



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Eighty-third Session
FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy
14 – 18 November 2022

Regional Positions by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

Introduction

During the 22nd Period of Sessions of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC22), the debate documents for regional positions were presented under Agenda 6 Codex Labor pertinent for the Region. Among them, the status of draft standards, amendments and new work proposals.

The debate was carried out in accordance with the Procedure for Adopting Regional Positions in the Coordinating Committees, established at the 36th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. In accordance with the Procedural Manual (Section I, Basic Texts and Definitions, Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Article IV Coordinators, paragraph 3 c)) and the mandates of the Codex Coordinating Committees (Section V, Structure and sessions, Terms of Reference of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees, paragraph g)). This procedure is applied to support issues related to the region since this allows for a greater understanding of the issues and strengthens the active participation of the members with respect to them.

Similarly, there is a procedure agreed upon at the 18th Meeting of the CCLAC to guide Member Countries on regional positions on issues relevant to the region with respect to the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC).

Item 2, Part 4, B: Proposed amendment of the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247-2005).

CCLAC22 supported the amendment of the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars (CXS 247- 2005), for the stratification of the single Brix reference to cover the distinction between *Vitis vinifera* L and *Vitis labrusca* species, in order to improve both the accuracy and coverage of the standard for better adoption and transparency in the grape juice trade.

One Member noted that they needed more time to consider this issue before they could support the regional position.

Item 3: CCEXEC sub-committee on the application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of Science – Report.

Application of the Statements of Principle (SoP) Concerning the Role of Science and the Extent to which other Factors are taken into Account

CCLAC22:

- supported Option 1, in relation to the options for acknowledging the use of Statement 4 of the SoP, i.e., to record in the report the position of those members who abstain based on other factors that fall outside the mandate of CAC;

- did not believe that Option 2 was feasible as it was not possible to justify the inclusion of a footnote in a standard which would include the above-mentioned factors as the basis for a member abstaining from accepting a specific standard.
- remained concerned regarding some aspects included in paragraph 23, CX/EXEC 22/83/3, “Other options in situations when the CAC is unable to advance/adopt a standard in line with the SoP and criteria for consideration of other factors”, such as:
 - proposing more time for discussion, without clarifying that a deadline should be provided, so that it was not held indefinitely, without a decision being taken;
 - proposing the retention of the standard pending consideration of any new information that may be presented, without defining a deadline for evidence or data to be provided for the work of the expert committee;
 - proposing the revision of the scope of application of the standard (this is part of the critical review to be undertaken when the proposal is made).

One Member abstained from agreeing with the regional position.

Item 4: CCEXEC sub-committee on new food sources and production systems – Report

New food technologies

CCLAC22:

- appreciated the importance of new technologies to produce novel foods and recognized that there was an enormous diversity of foods at global level that were not known in other parts of the world that may need to be considered.
- underlined that Codex, as a standard-setting body, should not be concerned with production systems, which globally were very diverse and adapted to local realities. Therefore, the focus of Codex should be to assess the current situation and guide governments to detect, prevent and/or control food hazards.
- was convinced that Codex was the right body to deal with all these foods and new technologies, identifying risk factors, assessing them and determining appropriate risk management measures to ensure food safety and fair practices in the food trade globally.
- was also aware that in the future it may be necessary to convene expert groups to address some of the specific issues regarding these new and traditional foods entering the world market in order to regulate the relevant aspects, and CCLAC would always support the scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO. In this regard, CCLAC22 recalled that expert groups should have regional representation precisely because production systems were different all over the world.
- considered regarding the structure of Codex to address these new issues that they should be considered on a case-by-case basis, as for some foods it may be necessary to create a Task Force but for others, the simple revitalization of currently inactive committees or a small modification to the mandate of Codex committees would make them useful for this purpose, without having a disproportionate impact on the Codex budget.
- urged the continuation of discussions on these issues at CAC so that as many Members as possible could listen to their peers, enrich their knowledge, allay their doubts, and intervene to ensure more transparency in the process.

One Member noted that they needed more time to consider this issue before they could support the regional position.

Item 5: CCEXEC sub-committee on the Future of Codex – Interim report

Future of Codex, in relation to working modalities - virtual, hybrid, in-person.

CCLAC22 stressed:

- the importance of following up on the discussions and recommendations of the Executive Committee on this issue; and
- that any and all working modalities to be adopted, should ensure transparency and the widest possible participation of Members.