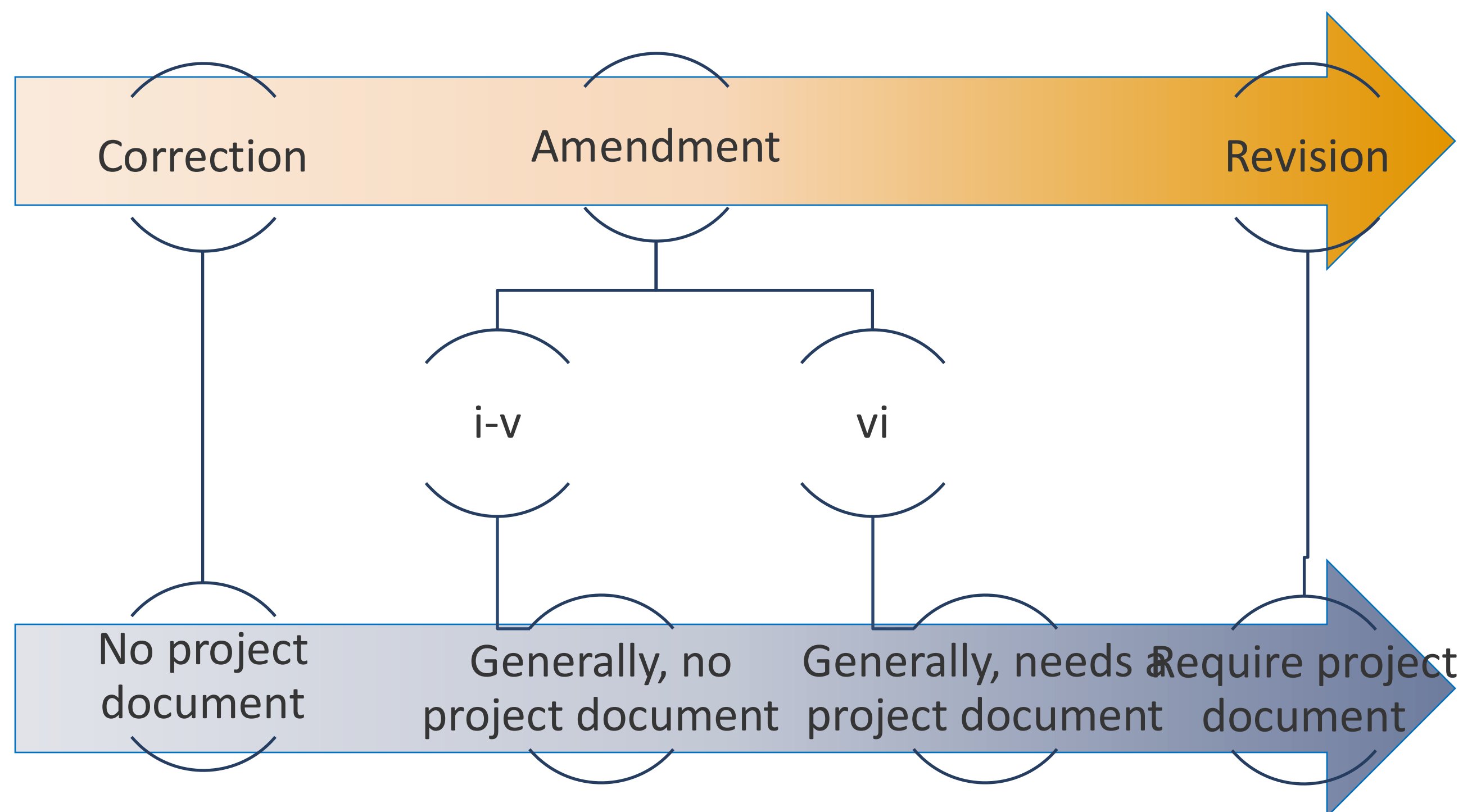
Amendment

The proposed definition:

- i. editorial changes that are not corrections;
- ii. insertion of an explanatory footnote;
- iii. update of references consequential to the adoption, amendment or revision of Codex standards and other texts of general applicability, including the provisions in the *Codex Procedural Manual*;
- iv. alignment of provisions, for consistency, to those in similar standards or related texts adopted by the Commission including replacement of content with a reference to another Codex text (a consequential amendment);
- v. update of methods of analysis and sampling; and/or
- vi. any other addition, change or deletion of text or numerical values in one or a limited number of articles in a Codex standard or related text.

An explanation is required for any amended text.

Amendment process overview



Amendments

- i. editorial changes that are not corrections;
- ii. insertion of an explanatory footnote;
- iii. update of references consequential to the adoption, amendment or revision of Codex standards and other texts of general applicability, including the provisions in the *Codex Procedural Manual*;
- iv. alignment of provisions, for consistency, to those in similar standards or related texts adopted by the Commission including replacement of content with a reference to another Codex text (a consequential amendment);
- v. update of methods of analysis and sampling; and/or
- vi. any other addition, change or deletion of text or numerical values in one or a limited number of articles in a Codex standard or related text.



Amendment example

Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products : Four amendments

- The update of four scientific names of Sardines would fall under “editorial changes that are not corrections”;
- The addition of Section 6.2 Labelling of non-retail containers and Replacing Section 7 Sampling, examination and analyses with a reference to CXS 234-1999 are both an “alignment of provisions, for consistency, to those in similar standards or related texts adopted by the Commission including replacement of content with a reference to another Codex text (a consequential amendment)”; and
- the inclusion of the new species of Sardine is an “addition, change or deletion of text or numerical values in one or a limited number of articles in a Codex standard or related text”.

Revision

The proposed definition:

- Any change in scope of a Codex standard or related text, or other modification, other than those covered under correction or amendment.

An explanation is required for any revised text.

Revisions require project documents.

Note: new edition in the previous proposal has been replaced by revision, a return to the language in the *Codex Procedural Manual*.

Revision example

The Standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils (CXS 33-1981):

“Following decisions taken at the Forty-seventh Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in December 2024, revisions were made in Sections 3, 7.2, 8 and in Appendix I.”

- More than a limited number of articles, therefore disqualifying it from being an amendment.



Summary

- Clear, mutually exclusive definitions: correction, amendment, revision
- Process is based on substance, not definition
- Minimal disruption: existing manual structure retained with targeted updates
- Publication in FAO Knowledge Repository
- Benefits include better versioning, traceability, accessibility, and metrics



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION