

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

CX/ASIA 08/16/2
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Sixteenth Session

Denpasar, Indonesia, 17-21 November 2008

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES¹

I. MATTERS ARISING/REFERRED FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (30TH AND 31ST SESSIONS)

A. Items for Information

30th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Role of coordinators and members elected on geographical basis

1. The Commission adopted the amendments to the Rules of Procedure concerning the role of coordinators and members elected on geographical basis (Rule IV - Coordinators, Rule V - Executive Committee and Rule XI - Subsidiary Bodies),² which were subsequently approved by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO and included in the Procedural Manual (17th edition).

Elaboration of new standards and related texts³

2. The Commission noted that project documents submitted to the 59th Session of the Executive Committee contained information that, while respecting the overall format as set out in the Procedural Manual, varied significantly in terms of quantity and quality, and therefore, endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to encourage Codex committees, task forces and Codex Members to prepare future project documents according to the format set out in the current revision of the Procedural Manual and provide sufficiently detailed, relevant information with particular regard to the evidence-based assessment against each of all the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities.

Decisions concerning the work of the Coordinating Committee for Asia

3. Taking into account the outcome of the discussion on the conversion of regional standards into world-wide standards under Agenda Item 12 (b), based on the recommendation of the 59th Session of the Executive Committee, the Commission adopted the proposed draft Standards for Gochujang and Ginseng Product at Step 5 as Draft Regional Standards for further elaboration by the CCASIA with a view to finalization as regional standards.⁴

¹ This document contains: Part I: Matters arising/referred from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (30th and 31th Session); and Part II: Matters referred from other Codex Committees and Task Forces. Matters are further arranged according to whether it is of specific interest to the Committee for information (A) or for action (B). The Codex Secretariat will report verbally on matters of horizontal nature as appropriate to the discussion of the Committee.

² ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 21

³ ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 96

⁴ ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 84

4. The Commission approved the proposal for new work to elaborate a Regional Standard for Chili Sauce by the CCASIA and agreed to encourage the Committee, in undertaking the work, to take into account the comments made during the 30th Session of the Commission and seek comments and information from members belonging to other regions. The Commission also recommended that the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables be informed of the status of work in CCASIA at its next session and be invited to provide its views on the need for an international standard for chili sauce.⁵

5. The Commission approved the elaboration of a Regional Standard for Edible Sago Flour by CCASIA.⁶

31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Conversion of regional standards into worldwide standards⁷

6. The Commission recalled that the 60th Session of the Executive Committee had considered the conversion of regional standards into worldwide standards, as requested by the 30th Session of the Commission, and adopted the Proposed Procedures presented in Appendix III of ALINORM 08/31/3, for inclusion in part 5 of the Elaboration Procedures of the Procedural Manual.

B. Items for Action

Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013

7. The 30th Session of the Commission had adopted its Draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013 together with a check list for use by the Executive Committee to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan (ALINORM 07/30/REP, paras 131-138).

8. The 31st Session of the Commission had considered a number of activities listed in the Strategic Plan. Activities on which decisions should be taken by the CCASIA are presented below.

Activity 4.5: Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level

9. The Commission agreed that the forthcoming Coordinating Committees review current status on the basis of replies to the questionnaires sent to Codex members and observers, identify possible actions to be taken with a view to promoting interdisciplinary coordination and communication at national and regional level, and report to the 32nd Session of the Commission.⁸

10. The Committee is **invited** to consider this matter, taking into account the information provided in response to Part C (i) of CL 2008/15-ASIA, as presented in the Appendix to this document.

Activity 5.4: Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees

11. The Commission agreed that the forthcoming Coordinating Committees review the operation and activity of the Codex Contact Points and national Codex committees, discuss the ways to strengthen their function, and report back to the 62nd Session of the Executive Committee.⁹

12. This matter will be considered under Agenda Item 7 on the basis of the information provided in response to the Part A.2 (i) and (ii) of CL 2008/15-ASIA.

