

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 7

CX/EXEC 25/89/7

October 2025

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION Eighty-ninth Session

APPLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR OBSERVER STATUS WITH CODEx

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat in collaboration with the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO)

1. The Executive Committee (CCEXEC) is hereby invited, in accordance with Rule IX.6 of the Rules of Procedure and the *Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission* ("the Principles"), to provide advice regarding the applications for Observer Status from the International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) neither having status with FAO nor official relations with WHO, as included in Annex I.
2. The Directors-General of FAO and WHO will decide whether the applicant organizations are to be granted observer status, taking into account all relevant information received from each applicant organization and the advice of the Executive Committee.
3. This document contains the following application:

Annex	Name
Annex 1	APAC-SCA Society for Cellular Agriculture

Other issues

4. The Codex Secretariat has been informed by six INGOs holding Observer Status with Codex that they have developed a charter of understanding establishing the "Joint Scientific Observer Collaboration Group (JSOCG)". The participating entities are the American Society for Nutrition, the AOAC International, the European Federation of the Associations of Dieticians, the International Life Sciences Institute, the Institute of Food Technologists and NSF International. The purpose of the JSOCG is the submission of joint comments and input to Codex.
5. In the communication provided by these INGOs, the group indicates that "this (group) in no way changes the independent status of any of the Observer organizations but rather sets out guidance as to when it makes sense for them to collaboratively comment on Codex proposals/actions".
6. Following careful consideration, it was noted that the JSOCG is not a legal entity but rather appears to serve as a coordination mechanism among the members of the group to allow for the provision of joint input and comments to Codex on certain topics, as the group members deem appropriate. As a result, the development of the charter does not affect the existing Observer Status of the members of the group. It was further noted that the involved INGOs generally intend to participate in Codex meetings individually and the submission of comments (e.g., comments in reply to circular letters) will remain a matter of internal coordination among the group's members, who will continue to be represented and listed under their own names in Codex meetings and documents.

7. Based on the above, it is also considered that this group is not subject to the double representation clause set out in Section 7.1, paragraph 24 of the *Codex Procedural Manual*, which applies only in situations where individual organizations holding Observer Status with Codex are members of a larger organization that also holds such status.

Recommendation

8. CCEXEC is invited to:
 - (i) provide advice regarding the applications included in Annex 1 of the present document; and
 - (ii) note the information submitted by the JSOCG and provide comments as considered necessary.

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY**(a) Official name of the organization in different languages (with initials)**

APAC Society for Cellular Agriculture (Abbr., APAC-SCA; English),

亚太地区细胞农业协会 (China),

아시아태평양 세포농업협회 (South Korea)

(b) Full postal address, Telephone, Facsimile and Email, as well as Telex and website addresses as appropriate.

a. 5 Senoko Road, #06-03, Singapore 758137

b. (+65) 8344 1072

c. info@apac-sca.org, peter@apac-sca.org

d. www.apac-sca.org (main), (APAC-SCA instigated / co-run cellular agriculture programmes) www.cellagforum.info, www.cellagstudent.com, www.cellagalliance.global

(c) Aims and subject fields (mandate) of organization, and methods of operation. (Enclose charter, constitution, by-laws, rules of procedures, etc.). Date of establishment

a. Date of establishment: 4 March 2022 (please see file attachment)

b. Constitution: (please see file attachment)

c. Aims and subject field (mandate), and method of operation:

- i. The Asia-Pacific Society for Cellular Agriculture (APAC-SCA) is a regional non-profit industry association (Registered in Singapore under the Registry of Societies), that represents stakeholders across the cellular agriculture sector, including cultivated meat and precision fermentation. Our aim is to advance the development, regulatory alignment, and responsible commercialization of innovative food systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

Our subject field encompasses scientific, technological, and regulatory issues related to the production of novel foods derived from cellular agriculture, including food safety, nutrition, labelling, and sustainability. We work to foster multilateral dialogue and evidence-based policymaking in partnership with regulators, academic institutions, and food producers.

