



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Ninetieth Session

WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

29 June – 3 July 2026

CRITICAL REVIEW - PART VI

(new work proposals)

Note: For general information about the critical review, please see CX/EXEC 26/90/3. For each of the subsidiary bodies that has met between October 2025 and May 2026, a separate appendix on issues for the critical review is included in CX/EXEC 26/90/3, CX/EXEC 26/90/3 Add.1, CX/EXEC 26/90/3 Add.2, or CX/EXEC 26/90/3 Add.3.

Introduction

1. Among the roles of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC) is to assist in the management of the Commission's standardization work. One important aspect of this is conducting a critical review of the proposals to undertake new work or to revise a Codex text.
2. This document is a compilation of new work proposals that are being submitted for approval by the 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49) from subsidiary bodies that have met between October 2025 and May 2026 (Table 1) as well as three new work proposals submitted by Members since CAC48 (Table 2). The proposals are being presented in this compiled format to provide an overarching view to support CCEXEC in assist the Commission it its consideration of new work proposals.
3. All the new work proposals are available in English, French and Spanish and can be accessed [here](#).

New work proposals submitted by active subsidiary bodies for approval by CAC49

4. Table 1 provides an overview of all new work proposals submitted by active Codex subsidiary bodies between October 2025 and May 2026, and includes the relevant references, including where to find the project documents.
5. The six new work proposals for consideration by CAC49 arising from Codex subsidiary bodies include proposals for new food additive provisions, three revisions to one commodity standard, and two priority lists for evaluation by relevant expert committees.

New work proposals not falling under the purview of an active subsidiary bodies

6. Table 2 presents three new work proposals submitted by Members directly to the Codex Secretariat as they do not fall under the terms of reference of an active Codex subsidiary body.

A. Proposal for development of a standard for cashew kernels

7. At CAC48 (2025), under the agenda item "Other business", India presented a new work proposal on the development of a standard for cashew kernels.¹ It was highlighted that the new work had been approved by CAC44 (2017) and had received further support from coordinating committees, but the work had been stalled because the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) had been adjourned *sine die* by CAC43 (2020).
8. CAC48 noted the ongoing interest in this area of work and that, given the recent designation of a new host for CCPFV, the transition period needed, and that there would be further consideration of CCPFV's terms of reference (ToR) at CAC49, it would be premature to take any decision to change the status of the committee at CAC48.

¹ CAC48/CRD23

9. CAC48 recommended that a circular letter (CL) be issued to seek comments from Members and Observers to facilitate consideration of the new work proposal by CCEXEC90 and CAC49.
10. CL 2026/23-CAC was issued in February 2026 seeking comments from Members and Observers on the proposal for development of a Codex standard for cashew kernels. The CL included, as an Appendix, the project document for this proposed new work.
11. The comments received in response to CL 2026/23-CAC are collated in CX/CAC 26/49/12 Add.1.

B. Proposal for the development of a group standard for flours from roots and tubers

12. At CAC48, under the agenda item "Other business", Nigeria presented three new work proposals on the development of standards for yam flour, high quality cassava flour and sweet potato flour.²
13. CAC48 noted the strong interest in this area of work, but that the proposals had not undergone review, including a critical review. It was also noted that the relationship between the *Standard for edible cassava flour* (CXS 176-1989) and the proposed standards needed to be established, and that CCEXEC recommended a horizontal approach to commodity standards, and further consideration needed to be given to possible grouping of these flours.
14. CAC48 recommended that Nigeria, together with interested Members, review and update the new work proposal.
15. Following CAC48, Nigeria has prepared a discussion paper and a project document on the development of a group standard for flours from roots and tubers. CL 2026/26-CAC was issued in May 2026, in accordance with the recommendation of CAC48, to solicit comments from Members and Observers to facilitate consideration of the new work proposal by CCEXEC90 and CAC49. The discussion paper and project document are contained in Appendices I and II of CL 2026/26-CAC, respectively.
16. The comments received in response to CL 2026/26-CAC are collated in CX/CAC 26/49/12 Add.2.

