

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

Agenda Items 2, 6 and 13

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty-fifth Session

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21-25 November and 12-13 December 2022

#### Comments of Republic of Korea

#### Agenda Item 2 of CCEXEC82, 83

*CCEXEC sub-committee on new food sources and production systems – Interim report*

Republic of Korea would like to submit the following comment:

Republic of Korea would like to express its appreciation to the CCEXEC for its effort for analyzing the opinions of member countries for the Circular Letter that was recently issued and would like to support the ongoing work regarding the “new food sources and production systems”. We all agree that the expected market size of new foods is growing rapidly as the need for sustainable food sources and for a growing world population.

Republic of Korea would like to emphasize once more the importance of the CODEX work related to this “NEW” food area for 2 reasons.

First of all, there are currently a wide range of different terminologies in relation to the technologies, production processes related to the new food products which might hamper clear communication to audiences from varying backgrounds and sectors. In addition, we don't yet have a clear definition for “new food” itself. For example, edible insects and seaweed that are “new” for certain countries, are commonly consumed in some other countries. Therefore, it is important to make an inventory of these terms and their current usage, in order to achieve a consensus on the terminology to use at the global level.

In addition to the terminology, safety assessment guidelines and code of practice at the global level is needed. These CODEX documents could be served as a basis to initiate the first step of the appropriate food safety assessment in domestic level which will eventually support both food developers and regulators worldwide in making informed decisions on setting up food safety assurance systems.

For these works Republic of Korea has suggested a new mechanism addition to the current CODEX structure and if needed we would be happy to chair the work. Republic of Korea is now focusing on new products by Food technology, conducting various R&D projects on safety assessment, and making regulations for approving this food. In addition, Republic of Korea operates an expert council in which industry, academia, and the government jointly participate. Based on this experience and knowledge, we believe that we will be able to contribute to the new work of CODEX.

#### Agenda Item 6

*Other matters related to Codex Subsidiary Bodies*

Regarding proposal for revision of the *Standard for Kimchi* (CXS 223-2001), Republic of Korea is of the view that there is a need to revise the current standard considering innovations and trend changes in relevant industries since 2001 when this standard was first adopted. In case of the last amendment in 2017, it was just editorial amendments to the Food Additive Provisions that were applied to the *Standard for Kimchi* as well as other CODEX Standards for Processed Fruits and Vegetables.

Moreover, ‘Kimchi cabbage’ and ‘Napa cabbage’ are widely used as the commodity name of the main ingredient of Kimchi, and it is needed to reduce the trade confusion with revising the <CODEX Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds> reflecting the situation in which the name is indicated as common and/or commodity name of Chinese cabbage. In addition, in light of current trade practices and the latest research

results, it seems that it is time to make significant revisions to acidity, additive standards, and conditions for Kimchi production.

Republic of Korea is of the view that the information contained in the project document is sufficient, clear for undertaking the revision and consistent with the criteria in the CODEX procedural manual.

For the reasons above, Republic of Korea supports revision of the *Standard for Kimchi* (CXS 223-2001).

### Agenda Item 13

#### *60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission: 1963-2023*

Republic of Korea congratulates the 60th birthday of CODEX and all the works that have been done by the member countries during the past 60 years to protect consumer health and remove barriers to trade. In East Asia, the diamond jubilee coincides with the traditional 60-year sexagenary cycle and 60th birthday in Korea is considered importantly and we celebrate specially.

Since 1971, Korea has been a member of Codex and actively participated in the work for harmonizing national food standards with Codex standards.

The Codex standards of Korean traditional foods such as Gochujang, Ginseng and laver products were established in 2009, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

In addition, Korea had hosted TFAMR between 2017 and 2021, and 14th and 15th CCASIA in 2004 and 2006 taking the leading role in efforts to reduce antimicrobial resistance.

Currently, to support developing member countries to participating in Codex works, Republic of Korea starts delivering Codex Trust Fund to the WHO from 2020. We have hold a training program for developing countries and shared the story of how we overcame the difficulties responding to CODEX.

So for the special 60th birthday party of CODEX, the Republic of Korea would like to participate in preparing the product such as any video, a top 60 list, etc. by providing all our historical records to CODEX.

Moreover, Republic of Korea has been celebrating "Food Safety Day" with the slogan "Food Safety Together, Healthy Korea every year, since 2002. So we have a plan to hold a special session or a symposium to celebrate 60th Anniversary and promote the CODEX brand during its event next year.

In addition, we suggest to have an on-line guest book on the CODEX website of elsewhere at the special date next year such as the first CAC meeting date, where everybody, consumers, manufacturers, government agencies and etc. could come to leave a celebration message. Along with the time difference, the message will be shared during the 24 hours.

Again, congratulations to the CODEX secretariats, Chairs and Vice-chairs, regional coordinators, EWGs, committees, and all the member countries and organisations.