APAC-SCA operates through a member-based governance structure, including a Board of Directors and thematic working groups that address specific areas such as food standards, public engagement, and cross-border regulatory coordination. Our methods of operation include the publication of technical briefs, the organization of expert panels and industry roundtables, members monthly meetings, and the coordination of regional initiatives to promote transparent and science-driven food policy.

(d) Member organizations (name and address of each national affiliate, method of affiliation, giving number of members where possible, and names of principal officers. If the organization has individual members, please indicate approximate number in each country. If the organization is of a federal nature and has International Non-Governmental Organizations as members, please indicate whether any of those members already enjoy observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission).

a. Gary Brenner, **Aleph Farms**, 1 Haim Holtzman Street, Rehovot, **Israel**, 7670401

b. Carrie Chan, **Avant Meats**, 14/F Manning House, 38-48 Queen's Road Central, Central, **Hong Kong**

c. Jay Hyeongun Jee, **DaNAgreen**, **South Korea**, Seoul, Seocho District, Donggwang-ro, 41 레디인빌딩 4층

- d. Yuki Hanyu, **IntegriCulture**, N101 3F TWIns 8-1 Kawadacho Shinjuku-ku Tokyo, 162-8666 **Japan**
- e. Jason Ng, **Cell Agritech**, 3014, Jalan Kelasah Bandar Seberang Jaya, 13700 Perai, Pulau Pinang, **Malaysia**
- f. Haruka Yamashita, **Kanadevia Bio Corp.**, 1-7-89 Nanko-kita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka, 559-0034, **Japan**, P.E.Jp,
- g. Nicolas Morin-Forest, **Gourmey**, 4 Rue Pierre Fontaine, 91058 Évry-Courcouronnes Cedex, **France**,
- h. Maiko van der Meer, **Meatable**, Emmy Noetherweg 2, 3rd Floor, Leiden, ZH 2333 BK, **Netherlands**,
- i. Heejae Lee, **SeaWith**, 17 Deogan-ro 104beon-gil Gwangmyeong-si, **South Korea**

Note: each participating member has 2-6 affiliated representatives for each company. The listed name is the main representative.

(e) Structure (assembly or conference; council or other form of governing body; type of general secretariat; commissions on special topics, if any; etc.).

Structure

APAC-SCA is governed by a multi-tiered structure designed to ensure representation, strategic direction, and operational execution across the Asia-Pacific region.

- **General Assembly:** Comprising all full members, the General Assembly meets Monthly to review the society's progress, elect board members (during yearly Annual General Meeting), and approve major initiatives and policy positions.
- **Executive Board (Council):** The Executive Board serves as the primary decision-making body and includes elected representatives from member countries and sectors. It oversees governance, financial management, and strategic planning.
- **Secretariat:** The General Secretariat is based in Singapore and is responsible for day-to-day operations, coordination of programs, regulatory engagement, and communication across working groups and international partners.
- **Thematic Commissions and Working Groups:** APAC-SCA operates commissions and expert working groups on specific topics such as regulatory frameworks, precision fermentation, cultivated meat, sustainability standards, and public engagement. These commissions convene technical experts from across the region and contribute to policy submissions, capacity-building efforts, and standard-setting consultations.
 - APAC-SCA founded and co-coordinates the APAC Regulatory Forum with approximately 10 countries represented, and 20-30 industry experts participating. Two white papers were produced in 2024 (Cell line development, and Cultured media), and two peer-reviewed papers are projected to be released in 2025 (New Approach Methodologies, and Microbiological Hazards for Novel foods). INFO: www.cellagforum.info

This structure enables APAC-SCA to operate as a coordinated regional body while maintaining agility and expertise in its focus areas.

