



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 3

CX/AFRICA 25/25/3
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fifth Session

Kampala, Uganda

27- 31 January 2025

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Standards and related texts adopted by the Commission¹

1. CAC45 (2022) adopted the:

- *Regional Standard for dried meat* at Step 8 noting that the standard would be published after endorsement of the of relevant provisions for additives and labelling by CCFA and CCFL, respectively.
- *Guidelines for Developing Harmonized Food Safety Legislation for the CCAFRICA Region* at Steps 5/8; and
- revised labelling provisions for non-retail containers in the *Regional standard for unrefined shea butter* (CXS 325R-2017), the *Regional standard for fermented cooked cassava based products* (CXS 334R-2020) and the *Regional standard for fresh leaves of Gnetum spp.* (CXS 335R-2020).

Appointments and elections²

2. CAC45 (2022) re-appointed Uganda as Coordinator for Africa to hold office from the end of CAC45 until the end of the first regular session of the Commission following the next session of CCAFRICA (i.e. CAC48, 2025).
3. CAC46 (2023) elected Morocco as the Member of the Executive Committee on a geographic basis for CCAFRICA, for the period from the end of CAC46 to the end of the second succeeding regular session of the Commission (CAC48, 2025).

Codex budgetary and financial matters³

4. CAC46 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.
- urged Members to advocate with their government representatives to FAO and WHO for adequate funding for the Codex programme.

5. CAC47 reiterated the need for additional and sustainable funding for Codex to address identified key areas of critical work and urged Members to advocate for additional funding at FAO Council and WHO Governing Bodies to address the non-recurring unfunded requirements.

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

6. 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

¹ REP22/CAC paragraph 149

² REP22/CAC paragraph 215; REP23/CAC paragraph 222

³ REP23/CAC, paragraph 214(v, vii); REP24/CAC paragraph 200 (iv) and (v)

⁴ REP23/CAC, paragraph 194 (ii)

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.

7. 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.
8. CAC46 (2023) endorsed the conclusions of CCEXEC85 regarding matters pertaining to the blueprint on the future of Codex.

Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031⁶

9. CCEXEC84 (2023), CCEXEC85 (2023), CCEXEC86 and CCEXEC87 (2024) discussed the draft of the elements to be included in the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and recommended its adoption by CAC47.
10. CAC47:
 - i. adopted the draft Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031; and
 - ii. noted that the Codex Secretariat would present a monitoring framework at CCEXEC88 for review, and that comments on the revised version of the monitoring framework would then be sought from Members and Observers through a CL with the aim of submitting a final version to CAC48 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.

New standards or review of standards and guidelines⁹

14. At the request of the WHO representative, CCEXEC83 (2022) agreed to request that Codex committees, when prioritizing and undertaking work on new standards or the review of standards and guidelines relating to composition of foods, have due regard to ongoing global efforts to achieve health and nutrition related goals through reducing non-communicable diseases (NCD) risk factors such as sodium intake.

Guidelines for new work proposals¹⁰

15. CCEXEC87 welcomed the Codex Secretariat’s plans to develop practical guidelines for Members on the development of new work proposals and proposed:
 - i. 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; and a review of standards that may have been developed by other organizations for commodities for

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

⁶ REP23/EXEC1, paragraph 115; REP23/EXEC2, paragraphs 54(i) (a), and REP24/CAC, paragraph 213

⁷ REP23/CAC, paragraph 206

⁸ REP23/EXEC2, paragraph 92(ii)

⁹ REP22/EXEC2, paragraph 154 (v)

¹⁰ REP24/EXEC1, paragraphs 63-79; REP24/EXEC2 paragraph 64 (i); REP24/CAC Paragraph 22 (ii & iii)

which there is established international trade;

- ii. that 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 EWGs, and seek input on issues that Members would wish to see included in these guidelines.
16. CCEXEC87 encouraged Members to respond to committees' Circular Letters seeking proposals for new work and prioritisation of compounds for evaluation, within the deadlines set out in those Circular Letters.
 17. CAC47 welcomed the publication of the Handbook on EWGs and encouraged its use and 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

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 sampling¹³

Methods of analysis and sampling for provisions in the *Standard for Dried Meat* (CXS 350-2022)

CCMAS42 agreed:

- to endorse the methods of analysis (Appendix II, Part 1);
- to request CCAFRICA whether the removal, from CXS 350-2022, of AOAC 935.47 and AOAC 939.09b for determination of chloride was deliberate or if the methods should have been retained as Type III. CCMAS41 had requested CCAFRICA to identify one Type II method from the multiple methods submitted for the determination of chloride and to retain the rest of the methods as Type III4; and
- to not endorse the sampling plan in CXS 350-2022 and to request CCAFRICA to develop a sampling plan in accordance with the revised General Guidelines on Sampling (CXG 50-2005).
- 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 a reference to CXG 50.

43rd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and sampling¹⁴

Nitrogen to protein conversion factors: Annex to the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999)

CCMAS43 agreed to:

- i. forward the document titled "Nitrogen to protein conversion factors" (Nx) for adoption as an Annex to CXS 234-1999 by CAC47.
- ii. 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.
- iii. recommend that relevant commodity committees consider revoking Nx values in their commodity standards.

Note: CAC47 did not adopt the Annex to CXS 234 due to the need for its further update.

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

¹² REP23/GP, paragraphs 69(iv)

¹³ REP23/MAS, paragraph 26

¹⁴ REP24/MAS, paragraph 76

54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54)¹⁵

20. CAC46 in approving new work on the development of guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food to be developed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), requested CCFH to carefully consider the relationship between the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969), these new guidelines and the regional guidelines/codes of practice on street vended foods which includes the *Regional Guidelines for the Design of Control Measures for Street-Vended Foods (Africa)* (CXC 22R-1997).
21. CCFH54 agreed to forward the proposed draft guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8. Following adoption of this text by CAC47 (2024) and recalling the recent revision of CXC 1-1969 by CAC45 (2022), CCFH54 requested 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 for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for foods and consider the necessary follow-up action (e.g. revision or revocation).
22. 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. Para 54 and 60

48th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL48)¹⁶

23. CCFL48 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 the redundancy for any future labelling provisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

24. CCAFRICA is invited to:

- a) note the matters for information arising from CAC, CCEXEC, CCFICS, CCFL and CCGP.
- b) encourage Codex Members to: (i) actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions in CCEXEC and CAC (e.g. sharing experience on application of the draft guidance on SoP; and (ii) submit discussion papers or new work proposals on NFPS using existing mechanisms available in Codex; iii) to respond to CLs from Codex Committees and the Codex Secretariat; and
- c) Provide responses to CCMAS on the questions related to the methods AOAC 935.47 and AOAC 939.09b for determination of chloride should be included in CXS 350-2022; and the sampling plans.
- d) Agree on an approach to review the *Regional Guidelines for the Design of Control Measures for Street-Vended Foods (Africa)* (CXG 22R-1997) to ensure consistency with CXC 1-1969 and the new guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for foods and provide recommendations for next steps or consequential changes to CXG 22R-1997 to CCAFRICA.

¹⁵ REP24/FH, paragraphs 169-170, REP24/CAC paragraph 54 and 60

¹⁶ REP24/FL, paragraph 27