

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 6.2

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEx COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

Forty-fourth Session

Dresden, Germany

2 - 6 October 2024

PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK/EMERGING ISSUES (REPLIES TO CL 2024/52-NFSDU)

(Comments by Burundi, Panama, Thailand)

Burundi

Issue: CCNFSDU44 is invited to consider the report to be produced by the PWG and the new work proposals in light of the prioritization mechanism (see CL 2024/52-NFSDU, Appendix I and CX/NFSDU 24/44/6, Annex I).

Position: Burundi encourages Member States to review the criteria for accepting NWIPs versus the discussion papers and project documents for the NWIPs. Member States are also urged to participate in PWG discussion while assessing the NWIPs and revision/amendment of CCNFSDU texts following the draft guidelines. Further, Member States are encouraged to support adoption of items in Annex 1 well deliberated on during the 2023 PWG and CCNFSDU43 session. Consideration for revision/ amendment of definition of dietary fibre included under paragraph 2 in the Guidelines on nutrition labelling (CXG 2-1985) and development of new work on; 1) General guidelines and principles for the nutritional composition of foods formulated with protein from non-animal sources and 2) Develop a Standard for Formulated Complementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children.

Rationale: The draft guideline for the preliminary assessment to identify and prioritize new work for CCNFSDU were agreed to as another approach for use in identifying and prioritizing new work and revision/amendment of the texts/standards under the purview of CCNSFSDU and were also agreed to by the Codex Secretariat.

Panama

Panama supports consideration of the proposals for new work and emerging issues presented in CX/NFSDU 24/44/6. We recommend a more in-depth evaluation of the feasibility and relevance of each proposal, including consultations with regional and national experts to ensure that new work adequately addresses local and global needs. We also suggest prioritizing proposals that promote equity in nutrition and health in disadvantaged populations.

Panama supports the initiatives within the framework of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU). We appreciate the recognition of the importance of updating criteria and guidelines as suggested by the joint FAO/WHO programme, and we reiterate our interest in contributing to the discussion on the modification of the definition of dietary fibre and other emerging proposals.

Panama supports the consideration of the proposals for new work presented in document CX/NFSDU 24/44/6. We believe that each proposal should be carefully evaluated in terms of feasibility and relevance, with special emphasis on consultation with regional and national experts. It is essential to ensure that new work adequately addresses both local and global needs.

In line with recommendations made by other countries, Panama suggests prioritizing those proposals that promote equity in nutrition and health, especially in disadvantaged populations, ensuring that all segments of the population have access to foods that cover their essential nutritional needs.

Regarding the proposal to modify the definition of dietary fiber as established in the Guidelines on Nutrition Labeling (CXG 2-1985), Panama considers this to be a crucial step. The revision should be aligned with the global alarm about the low consumption of dietary fiber, which can contribute to multiple health problems, such as cardiovascular and gastrointestinal diseases. Adopting a more inclusive definition, which contemplates carbohydrate polymers with three or more monomeric units as dietary fiber, will facilitate the production and access to fiber-enriched foods, thus promoting better public health.

Insufficient fibre intake is a recognised problem globally and locally. Advocating for a definition that recognises a wider variety of ingredients as dietary fibre will not only facilitate increased consumption of this vital nutrient, but may also help reduce rates of obesity and metabolic diseases in the population.

Spanish:

Panamá apoya la consideración de las propuestas de nuevos trabajos y cuestiones incipientes presentadas en CX/NFSDU 24/44/6. Recomendamos una evaluación más profunda de la viabilidad y relevancia de cada propuesta, incluyendo consultas con expertos regionales y nacionales para asegurar que los nuevos trabajos aborden adecuadamente las necesidades locales y globales. También sugerimos priorizar propuestas que promuevan la equidad en la nutrición y la salud en poblaciones desfavorecidas.

Panamá apoya las iniciativas en el marco del Comité del Codex sobre Nutrición y Alimentos para Regímenes Especiales (CCNFSDU). Apreciamos el reconocimiento de la importancia de actualizar criterios y directrices como lo sugiere el programa conjunto FAO/OMS, y reiteramos nuestro interés en contribuir a la discusión sobre la modificación de la definición de fibra dietética y otras propuestas emergentes.

Panamá respalda la consideración de las propuestas de nuevos trabajos presentadas en el documento CX/NFSDU 24/44/6. Creemos que cada propuesta debe ser evaluada detenidamente en términos de viabilidad y relevancia, con especial énfasis en la consulta con expertos regionales y nacionales. Es fundamental que se garantice que los nuevos trabajos aborden adecuadamente las necesidades tanto locales como globales.

En concordancia con las recomendaciones presentadas por otros países, Panamá sugiere priorizar aquellas propuestas que promuevan la equidad en la nutrición y la salud, especialmente en poblaciones desfavorecidas, asegurando que todos los segmentos de la población tengan acceso a alimentos que cubran sus necesidades nutricionales esenciales.

Con respecto a la propuesta de modificar la definición de fibra dietética según se establece en las Directrices sobre etiquetado nutricional (CXG 2-1985), Panamá considera que este es un paso crucial. La revisión debería alinearse con la alarma global sobre el bajo consumo de fibra dietética, que puede contribuir a múltiples problemas de salud, como las enfermedades cardiovasculares y gastrointestinales. Adoptar una definición más inclusiva, que contemple polímeros de carbohidratos con tres o más unidades monoméricas como fibra dietética, facilitará la producción y el acceso a alimentos enriquecidos con fibra, promoviendo así una mejor salud pública.

La ingesta insuficiente de fibra es un problema reconocido a nivel mundial y local. Abogar por una definición que reconozca una mayor variedad de ingredientes como fibra dietética no solo facilitará el aumento en el consumo de este nutriente vital, sino que también puede ayudar a reducir las tasas de obesidad y enfermedades metabólicas en la población

Thailand

We would like to provide our comments on this matter as follows:

1. Proposal to open and amend the 2009 Codex definition of dietary fibre included under para. 2 in the Guidelines on nutrition labelling (CXG 2-1985)

We agree in principle with this new work proposal. However, the consideration of amendment of Codex definition of dietary fibre should be on the basis of strong and sufficient scientific evidence of assessment of safety and physiological effects.

2. General guidelines and principles for the nutritional composition of foods formulated with protein from non-animal sources

We agree in principle with this new work proposal. However, we note that the scope of this document includes insects, which are classified as an animal. So, it may not align with the title: "General guidelines and principles for the nutritional composition of foods formulated with protein from non-animal sources".

In addition, we believe that at this stage it would be more efficient to only focus on establishing general guidance and principles related to the nutritional composition for plant-based products. This will reduce complexity and expedite the work process. Subsequently, the guidance for products formulated with protein from other sources, such as insects, bacteria, and fungi, could be considered separately from this standard.

3. New Work Proposal to Develop a Standard for Formulated Complementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children

3.1 We agree in principle with this new work proposal to develop a single standard for complementary foods for Older Infants and Young Children, which should integrate existing texts with updated relevant aspects including 1) Guidelines on formulated complementary foods for older infants and young children (CXG 8-1991), 2) Standard for canned baby-foods (CXS 73-1981), and 3) Standard for processed cereal based foods for

infants and young children (CXS 74-1981). After an approval by CAC, the single standard should supersede those 3 texts.

3.2 The development of single standard should reflect the latest scientific based data and production technologies, and ensure alignment with relevant committees' texts, such as CCFL, CCFH, CCCF, CCFA and CCMAS.

And, the single standard should apply combined NRVs-R values for older infants and young children (6-36 months), which is currently in consideration process (Agenda Item 4.2) and will be included in CXG 2-1985