

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

CX/NASWP 19/15/7

July 2019

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

Fifteenth Session

Port Vila, Vanuatu, 16-20 September 2019

MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

A. 40TH – 42ND SESSIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC40, CAC41, CAC42)

Matters for Information

Regional Standard for Kava as a Beverage When Mixed with Cold Water¹

1. CAC40 approved new work on regional standard for kava as a beverage when mixed with cold water.

Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Juice¹

2. CAC40 endorsed the proposals of CCEXEC73 to amend the target year for completion of work on the regional standard for fermented noni juice to 2021.

Member and Coordinator for North America and South-West Pacific²

3. CAC40 elected United States of America and Australia as member of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC) from North America and South-West Pacific respectively for the period from the end of CAC40 to the end of CAC42 (2019).

4. CAC40 re-appointed Vanuatu as Coordinator for North America and South-West Pacific to hold office from the end of CAC40 to the end of CAC42.

5. CAC42 re-elected United States of America and Australia as member of CCEXEC from North America and South-West Pacific respectively for the period from the end of CAC42 to the end of CAC44 (currently scheduled for 2021).³

Amendments to the Procedural Manual⁴

6. CAC40 adopted amendments to the sections:

- “Principles for the establishment of Codex methods of analysis” to clarify that “there are numerous ways in which methods and limits that involve a sum of components can be converted into method performance criteria but this should be undertaken with care on a case-by-case basis”; and
- “Nutritional risk analysis principles and guidelines for application to the work of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses” to include the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU) as a primary source of scientific advice.

7. CAC41 adopted the amendment to the section *Risk analysis principles applied by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF)* by deleting the requirements that extrapolation of MRLs to one or more species could only be recommended where JECFA had identified that it is scientifically justifiable and the uncertainties have been clearly defined in order to provide more autonomy to CCRVDF.

¹REP17/CAC para. 83, 153 and Appendix VI

²REP17/CAC paras. 206 and 207

³REP19/CAC para. 146

⁴REP17/CAC para. 11 and Appendix II; REP18/CAC para. 15 and Appendix II

Matters for actionRegular Review of Codex Work Management: Electronic Working Groups⁵

8. CAC40 recommended that the Codex Secretariat work with regional coordinators in examining barriers to active participation and identifying possible solutions. CCNASWP is requested to **consider** this matter.

Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025⁶

9. CAC42 encouraged all Members to participate in the development of the work plan for implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 through the upcoming discussions at the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and other fora as they arise. This matter **will be considered** under Agenda Item 7.2. One aspect related to Strategic Goal 3 **will be considered** under Agenda Item 8.

Coordinator for North America and South-West Pacific⁷

10. CAC42 noted that as the sessions of the six FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees had been postponed by one year to the second half of 2019, Vanuatu would remain in office until the end of CAC43 (2020). The new Regional Coordinator for North America and South-West Pacific would be nominated at CCNASWP15, be appointed by CAC43, and hold office from the end of that session. This matter **will be considered** under Agenda Item 11.

B. OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES**73rd - 77th Sessions of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC73- CCEXEC77)****Matters for information**Revitalization of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs)⁸

11. CCEXEC73 encouraged: (i) FAO, WHO and the Secretariat to continue the revitalization process throughout the next cycle of RCC meetings; and (ii) members to actively participate in future surveys conducted in conjunction with RCC meetings.

Horizontal agenda for 2018/2019 round of RCCs⁹

12. CCEXEC74 agreed to include the draft Codex strategic plan 2020–2025 and the Codex Communications work plan, including linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals in the provisional agenda.

Co-chairing of Codex committee meetings¹⁰

13. CCEXEC74:

- welcomed the proposal regarding co-chairing in the absence of co-hosting as a positive development, using RCCs as an appropriate forum, and the confirmation by the Secretariat that there were no procedural impediments to proceeding with this initiative;
- noted that, since there was no applicable procedure or protocol in place, it was a matter for host countries to experiment with arrangements in this area, underscoring the significant responsibilities involved and preparation required, including consideration of issues such as technical support and the clear delineation of responsibilities; and
- welcomed the willingness of members with relevant experience to share their insights.

Matters for actionCommittee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)¹¹

14. CCEXEC77 noted the interest in activating the work on cashew kernels and that members were encouraged to participate in the work of CCPFV and this could be further discussed in the upcoming FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs). This matter **will be considered** under Agenda Item 6.

⁵ REP17/CAC para. 116

⁶ REP19/CAC para. 122 ii

⁷ REP19/CAC para. 147

⁸ REP17/EXEC2, para. 96

⁹ REP18/EXEC1, para. 16

¹⁰ REP18/EXEC1, para. 14

¹¹ REP19/EXEC2, para. 31

13th Session of Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF13)

Matters for action

Priority list of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for evaluation by JECFA¹²

15. CCCF13 agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to ask CCNASWP whether (a) they wish to retain scopoletin on the priority list and, if so, (b) when suitable data would be forthcoming. This matter **will be considered** under Agenda Item 9.

38th and 40th Session of Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS38 and CCMAS40)

Matters for information

Presentation of methods of analysis by committees¹³

16. CCMAS38 agreed to remind committees that when methods are submitted to CCMAS for endorsement, these methods should indicate also the principle as well as proposed typing for the methods.

Review and update of CXS 234 and development of database of methods¹⁴

17. CCMAS40 agreed to inform all Codex committees of the current work of CCMAS regarding the review and update of CXS 234 and the development of a database for methods of analysis and sampling endorsed by CCMAS and adopted by CAC.

44th Session of Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL44 and CCFL45)

Matters for information

Labelling of non-retail containers¹⁵

18. CCFL44:

- noted that many commodity standards (including those submitted for endorsement) contained provisions for non-retail containers which referred to a standardized text applicable to this provision that had been endorsed by CCFL at past and present sessions; and
- agreed to inform commodity committees of CCFL's ongoing work on guidance for the labelling of non-retail containers so that they were aware that the current standardized provisions might need to be adjusted or removed to reference the aforesaid guidance.

19. CCFL45¹⁶ made progress on the work on this matter, agreed to forward the proposed draft revision to CAC42 for adoption at Step 5; and to inform the relevant commodity committees on the progress of the work.

50th Session of Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA50)

Matters for information

Guidance on the alignment of food additive provisions and alignment plan¹⁷

20. CCFA50 agreed to:

- publish the guidance document as an information document on the Codex website and inform the relevant committees for their reference; and
- inform RCCs of the alignment plan of CCFA, in which standards developed by RCCs were scheduled for completion in the year of 2022 or 2023.

¹² REP19/CF, para. 168

¹³ REP17/MAS, para. 27

¹⁴ REP19/MAS, para. 92.i

¹⁵ REP18/FL, para. 20

¹⁶ REP19/FL, para. 64

¹⁷ REP18/FA, paras. 48(vii), (viii) and Appendix XI

24th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS24)***Matters for information***Food Integrity, food authenticity and food fraud¹⁸

21. CCFICS24 continued the discussions on the topic of food integrity, food authenticity and food fraud and noted that the work was broad and might overlap with the mandates of other committees and CCFICS could consider seeking advice from the Commission and relevant Committees.

22. CCFICS24 also agreed to inform CCEXEC, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including CCGP, of its ongoing discussions on this subject.

¹⁸ REP19/FICS, paras. 57-58