(f) Indication of source of funding (e.g. membership contributions, direct funding, external contributions, or grants). APAC-SCA currently receives its main income from membership organisations on a yearly subscription-based cadence. APAC-SCA receives minor funds from programs including grants, or consultancy projects (including courses or marketing/events).

As a non-profit entity, APAC-SCA maintains independence from any single commercial entity and ensures balanced representation across the sector.

(g) Meetings (indicate frequency and average attendance; send report of previous meeting, including any resolutions passed) that are concerned with matters covering all or part of the Commission's field of activity.

- a. APAC-SCA conducts monthly members meetings, with an average attendance of about 10—15 participants (individuals from member companies). Please see attached for detailed agenda, and minutes from previous meeting.

- b. APAC-SCA also coordinates our regulatory coordination forum, which is conducted on an ad-hoc basis with a 20+ participants normally. (please see minutes attached)

(h) Relations with other international organizations:

- UN and its organs (indicate consultative status or other relationship, if any).

APAC-SCA has engaged in collaborative work with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), both specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Notably, APAC-SCA contributed as a resource entity to the **FAO/WHO Technical Report: Food Safety Aspects of Cell-Based Food** (2023), offering technical insights and subject-matter expertise. This involvement reflects our active participation in supporting global food safety discourse and our alignment with FAO/WHO's mission to promote safe and sustainable food systems.

While APAC-SCA does not currently hold formal consultative status with the UN, our technical engagement and cooperative contributions to FAO/WHO publications underscore our credibility and alignment with UN food safety and innovation frameworks.

- Other international organizations (document substantive activities).

APAC-SCA maintains substantive and ongoing collaboration with a range of international and regional bodies relevant to food safety, standardization, and innovation in cellular agriculture:

- **International Organization for Standardization (ISO):** APAC-SCA represents Singapore in **ISO/TC 34/WG 30**, the working group on *Tissue Cultured and Cellular Food Technology Products*, contributing to the development of global standards for cellular agriculture.
- **APAC Regulatory Coordination Forum:** Initiated and co-coordinated by APAC-SCA in 2023, this platform facilitates regulatory dialogue and harmonization efforts across Asia-Pacific economies. The Forum supports national regulators in navigating the evolving cellular agriculture landscape and is jointly run with **The Good Food Institute (GFI) Asia Pacific**.
- **Bilateral and Multilateral Collaborations:** APAC-SCA has signed formal **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with several peer organizations including:
 - *Japanese Association for Cellular Agriculture (Japan)*
 - *Cellular Agriculture Australia*
 - *Gyeongbuk Technopark (Republic of Korea)*

These partnerships foster knowledge exchange, technical cooperation, and joint initiatives to advance science-based policy and innovation across the region.

In addition to these formal relationships, APAC-SCA regularly participates in international scientific forums, industry roundtables, and technical working groups, helping to bridge regulatory, scientific, and industry stakeholders in support of Codex's objectives for safe, fair, and evidence-based international food standards.

(i) Expected contribution to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

The Asia-Pacific Society for Cellular Agriculture (APAC-SCA) is committed to supporting the development of inclusive, science-based food standards for novel food systems, particularly cultivated meat and related cellular agriculture products. As a regional non-profit network bridging academia, industry, and policy across Asia-Pacific, APAC-SCA can contribute in the following key areas:

1. Scientific and Technical Expertise:

APAC-SCA will provide access to leading regional experts in cellular agriculture, food safety, and biotechnology to support risk assessment, safety evaluation, and standard development. We aim to facilitate expert input into Codex texts on definitions, composition, labelling, and production methods for cultivated meat. APAC-SCA have proprietary information, including regulatory heatmaps, with detailed information of regulatory updates across the world.

2. Regional Representation and Inclusivity:

We will ensure that perspectives from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in Asia-Pacific are reflected, particularly in areas such as local production models, infrastructure needs, and culturally

relevant labeling practices. This includes convening stakeholder consultations and sharing region-specific data and insights.

