

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 12

CRD17

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

43rd Session
Budapest, Hungary

13 – 18 May 2024

(Prepared by the CCMAS Chairperson and Codex Secretariat)

Agenda Item 12: Other business and future work

CCMAS is an important committee in Codex with the main aim to endorse methods of analysis and sampling submitted by other Codex committees. As such, it has a key role within Codex in the area of conformity assessment vis-à-vis compliance with Codex standards. In addition, its TORs include, amongst others, to:

- Define the criteria appropriate to Codex methods of analysis and sampling;
- Serve as a coordinating body for Codex with other international groups working in methods of analysis and sampling and quality assurance systems for laboratories
- Define procedures, protocols, guidelines or related texts for the assessment of food laboratory proficiency, as well as quality assurance systems for laboratories.

Over the years CCMAS has developed several texts and procedures which have been published in the Codex Alimentarius or included in the Procedural Manual. More recently CCMAS has completed work on the revision of the *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty* (CXG 54-2004) in 2021 and on the *Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004) in 2023 and will within the next session or two finalise an information document to support the implementation of the *Guidelines on Sampling*.

Furthermore, CCMAS has taken on the task of reviewing methods of analysis in *the General Standard for Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) which CAC has agreed will be the single reference for methods of analysis and sampling in Codex. Work on a modern database is receiving attention by the Codex and Host Country Secretariats.

With the completion of the two important items of work on CXG 54 and CXG 50, and other than the CCMAS's normal responsibility of endorsing methods of analysis (and sampling) submitted by other Codex Committees, including requests for advice, and the review and update of CXS234, should this be the only focus of CCMAS for the next few years? Or should CCMAS explore also other areas of work for the future.

- Is there work that should follow on from the revision of the CXG54 for example? Should we continue the work with legal and expert background of analysis and conformity assessment, collect information about algorithms, collect information about international guidelines and standards, clarify questions, if there is a need, develop a guide for conformity assessments of lots.
- What about some of the current text / guidelines developed by CCMAS – many were developed years ago (>10 - 15 or 20 years' ago) and have not been updated since publication - are they still relevant and needed, and if so, are they current or do they need updating? Many of the guidelines are mere references to other SDOs texts - is this sufficient for a Codex guideline? Could they be consolidated into a single reference document?
- Do we need to consider criteria for biological methods used to detect chemicals?
- Are our procedures in the Procedural Manual still relevant and current? Is there a possibility to simplify such procedures by keeping key guidance text in the PM and transfer some provisions into an internal working document so that the PM only addresses those key concepts that provide the framework for CCMAS work?– this will allow a more flexible approach to regularly update practices that can assist/facilitate/speed up regular work of CCMAS in addressing methods of analysis and sampling.

What other areas are there?

To address these questions and explore other potential areas of work, CCMAS might wish to have a side-event / informal discussion during CCMAS44 to explore future work for the Committee.