

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda item 2

CX/EXEC 25/89/2
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

1. This document which is being presented to CCEXEC89, is a new agenda item as announced at CCEXEC88, which captures issues of relevance to CCEXEC not included under other agenda items. At CCEXEC88 some issues were included in the critical review documents and discussed although they were outside the scope of the critical review. These issues are also included in this document for completeness, but will not be discussed by CCEXEC89.
2. CCEXEC88 addressed relevant issues from the committees that met between January and May 2025. These issues appeared in the critical review documents for CCEXEC88, and are included below together with the decisions of CCEXEC88 (paragraphs 9-15 and 21-23) for completeness.

A. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC47)

3. CAC47 (2024) noted the discussions of CCEXEC86 and CCEXEC87 and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the respective reports.¹
4. CAC47 welcomed the publication of the Codex Electronic Working Groups handbook, and encouraged its use.²
5. CAC47 noted the ongoing work on developing a practical guide on the preparation of new work proposals, including the opportunities for Members to provide input.³
6. CAC47 agreed to retain the current practice of not webcasting meetings of the Executive Committee.⁴
7. CAC47 adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and 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 circular letter (CL) with the aim of CCEXEC89 submitting a final version to CAC48 for approval.⁵
8. CAC47 also addressed Codex budgetary and financial matters⁶, noting and endorsing the recommendations of CCEXEC87.

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES: GENERAL SUBJECT COMMITTEES AND COMMODITY COMMITTEES

Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, 23rd Session (CCFFV23)

9. CCFFV23 requested that CAC consider developing an actionable mentorship mechanism, including twinning programmes, to assist less active Members to take leadership roles in committee working groups.⁷

¹ REP24/CAC, paragraph 22(i)

² REP24/CAC, paragraph 22(ii)

³ REP24/CAC, paragraph 22(iii)

⁴ REP24/CAC, paragraph 238(ii)

⁵ REP24/CAC, paragraph 216(ii-iii)

⁶ REP24/CAC, paragraphs 200-202

⁷ REP25/FFV, paragraph 15(iv)

10. CCEXEC88 noted the relevance of an actionable mentorship mechanism but considered that responsibility for this was beyond CAC and encouraged consideration of this under the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) or other FAO and WHO programmes, resources permitting.⁸

Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes, 11th Session (CCCPL11)

11. CCCPL11 noted a proposal to revise the *Standard for wheat and durum wheat* (CXS 199-1995), which should include both the discussion paper and the project document, would be submitted for consideration at CCCPL12.⁹ However, as CCCPL's primary focus was to initiate the work on the development of a group standard on whole millet grains, CCCPL may require the authorization of CCEXEC and CAC for it to consider these new work proposals.¹⁰
12. CCEXEC88 noted the interest expressed by CCCPL in undertaking further new work within its terms of reference and recommended that CAC considers whether such work should be undertaken by the committee.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, 44th Session (CCMAS44)

13. CCMAS44 noted that with the review of methods of analysis in the *Recommended methods of analysis and sampling* (CXS 234-1999) and the corresponding commodity standards, issues might arise that pertain to clarifying the aim of provisions in commodity standards or where a proposal is made for amendments to a provision to better help identify or correspond to a method of analysis.
14. In this context, CCMAS44 requested CCEXEC to advise how communication with the relevant commodity committee can proceed when the committee is adjourned *sine die* or is no longer existing.¹¹
15. CCEXEC88:
- recognised this type of situation was not limited to CCMAS, but also possibly to other general subject committees (e.g. CCFL);
 - proposed that in the short term, that if the relevant committee was working by correspondence, CAC should request that the committee consider any questions from CCMAS or other general committees relating to existing standards, should the need arise;
 - requested the Codex Secretariat to consider other possible ways forward, such as consultations with FAO, expert groups or the like; and
 - noted that CCGP35 would continue discussing how to undertake a technical review of new work proposals for which there may not be a relevant existing or active committee, and these questions could also be considered as part of that review.¹²

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, 56th Session (CCPR56)

16. FAO and WHO presented CCPR56 with the reason for the delay in the publication of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) report and the actions being taken to address this, noting that some adjustment to scheduling may still be needed. Concerns were expressed with regard to the impact of the schedule on the timely adoption of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticide residues with an Observer stressing that growers, traders, food companies, and consumers relied on an efficient Codex process to enable the trade of safe food, and when significant delays were introduced, there would be substantial and systemic implications.¹³
17. CCPR56 noted that no mechanism had been identified to provide funding or human resource support to implement short-term measures to enhance the operational procedures of CCPR and JMPR, and therefore, requested CAC to reiterate to FAO and WHO and their governing bodies the critical importance of JMPR to support science-based establishment of pesticide MRLs in a timely and efficient manner and encourage them to ensure that JMPR has adequate resources to undertake its work.¹⁴ CCEXEC may wish to consider any observations or recommendations for the consideration of CAC48 in the context of the Strategic Goal 1 of the new Codex Strategic Plan, in particular Outcome 1.2 relating to scientific advice.

