



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty-ninth Session

#### CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

6-10 July 2026

### OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

#### Introduction

1. This document addresses matters that do not fall under other agenda items. On this occasion, the following seven matters (A to H) are presented to the 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49) for consideration:
  - A. Revised terms of reference (ToR) of the Joint electronic working group (joint EWG) of the Codex Committees on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) and Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) (CX/CAC 26/49/14 Add.1) including draft provisional agenda for the joint virtual session of CCPR and CCRVDF;
  - B. the use of country of harvest in food labelling of spices (CX/CAC 26/49/14 Add.2);
  - C. terms of reference (ToR) for the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) (CX/CAC 26/49/14 Add.3);
  - D. ToR for the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP);
  - E. working practices for the incorporation and endorsement of food additive provisions for commodity and coordinating committees;
  - F. sampling plans for histamine for fish and fishery product commodity standards;
  - G. guidance on integrating the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) texts into commodity standards; and
  - H. draft maximum residue limits (MRLs) for recombinant bovine somatotropins (rbSTs).

#### Matters to be considered

##### **A. JOINT ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUP OF THE CODEX COMMITTEES ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES (CCPR) AND RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS (CCRVDF)**

2. A virtual meeting of the joint CCPR and CCRVDF electronic working group (jJoint EWG) was held on 28-29 April 2026, and the report of the virtual meeting of the Joint EWG (hereafter referred to as the “virtual working group (VWG)”) will be published on the joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG website<sup>1</sup> for information in due course.
3. CX/CAC 26/49/14 Add.1 provides a summary of the activities of the Joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG undertaken following CAC48 and recommendations for CAC49.
4. In particular, the VWG requested CAC49 to amend its terms of reference by including a new task. In addition, a joint virtual session of CCPR and CCRVDF will be scheduled following the VWG, as endorsed by CAC48. For this purpose, the Joint EWG was requested to prepare a draft provisional agenda for the session. The draft provisional agenda is presented in Annex 1 of CX/CAC 26/49/14 Add.1 for consideration and approval by CAC49.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/en/?committee=CCPR-CCRVDF>

## Recommendations

5. CAC49 is invited to:
  - i. note that:
    - a. the Joint EWG has held a virtual meeting from 28-29 April 2026 in accordance with the endorsement of CAC48;
    - b. the recommendations on the harmonization of MRLs and food descriptors will be considered by the joint virtual session of CCPR and CCRVDF in order to make recommendations for adoption by CAC50 (2027); and
    - c. the full report of the virtual meeting of the Joint EWG will be available on the dedicated CCPR/CCRVDF webpage;
  - ii. approve the new task for the Joint EWG and include it in the revised terms of reference of the Joint EWG; and
  - iii. approve the draft provisional agenda for the joint virtual session of CCPR and CCRVDF as indicated in Annex 1.

## B. THE USE OF COUNTRY OF HARVEST IN FOOD LABELLING OF SPICES

6. The use of country of harvest (COH) in the labelling of spices and culinary herbs has been discussed in several sessions of both the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) and the Codex Committee on Food labelling (CCFL).
7. CCFL48 (2024) had discussed the request by CCSCH for the endorsement of the labelling provisions on COH in the *Standard for dried floral parts – Saffron* (CXS 351-2022). However, CCFL48 was unable to reach consensus to endorse mandatory declaration of COH and thus referred the matter to CCEXEC87 (2024) and CAC47 (2024) for consideration.
8. CCEXEC87 (2024) recognized the need for a solution that was inclusive, timely and resource efficient, and made several recommendations to CAC47 for consideration.
9. CAC47 agreed: a) to use a circular letter (CL) to seek potential solutions regarding the use of COH in food labelling of spices; b) to establish an EWG jointly chaired by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Canada and co-chaired by India and Madagascar, to review the information gathered from the comments to the CL as well as discussions in CCSCH, CCFL and CAC47 and provide potential options. The comments submitted in response to CL 2025/07-FL were shared with both the EWG chairs and CCSCH for consideration as directed by CAC.
10. CCFL49 (2026) discussed the use of COH in the labelling of spices, endorsed the revised recommendations as presented the CCFL Chairperson and agreed to inform CAC on the outcome of the discussions. CCFL recommended that CAC share the nine conclusions, as agreed by CCFL49, with CCSCH, to be used as guiding principles by CCSCH when determining origin-related labelling provisions for SCH commodities.
11. CCFL49 also forwarded the final agreed draft labelling provisions for Section 8.2: "Country of origin and country of harvest" in the *Standard for dried floral parts – Saffron* (CXS 351-2022) for consideration by CAC with a view to address the outstanding provisions on country of origin (COO) and COH in CXS 351-2022.
12. The final agreed draft provisions for Section 8.2 in the *Standard for dried floral parts – Saffron* (CXS 351-2022) read as follows:

### 8.2 Country of origin and country of harvest

- a) 8.2.1 Country of origin shall be declared.\*
- b) 8.2.2 Region of harvest and year of harvest (optional).

\*Footnote: for this standard the country of origin is the same as the country of harvest.

## Recommendations

13. CAC49 is invited to:
  - i. note the nine conclusions agreed by CCFL49 in CX/CAC 26/49/14 Add.2;
  - ii. consider forwarding them to CCSCH to facilitate future deliberations on similar issues of COO and COH; and
  - iii. adopt the proposed provisions presented in paragraph 12 above for Section 8.2 in the *Standard for dried floral parts – Saffron* (CXS 351-2022).

**C. TOR FOR THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (CCPFV)**

14. CAC48 (2025), in connection with the change in the designated country responsible for CCPFV, agreed to review the ToR of CCPFV at CAC49.<sup>2</sup>
15. CX/CAC 26/49/14 Add.3 provides a discussion paper on the review of the ToR for CCPFV as prepared by the Republic of Korea, CCPFV Secretariat and the Codex Secretariat.

**Recommendations**

16. CAC49 is invited to consider the recommendations contained in CX/CAC 26/49/14 Add.3 paragraph 27.

**D. TOR FOR THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS (CCFFP)<sup>3</sup>**

17. CCFFP36 (2024) had discussed a proposal for the inclusion of “seaweed” in the ToR of CCFFP and informed CAC47 (2024) of the considerable interest in future Codex work on seaweed and other algae.<sup>4</sup>
18. At CCFFP37 (2026), FAO proposed a change of the ToR and the name of CCFFP, emphasizing that in light of the significant transformation the global fisheries and aquaculture sector was undergoing, it was considered timely and strategic to start discussion on revising the ToR of CCFFP, and consequently, and depending on the decision regarding the ToR, also the name of CCFFP.<sup>5</sup>
19. CCFFP37 agreed to inform CCEXEC90 and CAC49 of:

- i. CCFFP37’s consideration of the need for revising the ToR for CCFFP to better reflect the growing role of aquaculture products in the global aquatic food supply and consequently also the name of CCFFP.
- ii. CCFFP37’s proposal for a slightly revised ToR for CCFFP:  
 “To elaborate worldwide standards for live, fresh, frozen (incl. quick frozen) or otherwise processed aquatic food products.”

**Recommendations**

20. CAC49 is invited to:
  - i. note CCFFP37’s consideration of the need for revising the ToR for CCFFP; and
  - ii. consider endorsing the proposed revision of the ToR of CCFFP 37 to be inclusive of all aquatic food products, as follows “To elaborate worldwide standards for live, fresh, frozen (incl. quick frozen) or otherwise processed aquatic food products”.

**E. WORKING PRACTICES FOR THE INCORPORATION AND ENDORSEMENT OF FOOD ADDITIVE PROVISIONS FOR COMMODITY AND COORDINATING COMMITTEES<sup>6</sup>**

21. When considering food additive provisions in commodity standards, the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) normally focuses its discussions on the following two processes: i) endorsement of food additive provisions in the draft standards; ii) alignment of food additives provisions in adopted standards with the *General standard for food additives* (GSFA, CXS 192-1995). CCFA has historically treated alignment of food additives provisions in adopted commodity standards and endorsement of food additives provisions in draft commodity standards as separate processes. Alignment was undertaken retrospectively to harmonize existing standards with the GSFA, while endorsement served as an immediate review step to approve draft food additive provisions prior to CAC adoption. This approach, at times, resulted in inefficiencies and temporary inconsistencies between commodity standards and the GSFA.
22. Following discussions over several sessions, CCFA56 (2026) adopted the new working practices as the basis for avoiding future divergence between food additive provisions in the GSFA, commodity standards, and other related Codex texts. From now on, the endorsement and alignment processes will be undertaken concurrently. The new working practices have been published on the Codex website as an information document for reference<sup>7</sup>.
23. In addition, CCFA56 agreed to:
  - i. include, in future CCFA sessions, a dedicated agenda item on incorporation and endorsement of food additive (and processing aid) provisions in Codex standards (under agenda item on the GSFA).