3. **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:**

APAC-SCA will contribute to technical workshops, training programs, and outreach efforts that strengthen regulatory and scientific capacity in the region. We can assist in translating Codex outputs into regionally relevant guidelines and support their implementation in emerging regulatory ecosystems.

4. **Facilitating Dialogue Between Stakeholders:**

With our established network across public, private, and academic sectors, APAC-SCA can help foster transparent, evidence-based dialogue between regulators, innovators, and civil society on food safety and standards related to cellular agriculture.

5. **Data Generation and Regulatory Readiness:**

Through our partnerships with research institutions and startups, we can support the generation and sharing of non-proprietary data relevant to compositional analysis, allergenicity, and nutritional equivalence of cultivated products. This helps inform Codex processes with robust, regionally applicable data.

By leveraging our regional expertise and collaborative framework, APAC-SCA aims to support Codex in advancing fair trade and food safety in line with emerging technologies, ensuring that novel foods are developed and regulated in ways that promote public trust, sustainability, and global food security.

(j) Past activities on behalf of, or in relation to, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (indicate any relationship by national affiliates with the Regional Coordinating Committees and/or the National Codex Contact Points or Committees for at least the last three years preceding the application).

APAC-SCA's Program Director, Peter Yu served as a resource person on the Technical Panel and made significant contributions to the drafting and review of sections of the following paper:

Food and Agriculture Organization & World Health Organization. (2023). *Food safety aspects of cell-based food* (FAO/WHO Technical Report) (DOI:10.4060/cc4855en).

(k) Area of activity in which participation as an observer is requested (Commission and/or Subsidiary Bodies). If more than one organization with similar interests is requesting observer status in any field of activity, such organizations will be encouraged to form themselves into a federation or association for the purpose of participation. If the formation of such a single organization is not feasible, the application should explain why this is so.

APAC-SCA requests observer status primarily within the **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** and optionally the following **subsidiary bodies**, most relevant to novel food systems and food safety:

- **Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)**
- **Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)**
- **Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)**
- **Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)**
- **Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)**

These bodies are critical in shaping the global standards for food safety, labelling, and nutritional evaluation—areas directly impacted by the emergence of cultivated meat and other cellular agriculture products. Participation in these committees will allow APAC-SCA to contribute regionally relevant insights to support robust, science-based standards that align with evolving food technologies.

Justification for separate participation and coordination with similar organisations:

APAC-SCA recognises and supports coordination with other organisations that engage with Codex in the field of novel foods and food safety. However, our application is distinct due to the following:

1. Regional and Functional Focus:

APAC-SCA is the only dedicated organisation representing a broad network of stakeholders specifically focused on cellular agriculture across the Asia-Pacific region—a highly diverse and rapidly evolving food innovation landscape.

2. Bridging Innovation and Policy:

Unlike global industry associations that represent commercial interests, APAC-SCA functions as a **neutral, non-profit platform** integrating science, policy, and civil society engagement. Our

contributions are aimed at public-interest representation and scientific capacity building, especially for LMICs in the region.

3. Feasibility of Federation Formation:

While APAC-SCA actively collaborates with global and regional food innovation organisations, the formation of a unified federation is not currently feasible due to differing mandates, regional priorities, and stages of regulatory development. However, we remain open to future coordination mechanisms that support Codex's objectives and facilitate harmonised input from the sector.

(l) Previous applications for observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including those made by a member organization of the applicant organization. If successful, please indicate why and when observer status was terminated. If unsuccessful, please indicate the reasons you were given.

No previous application(s).

(m) Languages (English, French or Spanish) in which documentation should be sent to the International Non-Governmental Organization.

English

(n) Name, Function and address of the person providing the information.

Peter Yu

Program Director, APAC Society for Cellular Agriculture

APAC-SCA C/O Avant Meats, 5 Senoko Road, #06-03, Singapore 758137

(o) Signature and date.

25 July 2025