Activity 5.5: Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels

13. The Commission agreed that the forthcoming Coordinating Committees review the current status, identify any additional measures to be taken by the governments and other parties to enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels and report to the 32nd Session of the Commission¹⁰.

14. The Committee is **invited** to consider this matter, taking into account the information provided in response to Part C (ii) of CL 2008/15-ASIA, as presented in the Appendix to this document.

⁵ ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 105

⁶ ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 107

⁷ ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 6

⁸ ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 141

⁹ ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 145

¹⁰ ALINORM 08/31/REP, para. 146

Other matters referred by the Commission**Participation of developing countries in Codex Meetings¹¹**

15. The 31st Session of the Commission had considered the matters related to participation of developing countries in Codex meetings.

16. The Commission agreed that the issue of participation of developing countries would be considered by the 25th Session of the Committee on General Principles on the basis of a document prepared by the Secretariat including the data on the participation of developing countries in Codex sessions, and proposals to improve the situation. The Commission also recommended that Coordinating Committees consider this issue and report their views to the next session of the Commission. The conclusions of the Committee on General Principles and Coordinating Committees would be presented to the 32nd Session of the Commission for further consideration. The Commission further agreed to include on the agenda of its 32nd Session a specific item on this issue.

17. The Committee is **invited** to discuss these matters in order to report its views to the 32nd Session of the Commission.

II. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**A. Items for Information*****60th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*****Guidelines on the Application of the “Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities applicable to Commodities”¹²**

18. The Committee agreed to append to its report the Guidelines on the Application of the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities applicable to Commodities, which aim at providing guidance on what kind of information needs to be examined by the Executive Committee while performing the Critical Review. The Committee further agreed that these guidelines should be made widely available in order to assist Codex Members and Codex subsidiary bodies when preparing project documents.

28th and 29th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling**Endorsement of methods of analysis provisions in the Proposed Draft Standard for Gochujang¹³*****Determination of capsaicin***

19. The Committee endorsed the AOAC method as Type II and to temporarily endorse the methods proposed in Annexes A and B as Type IV since these were not yet fully validated and noted the on-going work in this regard and encouraged the Delegation of the Republic of Korea to consider further validation of these methods.

Other considerations

20. The Committee temporarily endorsed the methods for determination of crude protein as Type I since the scope of this method had not been extended to this matrix (Gochujang), but was satisfactorily used in the industry and the method for moisture as Type I as further clarification should be provided on the range of temperatures for drying.

Endorsement of methods of analysis provisions in the Draft Standard for Ginseng Product¹⁴

21. The Committee endorsed all methods for ginseng products as Type IV in view of the need for further method performance studies. The Committee acknowledged the work carried out by the Republic of Korea and encouraged the Republic of Korea to publish the methods currently being validated.

¹¹ ALINORM 08/31/REP, paras 152-161

¹² ALINORM 08/31/3, paras 4-9 and Appendix II

¹³ ALINORM 07/30/23, paras 75-76

¹⁴ ALINORM 08/31/23, para. 57

36th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling

Consideration of labelling provisions in Draft Standard for Gochujang¹⁵

22. The Committee noted the information given by the Republic of Korea on the nature of the product and endorsed the labelling provisions as proposed.

Consideration of labelling provisions in Draft Standard for Ginseng Product¹⁶

23. Several delegations did not support the inclusion of mandatory country of origin labelling for the raw material of ginseng products in section 7.2 of the draft standard. They were of the opinion that the provision should be deleted or the phrase from section 4.5.1 of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods should be used. Other delegations recalled that the Coordinating Committee of Asia had discussed this question in detail and had agreed that the indication of the country of origin was important information for consumers in order to prevent deceptive practices and because the characteristics of ginseng varied significantly with the growing region. After some discussion, the Committee decided that the wording from the General Standard should be used.

24. Some delegations were of the opinion that the present wording of section 7.2 was confusing because it mixed provisions on country of origin and labelling of the ginseng species. The Committee decided to include the provisions on the name of the ginseng species used as raw material in a separate paragraph (new 7.2), taking into account that section 7.1 covered only the name of the product, and that the following sections would be renumbered. Following some editorial amendments, the Committee agreed on the following text.

