

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMENTS OF SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Follow-up on Data Collection Related to the Applicability of Section 3.2.3, footnote (c) of the Codex Standard for Olive Oils and Olive-Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981)

1. Background

At the 47th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47), Syria raised concerns that the current provisions of Section 3.2.3 and its footnote (c) of the Codex Standard for Olive Oils and Olive-Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981) may not reflect the natural compositional characteristics of authentic olive oils from certain regions. In particular, data from Syrian cultivars show naturally higher values of $\Delta 7$ -stigmastenol and Δ ECN42 than the prescribed limits, which could lead to the misclassification of genuine virgin olive oils as non-authentic.

To address this issue, CAC47 adopted the revised standard at Step 5/8 while also encouraging data collection on the applicability of footnote (c), with the participation of interested Members and relevant organizations.

2. Outcome of CCNE12

Syria presented to CCNE12 a discussion paper, under (CRD4) outlining a structured approach for data collection to support the review of footnote (c). The proposal received broad support from Near East Members and observers, who emphasized the importance of evidence-based data reflecting regional and varietal diversity of Olive Oil.

In this regard, CCNE12 agreed to:

- Invite Members to provide data to assist in the validation and potential revision of footnote (c) of CXS 33-1981, in coordination with relevant regional scientific bodies
- Inform CCFO29 of this regional commitment, and
- Encourage FAO and Codex partners to provide technical support for data generation and analysis.

3. Way Forward

Syria reiterates its commitment to contributing data and collaborating with other producing countries and international organizations, including FAO, International Olive Council (IOC), regional standardization organizations (AIDSMO, and GSO), and the Arab Olive Office to ensure that Codex provisions accurately represent authentic olive oils from diverse agroclimatic origins.

This initiative serves not only the Near East region but also the broader Codex community, by promoting inclusivity, scientific rigor, and fair trade in the global olive oil sector. By generating and sharing scientific evidence that reflects the natural diversity of olive oils across regions, the initiative supports Codex deliberations on CXS 33-1981, helping to ensure that the standard remains globally relevant, scientifically justified, and trusted in international trade.

In this regard, the Syrian Arab Republic invites other Codex Members and stakeholders from olive oil-producing countries to contribute to the data-generation efforts described in this document, concerning the review of the applicability of Section 3.2.3, footnote (c) of the Codex Standard for Olive Oils and Olive-Pomace Oils (CXS 33-1981), and to coordinate their activities within the framework of the project to be overseen under the Codex Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE).