

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 3

CX/NASWP 25/17/3

December 2024

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

Seventeenth Session

Nadi, Fiji

3-7 February 2025

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC46 AND CAC47) AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CCEXEC)

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Standards and related texts adopted by the Commission¹

1. CAC46 (2023) adopted the:

- *Regional standard for fermented noni fruit juice* (North America and South-West Pacific) at Step 8, noting that the methods of analysis would be removed and replaced by a general reference to CXS 234-1999; and
- amendment to the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in the *Regional standard for kava products for use as a beverage when mixed with water* (North America and the South West Pacific) (CXS 336R-2020).

Appointments and elections²

2. CAC46 (2023) re-appointed Fiji as Coordinator for North America and South West Pacific to hold office from the end of CAC46 until the end of the first regular session of the Commission following the next session of CCNASWP (i.e. CAC48, November 2025).
3. CAC46 re-elected Canada and Vanuatu as the Members of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC) on a geographic basis for North America and the South-West Pacific respectively, for the period from the end of CAC46 to the end of the second succeeding regular session of the Commission (CAC48, 2025).
4. As Vanuatu informed CAC47 (2024) that it was relinquishing its role, CAC47 elected Australia as the Member of the Executive Committee on a geographical basis to complete the current term (expected until the end of CAC48).

Codex budgetary and financial matters³

5. CAC46 (2023):

- noted the increasing difficulty of delivering the Codex work plan, thanked Members already contributing extra-budgetary resources to Codex, and encouraged Members to consider extra-budgetary funding of the ongoing project to increase accessibility to Codex texts in the six official languages and work on monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts; and
- urged Members to advocate with their government representatives to FAO and WHO for adequate funding for the Codex programme.

6. CAC47 (2024) recognised the benefits of capacity building and awareness raising events delivered both

¹ REP23/CAC paragraph 34

² REP23/CAC paragraphs 222 and 224; REP24/CAC paragraphs 239 and 240

³ REP23/CAC paragraph 214(v, vii); REP24/CAC paragraph 226(vi)

physically and virtually, and supported their continuation as part of an appropriately blended approach that continues to build engagement.

Application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (SoP)⁴

7. CAC46 (2023) reiterated that the draft “Guidance for Codex Chairpersons and Members on the application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of Science in the Codex decision making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account” remained serviceable and available as practical guidance for Chairpersons of CAC and its subsidiary bodies and for Members in situations when there is agreement on science but differing views on other factors/considerations.

Future of Codex⁵.

8. CCEXEC85 (2023) agreed that rather than develop a blueprint for the future of Codex, it was more appropriate to use the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 to guide the future direction of Codex and to consider, in parallel, a working model for future Codex work; and that the document (i.e. CX/EXEC 23/85/3, Appendix II) describing the key elements of a model for future Codex work remained a living document that should be periodically reviewed in light of experiences and learnings.
9. CAC46 (2023) endorsed the conclusions of CCEXEC85 regarding matters pertaining to the blueprint on the future of Codex.

Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031⁶

10. CAC47 (2024):
 - adopted the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031; and
 - noted that the Codex Secretariat would present a monitoring framework at CCEXEC88 (July 2025) for review, and that comments on the revised version of the monitoring framework would then be sought from Members and Observers through a Circular Letter with the aim of submitting a final version to CAC48 (November 2025) for approval.

New Food Sources and Production Systems (NFPS)⁷

11. CAC46 (2023) highlighted the importance of addressing challenges posed by NFPS and the important role Codex could play in this, noted that the current working mechanisms were adequate to address any new work on NFPS that Members might propose, and encouraged Members to submit discussion papers or new work proposals, either to active Codex committees or to the Executive Committee through the Codex Secretariat.

Regional standards⁸

12. CCEXEC85 (2023) in addressing the challenges with application of the criteria for regional standards in the context of regional needs, indicated that regardless of whether a commodity was traded internationally or not, a proposal for new work for either a regional or worldwide standard could be submitted from Regional Coordinating Committees (RCCs) to CCEXEC for critical review, and to CAC for final approval and decision on the nature of the standard and by whom it should be developed.
13. CCEXEC85 also indicated that RCCs (and proponents of new work) should prepare well researched and complete discussion papers/proposals for new work, which would facilitate the role of CCEXEC and enable it to advise CAC accordingly on a possible way forward.

Practical guidelines for new work proposals and Handbook on Electronic Working Groups (EWGs)⁹

14. CCEXEC87 (2024) encouraged Members to respond to committees’ Circular Letters seeking proposals for new work and prioritization of compounds for evaluation, within the deadlines set out in those Circular Letters.
15. CCEXEC87 welcomed the Codex Secretariat’s plans to develop practical guidelines for Members on the development of new work proposals and proposed that:
 - the guidelines should encourage: development of group commodity standards; the drafting of commodity standards so as to facilitate future enlargement of their scope by adding similar products;

⁴ REP23/CAC paragraph 194(ii)

⁵ REP23/EXEC2 paragraph 38; REP23/CAC paragraphs 7-8

⁶ REP23/EXEC1 paragraph 115; REP23/EXEC2 paragraphs 54(i)(a); REP24/CAC paragraph 214(ii, iii)

⁷ REP23/CAC paragraph 206

⁸ REP23/EXEC2 paragraph 92(ii)

⁹ REP24/EXEC paragraph 64(i) and 82(i); REP24/CAC paragraph 22(ii & iii)

and a review of standards that may have been developed by other organizations for commodities for which there was established international trade;

- the Codex Secretariat engages with Members through the forthcoming FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to build awareness of the development of these guidelines, and also the Handbook on Electronic Working Groups (EWGs), and seek input on issues that Members would wish to see included in these guidelines.

16. CAC47 (2023) welcomed the publication of the Handbook on EWGs, and encouraged its use noted the ongoing work on developing a practical guide on the preparation of new work proposals, noting the opportunities for Members to provide input.

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

16th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF16)¹⁰

17. CCCF16 (2023) agreed to retain scopoletin in the priority list and to call upon Codex Members concerned to generate and submit data to support the conduct of the safety evaluation by JECFA.

26th Session of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and certification (CCFICS26)¹¹

18. CCFICS26 (2023) agreed to inform other Codex Committees about the ongoing review and update of the *Principles for Traceability / Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System* (CXG 60-2006).

33rd Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP33)¹²

19. CCGP33 (2023) agreed to inform other Codex committees of the ongoing work to update Section 2, Procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards and related texts, Part 7 of the Codex Procedural Manual to better align with current practices in Codex and international publishing standards.

42nd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS42)¹³

20. CCMAS42 (2023) endorsed:

- the methods of analysis for scopoletin and for deacetylasperulosidic acid as Type IV; and
- AOAC 983.17 / EN 12143 / IFUMA 8 / ISO 2173 for brix value (soluble solids) as Type IV as they were determined to be identical at CCMAS41 and to wait for the completion of the International Fruit and Vegetable Juice Association (IFU)-led study to reconsider the typing of the method.¹⁴

21. CCMAS42 agreed to:

- inform relevant Codex committees of the revised *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004) and request these committees to review their sampling plans in light of the revised Guidelines; and to remind Committees that sampling plans should be developed as needed in compliance with the *General Guidelines on Sampling* and not by reference to CXG 50-2004.

43rd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS43)¹⁵

22. CCMAS43 (2024) agreed to:

- forward the document titled "Nitrogen to protein conversion factors" for adoption as an Annex to CXS 234-1999 by CAC47;
- inform the relevant commodity committees about the "Nitrogen to Protein Conversion Factor" document and remind them that it was their responsibility to identify and report the proposed nitrogen conversion factors to CCMAS to facilitate the endorsement process; and
- recommend that relevant commodity committees consider revoking nitrogen to protein conversion factors (Nx) values in their commodity standards;

23. However, CAC47 (2024) returned the Annex to CXS 234-1999 on "Nitrogen to protein conversion factors"

¹⁰ REP23/CF16 paragraph 133(v)

¹¹ REP23/FICS paragraph 117(c); REP23/CAC paragraph 87

¹² REP23/GP paragraphs 69(iv)

¹³ REP23/MAS paragraphs 29 and 81(ii)

¹⁴ See REP21/MAS paragraph 13 for information on the IFU-led study.

¹⁵ REP24/MAS paragraph 76; REP24/CAC paragraph 91

to CCMAS and requested CCMAS to make necessary updates and ensure consistency of nitrogen to protein conversion factors (Nx) with those in commodity standards and resubmit the Annex to CAC for adoption in the future.

54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54)¹⁶

24. In line with the recommendation of CCFH54 (2024), CAC47 adopted at Step 5/8 the Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food and encouraged the relevant FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to review their respective texts on street vended foods to ensure consistency with CXC 1-1969 and the Guidelines and consider the necessary follow-up action (e.g., revision), in line with the request of CCFH54.

48th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL48)¹⁷

25. CCFL48 (2024) agreed to inform all committees to take note of the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods* (CXS 1-1985) and the *General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods* (CXS 346-2021) and strive to follow the format, the terminology and the flow to avoid redundancy for any future labelling provisions.

MATTERS FOR ACTION

42nd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS42)¹⁸

26. CCMAS42 (2023) did not endorse the revised standard operating procedure (SOP) for the identification of kavalactones and flavokavains in fresh and dried kava products by high-performance thin layer chromatography (HPTLC) in the *Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as a Beverage when Mixed with Water* (CXS 33R-2020) due to the lack of description of how the final determination is to be made; and requested CCNASWP to provide further edits to address the lack of instruction on the final determination steps and assessment against a specification.

RECOMMENDATIONS

27. CCNASWP17 is invited to:

- a) note the matters for information arising from CAC, CCEXEC, CCCF, CCGP, CCMAS, CCFH, CCFICS, and CCFL; and
- b) encourage Codex Members to:
 - i) actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions in CCEXEC and CAC including by responding to Circular Letters from Codex Committees and the Codex Secretariat;
 - ii) submit discussion papers or new work proposals on NFPS using existing mechanisms available in Codex; and
- c) in response to the request from CCMAS42, provide further edits to address the lack of instruction on the final determination steps and assessment against a specification in the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the identification of kavalactones and flavokavains in fresh and dried kava products by high-performance thin layer chromatography (HPTLC) in the *Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as a Beverage when Mixed with Water* (CXS 33R-2020).

¹⁶ REP24/FH paragraphs 169-170, REP24/CAC paragraph 54 and 60

¹⁷ REP24/FL paragraph 27

¹⁸ REP23/MAS REP23/MAS paragraph 30