<sup>2</sup> REP25/CAC, paragraph 184

<sup>3</sup> REP26/FFP, paragraph 121

<sup>4</sup> REP24/FFP, paragraph 41

<sup>5</sup> FFP37/CRD04

<sup>6</sup> REP26/FA, paragraph 169, Appendix XIV

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/codexalimentarius/committee/docs/INF\\_CCFA\\_WPe.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/committee/docs/INF_CCFA_WPe.pdf)

- ii. use the communication and engagement plan (CX/FA 26/56/12 Appendix II) to support both initial implementation and ongoing application of the working practices.

### Recommendations

24. CAC49 is invited to:

- i. note the new working practices for the incorporation and endorsement of food additive provisions for commodity and coordinating committees;
- ii. encourage Members with relevant expertise in the work of CCFA to support the implementation of the new working practices; and
- iii. encourage commodity and coordinating committees to implement the working practice in an effective and consistent manner.

### F. SAMPLING PLANS FOR HISTAMINE FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCT COMMODITY STANDARDS<sup>8</sup>

- 25. As the 44th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS44, 2025) completed its work on an information document to support implementation of the *General guidelines on sampling* (CXG 50-2004) and relevant tools,<sup>9</sup> CCFH55 discussed the outstanding work on sampling plans for histamine for 11 commodity standards on fish and fishery products, which had previously been suspended pending updates from the CCMAS.
- 26. The 55th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH55, 2025) requested CAC49 to return the work to develop the appropriate sampling plans for histamine for the 11 commodity standards on fish and fishery products to CCFFP; and inform CCFFP of this request, as well as the existing work of CCFH and the related EWG<sup>10</sup> reports on this issue.<sup>11</sup>
- 27. CCFFP<sup>12</sup> confirmed that subject to the decision of CAC49, CCFFP would be prepared to develop appropriate sampling plans for histamine for the 11 commodity standards for fish and fishery products as requested by CCFH55.

### Recommendations

- 28. CAC49 is invited to decide whether to return the work to develop the appropriate sampling plans for histamine for the 11 fish and fishery product commodity standards to CCFFP.

### G. GUIDANCE ON INTEGRATING THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS (CCFICS) TEXTS INTO COMMODITY STANDARDS<sup>13</sup>

- 29. Noting section 2.6. "Format for Codex committee standards" in the *Codex Procedural Manual*, CCSCH8 (2025) requested CCEXEC and CAC to consider providing further guidance on how CCFICS texts could be best integrated into commodity committee standards to provide for a more integrated approach to the inclusion of other fair trade related tools that can remind users of the food standards on how to address issues such as food fraud, traceability/product tracing among others.

### Recommendations

- 30. CAC49 is invited to consider how to address the request for guidance on if and how CCFICS texts could be integrated into commodity standards, taking into consideration the current format for commodity standards, and the nature of the texts developed by CCFICS, and make recommendations for the next steps.

### H. DRAFT MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS (MRLs) FOR RECOMBINANT BOVINE SOMATOTROPINS (rbSTs)<sup>14</sup>

- 31. CAC49 is invited to note that CAC38 (2015) had agreed to hold the draft MRLs for recombinant bovine somatotropins (rbSTs) at Step 8 to allow further time to facilitate a possible consensus and that the draft MRLs would continue to be on the agenda of the CAC and open to discussion.

<sup>8</sup> REP26/FH, paragraph 15

<sup>9</sup> Available at [https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/codexalimentarius/committee/docs/INF\\_DOC\\_MUe.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/codexalimentarius/committee/docs/INF_DOC_MUe.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> REP19/FH, paragraphs 40-47; CX/FH 18/50/6; CX/FH 18/50/6 Add 1; CX/FH 18/50/6 Add 2; FH50/CRD06

<sup>11</sup> REP26/FH, paragraph 15

<sup>12</sup> REP26/FFP, paragraph 87

<sup>13</sup> REP26/SCH, paragraph 26(ii)

<sup>14</sup> REP15/CAC, paragraph 62