⁸ REP25/EXEC1, paragraph 22

⁹ REP25/CPL, paragraph 26

¹⁰ REP25/CPL, paragraph 2 and CX/EXEC 25/88/2 Add.1

¹¹ REP25/MAS, paragraphs 11(vi), 27, 70(i), 86(ii), 147; CX/EXEC 25/88/2 Add.2

¹² REP25/EXEC1, paragraph 38(i, ii, iv, v)

¹³ REP25/PR, paragraph 304

¹⁴ REP25/PR, paragraph 291(iii)

Joint electronic working group (EWG) for CCPR and Codex Committee on Veterinary Residues in Foods (CCRVDF)

18. CCPR56 indicated their continued support for the joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG.¹⁵
19. CCPR56 also endorsed scheduling a virtual session of the joint EWG that precedes a virtual joint session of CCPR and CCRVDF and encouraged Codex Members and Observers to:
 - participate in the possible virtual session of the joint EWG and possible virtual joint session of CCPR and CCRVDF; and
 - liaise with their veterinary (animal health) service counterparts to coordinate positions and actively participate in the work of the joint EWG, including providing replies to the CLs on harmonization of food descriptors and harmonization of MRLs for dual-use compounds when they became available.¹⁶
20. A report on the joint EWG is available in CX/CAC 25/48/12 Rev.1 which highlights the progress, challenges and proposed next steps on this novel means of working.

C. MATTERS ARISING FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES: FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEES

General matters

21. CCEXEC88 agreed to recommend CAC48 to endorse an amendment to the agenda of the FAO/WHO coordinating committees (RCCs) to include "Matters of interest to the region arising from regional and other international organizations".¹⁷

The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa, 25th Session (CCAFRICA25)

22. CCAFRICA25 agreed to:
 - inform CAC48 of the intention of CCAFRICA to amend the agenda for its session to include matters of interest to the region (Africa) arising from regional and other international organizations¹⁸;
 - advocate for support towards the work of Codex and food safety at the national level as well as to advocate for more resources for the CTF¹⁹;
 - recommend CAC48 to appoint the Gambia as the next Coordinator for Africa²⁰; and
 - commit to supporting the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031 and established an EWG to prepare an implementation workplan, identify a lead/responsible party for each activity as well as a reporting mechanism and adopted a related communications workplan 2025–2026.²¹

The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific, 17th Session (CCNASWP17)

23. CCNASWP17:
 - expressed concern over the funding situation of the CTF and encouraged the CTF Secretariat to continue pursuing donor engagement²²;
 - recommended CAC48 to appoint Cook Islands as the next Coordinator for North America and South West Pacific²³; and
 - noted the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031 and agreed on a workplan for the period 2025–2026 and a related communications workplan 2025–2026.²⁴

The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia, 23rd Session (CCASIA23)

24. CCASIA23:

¹⁵ REP25/PR, paragraph 301(i)

¹⁶ REP25/PR, paragraph 301(iv)

¹⁷ REP25/EXEC1, paragraph 13

¹⁸ REP25/AFRICA, paragraph 23(vii)

¹⁹ REP25/AFRICA, paragraph 27(iii)

²⁰ REP25/AFRICA, paragraph 70

²¹ REP25/AFRICA paragraphs 34 and 42

²² REP25/NASWP, paragraph 45

²³ REP25/NASWP, paragraphs 68–71

²⁴ REP25/NASWP, paragraphs 59 and 62

- noted a proposal to consider developing practical guidance on the application of existing Codex standards to a specific commodity, rather than elaborating a new commodity standard and agreed to undertake a gap analysis to better define scope and other aspects of possible future new work to be considered by the next session and take into consideration the forthcoming guidance on new work proposals²⁵;
- recommended CAC48 to re-appoint Japan as the coordinator for the Asia region²⁶; and
- endorsed the regional work plan and communications activities for 2026-2027 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031.²⁷

The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East, 12th Session (CCNE12)

25. CCNE12:

- noted the recommendation by CCEXEC88 to endorse an amendment to the agenda of RCCs to include an item on “matters of interest to the region arising from regional and other international organizations²⁸;
- recommended CAC48 to reappoint the Sultanate of Oman for a second term as Coordinator for the Near East²⁹; and
- endorsed the regional work plan and communications activities for 2026-2027 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and established an EWG to monitor progress, prioritize activities, refine as needed and report on workplan implementation.³⁰

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

26. CCEXEC89 is invited to note the information provided and provide guidance to CAC as appropriate.

²⁵ REP25/ASIA, paragraph 120

²⁶ REP25/ASIA, paragraph 129

²⁷ REP25/ASIA, paragraph 74(ii), 85(ii), Appendices II and VI

²⁸ REP25/NE, paragraph 17(v)

²⁹ REP25/NE, paragraph 96

³⁰ REP25/NE, paragraphs 80(ii), 86(i-ii), Appendices VI and VII