

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5, 7, 10 and 11

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-second Session

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland, 8 - 12 July 2019

Comments of Thailand

Item 5 Adoption of Codex texts at Step 5

CCNFSDU: Proposed Draft Scope, Description and Labelling for follow-up formula for older infants

Thailand does not oppose the adoption of Proposed Draft Scope, Description and Labelling for follow-up formula for older infants at Step 5. However, according to CCFL 45, there were various concerns raised regarding cross promotion and was not endorsed by CCFL. In this regard, we agree with the decision of CCFL 45 that this issue is crucial and warrants further discussion by CCNFSDU, in particular to clarification of the scope or definition of cross promotion as well as the relevant requirement. Therefore, we would like to suggest putting square brackets around this section or to clearly inform CCNFSDU that this issue needs to be carefully considered during their next meeting in order to accomplish the facilitation of international trade while avoiding any problems due to the practical limitation.

CCFL: Draft guidance for the labelling of non-retail containers

Thailand does not oppose the proposed draft guidance for the labelling of non-retail containers for adoption at Step 5 by CAC42. Noting the remaining issues, especially those in square brackets, may affect the text that has already been agreed upon. Therefore, Thailand is of the view that the whole draft should still be opened for members to carefully consider in the next meeting of CCFL.

Item 7 Proposals for New Work

Proposed draft guidance on internet sales/e-commerce

Thailand does not object the proposal for new work on draft guidance on internet sales/e-commerce. Nonetheless, recognizing that the subject is very broad, the scope of this document should be clear, taking into account the implementation of the food businesses as well as the regulators.

Proposed new work to develop guidelines for compounds of low public health concern that could be exempted from the establishment of CXLs

Thailand supports the proposed new work to develop guidelines for compounds of low public health concern that could be exempted from the establishment of CXLs. In our view, this type of compounds, for example biopesticides, becomes increasingly important and widely used. Thus, the criteria for determining which compound can be exempted could be more beneficial than listing all chemicals, which otherwise may need to be updated frequently.

Item 10 Matters referred to the Commission by Codex Committee

Discussion paper on food integrity and food authenticity

Thailand notes the progress of the work on food integrity and food authenticity with appreciation. However due to the complexity of this work, we are of the view that the issues should be carefully consider by the experts from FAO and WHO. In this platform, all aspects related to food integrity and food authenticity can be discussed thoroughly. The outcome from this meeting, e.g. experts' advices and recommendations, will be a valuable input for Codex to further process this issue.

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

Thailand is of the view that the electronic working groups have done very well in putting forwards those draft standards to this stage. There are only a number of issues remained, of which in our opinion can be dissolved with a physical meeting of experts to discuss and thus reach consensus on these issues. We believe that these proposed standards are important and demanded in international trade. Therefore, the process of adoption of

standards should not be delayed, i.e. it may not be necessary to wait for all seven standards to be ready for finalization.

Item 11 Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025: revised draft

In general, Thailand agrees with the revised draft of Codex Strategic Plan showing the linkage to SDGs. By adding the sustainability aspect to the Codex's core mandates in protecting consumer health and promoting the practices of fair trade, it can enhance the important role of Codex as the international standard setting body. This essentially drives the movement of Codex works to respond to the global needs in the future and hence promote the use of Codex Standards.