C. Proposal for the development of principles for the risk analysis of new food sources and production systems (NFPS)

17. The European Union (EU) submitted a new work proposal on the development of principles for the risk analysis of new food sources and production systems (NFPS) to the Codex Secretariat in 2025, for discussion by CCEXEC89 and CAC48, noting that no active Codex subsidiary body had been identified for which the new work proposal could be sent for further consideration.³
18. CCEXEC89 recommended that general comments be sought on the new work proposal, and that the new work proposal be revised accordingly, following which inputs could be sought through a CL on the needs and gaps to facilitate further consideration of the proposed new work.
19. CAC48:
 - i. noted the interest in NFPS and highlighted the need for a review and further development of the new work proposal, in particular with regard to the scope and definition of NFPS;
 - ii. noted that a gap analysis should be conducted and the experiences of Members should be solicited to clearly establish the gaps in the risk analysis of NFPS to avoid duplication and inconsistency;
 - iii. requested the EU to revise the new work proposal taking into consideration the comments made at CCEXEC89 and CAC48;
 - iv. in line with an inclusive approach, requested the Codex Secretariat, upon receipt of the revised new work proposal, to issue a CL to seek the comments of Members and Observers to facilitate a further consideration of the new work proposal; and
 - v. highlighted that further consideration of the new work proposal should not delay the consideration of other work on NFPS in Codex subsidiary bodies.
20. Following CAC48, the EU has revised the discussion paper with the gap analysis and project document on the development of principles for the risk analysis of NFPS. CL 2026/44-CAC was issued in May 2026 to solicit comments from Members and Observers to facilitate consideration of the new work proposal by CCEXEC90 and CAC49. The discussion paper and project document are contained in Appendices I and II of CL 2026/44-CAC, respectively.
21. The comments received in response to CL 2026/44-CAC are collated in CX/CAC 26/49/12 Add.3.

² CAC48/CRD22

³ CX/CAC 25/48/10, Appendix II

Recommendations

22. CCEXEC90 is invited to:

- i. review the proposals for new work for development or revision of standards as well as priority lists submitted since October 2025 (Table 1 and Table 2), taking into account the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and the *Codex Procedural Manual's* Criteria for the establishment of work priorities (Section 2.3) and Criteria for the establishment of subsidiary bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Section 2.2), and the required supporting work of independent risk assessment;
- ii. make recommendations to CAC49 regarding the approval of new works; and
- iii. highlight as appropriate areas of high priority, issues related to work management within existing committees and provide guidance on how to proceed with any recommended new work areas where there may be no obvious active committee.

Table 1: Proposals to undertake new work or revise a standard submitted by active subsidiary bodies that have met between October 2025 and May 2026⁴

Note: These proposals are available in English, French and Spanish and can be accessed [here](#).

| Committee /Proposer | New work proposal | Reference and project document | Explanatory Notes |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CCFO29 | Revision of the <i>Standard for named vegetable oils</i> (CXS 210-1999) to include Shea butter | REP26/FO, paragraph 144(i), Appendix V | The <i>Regional standard for shea butter</i> (Africa) (CXS 325R-2017) already exists, and this was acknowledged during the discussions on the proposed new work, and CCFO29 agreed to inform CCAFRICA accordingly. Furthermore, CCAFRICA may, potentially be requested to review the need for CXS 325R-2017 once this new work is completed. |
| CCFO29 | Revision of the <i>Standard for named vegetable oils</i> (CXS 210-1999) to adjust stearic acid content for high oleic acid sunflower seed oil | REP26/FO, paragraph 159(i), Appendix VI | The proposal involves only a change to a single value in CXS 210-1999. However, it was considered that that additional evidence, experiences and data from other Members would be useful. Hence if approved the Codex Secretariat has been requested to issue a CL to collect views on the proposed lower value for stearic acid content and data and information to support this or another lower minimum value on stearic acid in high oleic acid sunflower seed oil. |
| CCFO29 | Revision of the <i>Standard for named vegetable oils</i> (CXS 210-1999) to include sea buckthorn pulp oil and sea buckthorn seed oil | REP26/FO, paragraph 169(i), Appendix VII | - |
| CCRVDF28 | Priority list of veterinary drugs for approval by CAC49 | REP26/RVDF28, paragraph 170(i), | - |

⁴ No new work proposals were submitted from the 8th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8), the 55th session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH55), the 45th session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS45), the 37th session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP37) and the 49th session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL49).

| Committee /Proposer | New work proposal | Reference and project document | Explanatory Notes |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Appendix VIII (Parts I, IV and V) | |
| CCFA56 | Priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA | REP26/FA, paragraph 146(i) and Appendix XI | - |
| CCFA56 | Proposed draft food additive provisions of the <i>General standard for food additives</i> (CXS 192-1995) | REP26/FA, paragraph 120(iv) and Appendix IX | - |

Table 2: Proposals to undertake new work or revise a standard submitted by a Member directly to the Codex Secretariat

| Committee /Proposer | New work proposal | Reference and project document |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| India | The development of a standard for cashew kernels | CL 2026/23-CAC, Appendix |
| Nigeria | The development of a group standard for roots and tubers flour | CL 2026/26-CAC, Appendix II |
| European Union | The development of principles for the risk analysis of new food sources and production systems (NFPS) | CL 2026/44-CAC, Appendix II |