- **7.2 Name of the Ginseng Species:** “All ginseng products shall be labelled with the scientific or common name of the ginseng that is used as raw material. The common names of the ginseng shall be declared in accordance with the law and custom of the country where the product is consumed, in a manner not to mislead the consumer.”
- **7.3 Country of Origin:** “The country of origin of the product and/or raw material shall be declared if its omission is likely to mislead or deceive the consumer.”

25. With the above amendment the Committee endorsed the labelling provisions of the Draft Standard for Ginseng Product.

14th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

New work on Standard for Chilli Pepper¹⁷

26. In considering the proposal for new work on Standard for Chilli Pepper, the Committee noted that the CCASIA was developing a Regional Standard for Chilli Sauce, for which chilli pepper was an ingredient, and noted that there should be coordination between the work on fresh chilli pepper and chilli sauce, in particular on the definition of products, in order to avoid any confusion to the consumer.

B. Items for Action

61st Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Nutrition related matters of regional interest¹⁸

27. Some members expressed the view that it might be beneficial for FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to discuss nutrition-related matters of regional interest, particularly in relation to the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. Committee noted that, from the procedural point of view, it was open for Coordinating Committees to discuss any matter of regional interest, in accordance with their terms of reference and the recommendation of the 28th Session of the Commission to encourage Coordinating Committees to consider any particular items of regional interest within the terms of reference of the Committees.

¹⁵ ALINORM 08/31/22, para. 47

¹⁶ ALINORM 08/31/22, paras 48-50

¹⁷ ALINORM 08/31/35, para. 101

¹⁸ ALINORM 08/31/3A, paras 27-31

28. This matter will be considered under Agenda Item 9 on the basis of information provided in response to Part D of CL 2008/15-ASIA.

24th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles

Terms of reference of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees

29. At the 23rd Session of the CCGP the proposal of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) to amend its mandate to include an additional bullet point “To promote the adoption of regional positions on strategic subjects” was discussed in detail. The Committee had decided to recommend to the CCLAC to practice the adoption of regional positions as appropriate while keeping their terms of reference unchanged and to report back its experience to this session. All other Coordinating Committees had been invited to discuss the possible inclusion of the sentence proposed by the CCLAC into their terms of reference and its possible implications and report their views to this session¹⁹.

30. The 24th Session of the CCGP noted that at their sessions held in 2006/2007 three of the Coordinating Committees (CCNASWP, CCEURO and CCAFRICA) generally agreed that the current terms of reference should be unchanged because they were considered broad enough. They also agreed that the terms of reference of all Coordinating Committees should be kept harmonized. Within CCASIA and CCNEA there were diverging opinions on this issue while CCLAC supported the proposed amendment. The Committee noted further that the CCLAC and the CCEURO had gained some experience in adopting regional positions on certain issues at their last session.

31. As there was no consensus on recommending to the Commission that the CCLAC change its terms of reference to include the proposed sentence nor that all Coordinating Committees change their terms of reference in the same way, the Committee agreed that all Coordinating Committees be invited to discuss this matter, including institutional and other implications, at their next session and that those Coordinating Committees wishing to practice the adoption of regional positions should continue to do so under their current terms of reference and to report back to the CCGP on their experiences.

32. The Committee **is invited** to report its views to the 25th Session of the CCGP.

39th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives

Endorsement of food additive provisions in the Proposed Draft Standard for Gochujang²⁰

33. The Committee endorsed the food additive provisions in the proposed draft Standard with some modifications, proposed by the *ad hoc* physical Working Group on the GSFA, to align the food additive names and the functional classes with those of the Codex Class Names and International Numbering System (CAC/GL 36-1989), and to express the reporting basis of maximum levels of all food additives in mg/kg, for clarity.

34. The Committee agreed to endorse the provision for the use of potassium chloride (INS 508) as a flavour enhancer and to request the in-session physical Working Group on the INS (see Agenda Item 10b) to revise the INS list to assign this function to potassium chloride (INS 508).

