

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2023/31/OCS-CAC

April 2023

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

SUBJECT: **Request for comments on possible issues related to standard setting for new food sources and production systems (NFPS) that could not be addressed by the current Codex structure and procedures and options to address them**

DEADLINE: 31 August 2023

BACKGROUND

1. CAC45 (REP22/CAC, paragraphs 23-31) considered the report of the CCEXEC subcommittee on new food sources and production systems (NFPS) (CX/EXEC 22/83/4). The topic was discussed at CAC44, CCEXEC82 and CCEXEC83 and two views on potential approaches emerged:

- given the complexity and diversity of NFPS and to be proactive in preparing for the future of Codex, further discussions on NFPS could be facilitated in an electronic working group (EWG) to be established under the Commission; and
- the existing mechanisms within Codex are sufficient to address any new work proposals on NFPS. Codex Members should submit new work proposals providing Codex with concrete subjects on which working mechanisms could be further considered.

2. While CAC45 recognized the importance of Codex working in a flexible and timely manner to consider NFPS as an important topic in the development of international standards aimed at protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade there was no agreement on the best way forward or the need for a new cross-cutting coordination mechanism to address codex work on NFPS.

3. It was agreed to seek further input from Members and Observers to identify possible issues related to NFPS that the current structure and procedures could not address and options to address them for discussion at CAC46.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

4. Taking into consideration the discussions at CAC45 (REP22/CAC, paragraphs 23-31), the report of the CCEXEC sub-committee (CX/EXEC 22/83/4), and the discussions at CCEXEC83 (REP22/EXEC2, paragraphs 85-100), Members and Observers are invited to provide their input on the following:

- (a) Please identify specific NFPS topics that require the development of a Codex standard, guideline or code of practice, but cannot be developed using the current Codex standard-setting structure and procedures.
- (b) Please outline the challenges/inadequacies that in your view are hampering the current system from addressing the identified specific NFPS topics, and possible approaches to address these.
- (c) In the discussions on NFPS, in your view, are there aspects relevant to standard-setting that have not yet been considered by CAC? If yes, please elaborate and identify what you consider to be key points.
- (d) Are you planning to propose any topics related to NFPS for consideration by Codex in short to medium term? If so, please indicate the topic(s) and the potential route by which you may submit the proposal(s) (e.g. specific committee or to the CCEXEC)

5. The above questions have been uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, and replies should be submitted as per the guidance below.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

6. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers using the OCS.
7. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting “Enter” in the “My reviews” page, available after login to the system.
8. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers organizations are requested to provide general comments at the document level. Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the OCS [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
9. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>.
10. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.