

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

28th Session
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12 – 16 September 2016

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE FUTURE WORK OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Submitted by the Host Country Secretariat

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV), previously adjourned *sine die* in 1986, was re-established in 1998 to revise standards for processed fruits and vegetables to reflect current commercial practices and to make them simpler for adoption by national authorities. Since 1998, CCPFV has prioritized its revision work and made significant progress in revising and updating standards, holding nine sessions and completing revisions for 28 standards for canned fruits and vegetables and quick frozen vegetables, as well as developing new standards for eight products. (See the Annex of CX/PFV 14/27/12.) The United States has been the host country for this Committee from 1964 -1986 when the Committee adjourned *sine die*, and since 1998 when it reconvened, up through the present.
2. The Committee has set and followed its priorities and has largely accomplished the objective of updating the standards which Member countries appear to consider most important. The Secretariat also notes that attendance has been decreasing to a point where, for the past five sessions, there has not been a quorum, which in accordance with Rule VI.7 Codex Rules of Procedure, represents “not less than 20 percent of the total membership of the Commission, nor less than 25 Members.”
3. The decreasing trend in attendance at the meetings of the Committee, low volume of comment submissions and generally low level of participation in electronic working groups seems to indicate that there may not be a sufficient workload left to justify physical meetings of the Committee.
4. At an informal forum held at the CCPFV27 session (2014) on future work of CCPFV, delegations questioned whether there is a commercial and governmental need to revise standards. Further, there was little consensus among CCPFV plenary members on elaborating new standards.
5. The above facts, together with the high costs associated with holding physical meetings of the CCPFV, prompted the Secretariat to propose to the Committee to consider whether CCPFV should adjourn.

PENDING WORK

6. There are two agenda items in the Step Process for the CCPFV28 session:
 - a. Annex on canned pineapples (for inclusion in the Standard for Certain Canned Fruits (CODEX STAN 319-2015) (Step 4); and
 - b. Annexes on quick frozen vegetables (for inclusion in the Standard for Quick Frozen Vegetables (CODEX STAN 320-2015) (Step 4) and Methods of analysis for quick frozen vegetables (for inclusion in Section 11 – Methods of Analysis and Sampling.)
7. These two items may be completed by CCPFV28.
8. The Committee will also review food additive provisions and methods of analysis and sampling provisions in several Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables following the request of CCFA and CCMAS and some related CCPFV work which are expected to be finalized at this session.

9. At CCPFV27 (2014), the Codex Secretariat informed the Committee that there were 17 remaining standards relating to quick frozen fruits, canned berry fruits, canned mixed fruits, miscellaneous processed fruits and vegetables, and dry and dried produce that CCPFV should review and assess the need for their partial or whole revision (CX/PFV 14/27/12 and annex).
10. The Committee agreed that the Codex Secretariat would proceed with the editorial amendment of the 17 standards listed in the table on pending work in CX/PFV 14/27/12 in particular as to the horizontal provisions applying across commodity standards (REP 15/PFV, paras 119-120). This would be a simple updating of the general provisions which apply to all of these standards instead of a detailed review. This streamlined approach could allow CCPFV28 to focus on the technical provisions to determine the need for revision or not and therefore conclude the revision work.

POSSIBLE FUTURE WORK

11. At CCPFV27 (2014), the Delegation of Brazil also proposed consideration of new work to review standards on Dry and Dried Produce and volunteered to lead an electronic working group, which 12 delegate members joined.
12. CCPFV27 established the electronic working group (EWG) to reassess conclusions from a previous discussion paper on dry and dried produce, evaluate remaining CCPFV standards for dry and dried products that might need revision and provide information to the Committee to assist in future decisions on work priorities (REP15/PFV, para 114).
13. This EWG makes five recommendations with regard to three standards: Codex Standard for Dates (CODEX STAN 143-1985), Codex Standard for Raisins (CODEX STAN 67-1981) and Codex Standard for Pistachio Nuts (CODEX STAN 131-1981).
14. The outcome of the EWG will be discussed in CCPFV28. It is noted that only four countries responded to the EWG's questionnaire and survey stage, and one additional country commented on the findings of the EWG.

RECOMMENDATION

15. The Committee is invited to discuss adjourning CCPFV for the reasons outlined above (completion of major work items, low participation, the high cost of convening and participating in physical meetings), and the need to make the most efficient and effective use of Codex and Member resources.
16. Should further work be desired or required, Members may make relevant proposals for new work to the Commission, and the Commission would take a decision on how to proceed.