35. The Committee agreed with the recommendation of the *ad hoc* physical Working Group on the GSFA to request the Committee in charge of finalising the standard:

- To explain why sodium sorbate (INS 201) was not listed with the other food additives with preservative functional class;
- To provide a clarification on the functional class for sodium polyphosphate (INS 452i) and potassium polyphosphate (INS 452ii); to assign a numeric maximum use level for these two food additives, singly or in combination as phosphorous; and to consider grouping all phosphates under the same functional class with one single maximum use level.

36. The CCASIA is **invited** to address these requests under Agenda Item 3(a).

¹⁹ ALINORM 06/29/33, paras 6-18

²⁰ ALINORM 07/30/12, paras 64-66

APPENDIX

**IMPLEMENTATION OF CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013
(information provided in response to CL 2008/15-ASIA, Part C (i) and (ii))**

- (i) Mechanisms and evaluation criteria at country level to improve horizontal coordination and communication among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations (see Activity 4.5 of the Strategic Plan)**

Singapore

Promotion of interdisciplinary coordination at the national level is carried out through the National Codex Contact Point. Regional discussions are carried out during ASEAN meetings, CCASIA and other meetings of Asian countries.

- (ii) Establishment of sound structures and processes for consultation on Codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties, with a view to in particular enhancing the participation of non-governmental organizations in Codex work at national, regional and international levels (see Activity 5.5 of the Strategic Plan).**

Mongolia

- To strengthen capacity of National codex team and it's activities (by establishing permanent team) and to get technical Assistance from National and International Organizations
- To create National Codex Information Fund and intensify Codex activities at national level
- To participate actively in INFOSAN networking and establish national level information distribution system.
- Since studies on identifying level of food contaminants have not been carried out in Mongolia, to cooperate with FAO, WHO and Codex Trust Fund in that particular area /to develop basic information of food contaminants/
- To coordinate activities for creating legal framework and policy for removing food products, which do not qualify food safety requirements
- Norms of Safety and Hygiene performances of food products, reference information of physiological requirements of human nutrition intake need to be reviewed and enforced accordingly
- To participate actively in the Codex standard approval process by submitting Country's comments, introduce Codex standards, review and upgrade national standards in accordance to the Codex requirements.
- To develop national regulation on auditing in food sector and introduce HACCP and GMP in agriculture and food processing enterprises
- Trainings on HACCP and GMP will be conducted at the local level, the trainers of training and volunteers will be trained
- The training module, handbooks and advertisements on hygiene and food safety for training of consumers.
- The HACCP information center will be developed.
- The creation of national information network on food safety and food borne infectious diseases will be developed.
- The necessities of consumers will be studied and handbooks, textbooks and visual aids to learning will be developed an according to the necessities of consumers.
- The training module on food safety and food hygiene for secondary school, college and universities will be developed and HACCP training will be integrated into food technology courses provided in Mongolia at the educational institutions;
- The web site and journal on food safety will be developed and the dissemination to the consumers, institutions well be organized.

Philippines

There are structures and processes at the National Codex Committee (NCC) for consultation on Codex matters to enhance participation of nongovernmental organizations. Participation varies with the Sub-Committee as the participation of non-government agencies depends on the impact of issues being discussed. Currently the NCC is reviewing procedures for strengthening stakeholder participation while ensuring that these are in accordance with policies of government regulatory bodies.

Singapore

Strengthening the structure of the National Codex Committee could be a way to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties. There are not many local groups, other than manufacturers, traders and consumers groups, that are interested in food related matters as Singapore is not a food producing country.

Vietnam

Vietnam National Codex Committee issued a Procedure for Formulation of National Delegation to Participate in Codex Meeting. Vietnam Codex Office keeps all member of VNCC and concerned agencies, businesses of progress of Codex standard development in different Codex Technical Committees. They are provided with information of Codex works, documents for comments and opportunity to join national delegation to the Codex Meeting.