

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

CRD25

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

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

43rd Session
Budapest, Hungary

13 – 18 May 2024

(Comments of Cabo Verde)

Agenda Item 5: Information document: *General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2004)* – e-book with sampling plans applications

Analysis of the Document “General Guidelines on Sampling” (CXG 50-2004) - e-book with sampling plans applications CX/MAS 24/43/7 – Comments in response to circular letter CL 2024/16-MAS

BACKGROUND

The 42nd session of the CCMAS agreed to re-establish an EWG (Electronic Working Group), chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Germany, to work on the document “INFORMATION DOCUMENT: THE GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SAMPLING (CXG 50–2004)” and submit for analysis at CCMAS43.

The information document was expected to be completed during 2023-2024 and presented to CCMAS43 for finalization. However, following the work carried out by the EWG, it was found that completing the document takes more time. Therefore, the team’s work report includes the document worked to date, together with a proposal to extend the completion of the work until 2025.

During the work carried out, important questions were raised and were highlighted. These questions were conveyed by CL 2024/16 –MAS so that they can be considered and answered by the members and observers of the committee. We subsequently describe the answers to the questions asked.

1. Is new relevant and related scientific information identified that should be included in the information document?

There has been active debate about Bayesian approaches in other standards and in other standards development organizations, given how this approach can reduce the number of samples and therefore costs, which is relevant to the working document - CXG 50. We believe that this approach would be relevant as it would minimize the costs of official control.

2. The number of real-life practical examples based on standards for goods or foods in question has increased.

While some examples were included in the draft document, the EWG felt it was possible to provide more, and to do so requires a better understanding of what country delegations want and how many time to develop those specific examples.

3. Obtaining a document that is both current and prospective. Ensure that the document takes into account both relevant practical examples and additional theoretical background.

The examples shared allow for a better understanding of the document, and we believe it is pertinent to detail this aspect, however, to date Cabo Verde has no relevant scientific information to add.

4. The EWG considered it pertinent and proposed to revise the CXS 234 references to sampling plans.

The EWG has completed the draft document that will be taken for discussion, however, there remain some issues raised throughout the process that need to be addressed before finalizing the document. This fact was what led to the request to extend the work to 2025, and this issue will be voted on in the next session.

NATIONAL POSITION:

Cabo Verde supports the proposal to adopt the document “INFORMATION DOCUMENT THE GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SAMPLING (CXG 50–2004)” and agrees with the extension of the work deadline to 2025.

RATIONALE:

Cabo Verde did not come across any issues that raised comments, however I would like to highlight that the adoption of the Bayesian approach, referred to in point 7 (CX/MAS 24/43/7), given the considerable reduction in the number of samples to be collected and consequently cost reduction, ensuring the reliability of results, is considered an added value, especially for Competent Authorities, given the reduction in costs.

Our position is motivated by the relevance and importance of the document for official control, with clear impacts on guaranteeing the safety of food.