

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

Twenty-Eighth Session

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

19-23 February 2024

REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF NEW WORK PROPOSALS

(Prepared by United Kingdom)

Summary

An In session working group was convened during CCFO28 Plenary and chaired by the United Kingdom to screen new work proposals and related project documents for completeness. This was assessed against the criteria outlined in the Codex procedural manual and decisions of CCFO16 to consider comments received from members in relation to proposals.

The items within scope of this discussion were as follows:

1. Revisions to Codex standards on fats and oils to reduce trans-fatty acid intake or elimination of Partially Hydrogenated Oils in CCFO standards.
2. New work standard for microbial omega-3 oils.

Context

The 27th Session of the CCFO discussed how it could better manage its work and agreed to:

- i) Continue to use the existing project document for submission of proposals for new work and or amendments to existing fats and oils standards.
- ii) Request the Codex Secretariat to issue a CL to call for proposals for new work including amendments to existing standards well in advance of each session of CCFO and with a specific deadline within which proposals should be submitted. Submissions in response to the CL should include both a discussion paper and proposed project document. Submissions received after the deadline would not be considered by that session but by the following session of the Committee; and
- iii) Establish an in-session working group at each session of the CCFO Proposals.

Terms of Reference of In session working group

- i) To screen all new work proposals and related project documents for the completeness against the criteria in the codex procedural manual and decisions of CCFO16 taking into account with comments received from members in relation to proposals.
- ii) To assess whether the information provided fulfils the requirements of the new work proposed and make recommendations to the plenary.
- iii) To prepare a report to be presented to the plenary to enable CCFO to make informed decisions.

Recommendation

The in session working group approved that the information in the project documents complied with the information required in the checklist and was therefore complete and invited the plenary to consider this as a new work proposal as outlined in the following Annexes:

Annex I: Revisions to Codex standards on fats and oils to reduce trans-fatty acid intakes or eliminate Partially Hydrogenated Oils.

Project document: [CX/FO 24/28/11](#)

Annex 2: New work standard for microbial omega-3 oils.

Project document: [CX/FO 24/28/12](#)

Appendix 1: Revisions to Codex standards on fats and oils to reduce trans-fatty acid intake or eliminate Partially Hydrogenated Oils

Chairperson opened the discussion with acknowledgment that members had sight of all relevant project documents and discussion papers.

The session then comprised of screening the new work proposal checklist against the criteria provided by the secretariat, in order to determine if there is sufficient information provided to advise plenary to move forward with the new work proposals.

Chairperson covered each of the following aspects, inviting members to comment where applicable on:

- i) CCFO26 decision on submission of new work proposal should include both a discussion paper and project document.
- ii) Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities: Criteria Applicable to Commodities.
- iii) Requirements Established by CCFO16 (for Proposal of New Standard or Inclusion of New Oils/Fats)

There was clear indication from members including International Dairy Federation (IDF), Japan, Australia and Brazil that there will be considerable engagement on this item during the plenary session as members were keen to discuss the detail on agenda items. In particular, comments were raised regarding industrial use and clarifications and consistency in terminology throughout the proposals and relating to establishing limits for PHO.

Chairperson, supported by an intervention from Malaysia, advised members to defer detailed discussion on the detail of the proposals for the plenary session and reiterated the scope of the working group was to assess completeness of the information provided in the proposal.

The WG reviewed the proposal against the checklist and agreed that all aspects of the checklist were complete and there were no further comments from members.

The WG recommended that the information in the proposal on microbial oils was satisfactory to be considered by CCFO28 as a new work proposal.

Appendix 2: New work standard for microbial omega-3 oils

Chairperson opened the discussion with acknowledgment that members had sight of all relevant project documents and discussion papers.

The session then comprised of screening the new work proposal against the CCFO agreed checklist and the criteria required for new work proposals. The checklist was populated by the CCFO secretariat, with the information provided in the project document and discussion paper in order to determine if there is sufficient information provided to advise plenary to move forward with the new work proposals.

Chairperson covered each section of the checklist, inviting members to comment where applicable on:

- i) Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts: Project Document
- ii) Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities: Criteria Applicable to Commodities
- iii) Requirements Established by CCFO16 (for Proposal of New Standard or Inclusion of New Oils/Fats)

EU raised that the scope of food safety aspects should be captured clearly. Microbial omega 3 oils are considered a novel food in some countries and this should be taken into account the standard. A proper risk assessment should be carried out by JECFA or appropriate organisation.

Canada raised the issue of would be leading on the new work proposal and the chair confirmed that this would be determined in the plenary session.

Saudi Arabia queried whether this proposal needed further review by relevant bodies regarding aspects including infant formula and food supplements. Again the chair reminded the WG that such is were matters to be determined at the plenary session.

The WG reviewed the proposal against the checklist and agreed that all aspects of the checklist were complete and there were no further comments from members.

The WG recommended that the proposal on reducing intake of TFAs and eliminating PHOs was satisfactory to be considered by CCFO28 as a new work proposal.