INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) held its 38th Session in Budapest, Hungary, from 8 to 12 May 2017, at the kind invitation of the Government of Hungary. The Session was chaired by Dr. Marót Hibbey, Veterinary officer, Ministry of Agriculture. Dr Ákos Jóźwiak, Vice director, National Food Chain Safety Office (NFCSO) and Dr Andrea Zentai, Food Safety Analyst (NFCSO), acted as the Vice-Chairpersons.

2. The Session was attended by 47 Member countries, 1 Member organization and 11 observer organizations. A list of participants is given in Appendix I.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. The Session was opened by Dr Lajos Bognár, Chief Veterinary Officer of Hungary and, Ministry of Agriculture who welcomed delegates to Hungary and Dr Márton Oravecz, President of National Food Chain Safety Office (NFCSO) also attended at the opening ceremony. Dr Bognár reminded the delegates of the importance of Codex in protecting public health and promoting fairness in trade. He highlighted the independency of Codex work and importance of food chain safety and wished the Committee successful deliberations.

Division of Competence[1]

4. The Committee noted the division of competence between the European Union and its Member States, according to paragraph 5, Rule II of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)[2]

5. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session.

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda Item 2)[3]

6. The Committee noted (i) the matters of interest arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies; and (ii) several matters for action had been considered by the PWG on endorsement and would be considered under Agenda item 3.

7. In addition the Committee took the following decision.

Committee on Fats and Oils

Conversion factor for phosphorous to phospholipids

8. The Observer of AOCS informed the Committee that while it would be possible to establish a theoretical conversion factor, establishment of a practical single conversion factor was not possible.

9. Committee agreed to inform CCFO that it was not in a position to recommend a single conversion factor.

ENDORSEMENT OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS PROVISIONS AND SAMPLING PLANS IN CODEX STANDARDS (Agenda Item 3)[4]

10. The Committee considered the recommendations on methods of analysis and sampling plans proposed for endorsement and other related matters as presented in CRD2. The Committee agreed with some of the recommendations of the WG and made the following amendments or recommendations. All decisions are presented in Appendix II.

Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables

<u>Methods for quick frozen vegetables – RM methods</u>

11. In view of the replacement of CAC/RM34, 43 and 54 with AOAC 963.26, AOAC 932.12 and AOAC 971.33, respectively, the Committee agreed to request their revocation by CAC40.

<u>Quick frozen French fried potatoes – method for free fatty acids</u>

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[1] CRD1
[2] CX/MAS 17/38/1
[3] CX/MAS 17/38/2-Rev; Report of the pWG on endorsement (CRD2); Comments from Philippines, Kenya, AOAC, IDF, ISO and Mexico (CRD 6), India (CRD 13), Republic of Korea (CRD 18)
[4] CX/MAS 17/38/3; CX/MAS 17/38/3 Add 1; Report of the PWG on endorsement of methods of analysis and sampling (CRD2); comments of Philippines, Kenya, AOAC, IDF, ISO, Mexico and Ghana (CRD 6), Senegal (CRD 14), Nigeria (CRD 15)

12. The Committee noted that the methods for the determination of free fatty acids was for fats and oils and not for foods and that a method for fat extraction was necessary prior to the use of the suggested methods.

13. The Committee therefore agreed to request CCPFV to recommend a method for fat extraction.

Sampling plans

14. The Committee did not endorse the sampling plans for ginseng and for quick frozen vegetables since the values in the table did not correspond to those recommended in the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CAC/GL 50-2004) and it was unclear whether the attributes sampling plan actually applied to attributes and not to characteristics that might be described as variable. The Committee noted that a similar question had already been posed to CCPFV with regard to the sampling plan for ginseng and that CCPFV had replied that if the resubmitted sampling plan was not appropriate, CCMAS should develop appropriate sampling plans. The Committee noted the offer of New Zealand (as chair of the EWG on revision of GL50) to develop a template to provide guidance to commodity committees for development of sampling plans, and therefore agreed to defer decision on developing sampling plans at this time.

15. The Committee further noted that similar sampling plans had been endorsed in the past for processed fruits and vegetables and that CCMAS would need to address all sampling plans in a comprehensive way to avoid inconsistencies in CODEX STAN 234 and/or commodity standards.

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA (CCASIA)

Methods of analysis for laver products

16. The Committee did not endorse the methods for acid value and agreed to request clarification from CCASIA whether the provision “acid value” applied to the laver product itself, or the extracted oil. If the method was for the extracted oil, it could be endorsed as Type I.

17. The Committee further noted that the extraction method in the Standard for laver products had been validated for instant noodles and not for laver, and that in this case, a classification as Type IV was recommended, and encouraged CCASIA to submit validation data to CCMAS to reconsider the proposed typing.

COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY PURPOSES

Chromium, molybdenum and selenium

18. The Committee agreed to endorse the new methods for chromium, molybdenum and selenium as Type II and retained or retyped, where necessary, the older methods as Type III. The Committee further agreed to inform CCNFSDU of its concerns that the Type III methods may not meet the sensitivity requirements necessary for the determination of analytes at the minimum levels stated in CODEX STAN 72 and that the typing of the methods could be reconsidered if validation data were submitted to CCMAS.

Total fatty acids

19. The Committee endorsed the AOAC 2012.13 for total fatty acids, noting that the provision was correct as stated in CODEX STAN 72

Trans fatty acids

20. The Committee agreed to forward information on the methods identified by CCNFSDU on the matrices and levels for which they had been validated for their consideration (Appendix II, part C).

Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Cumin and thyme: methods for insect damage, mammalian excreta and mould damage

21. The Committee noted the concern expressed by a delegation with regard to the endorsement of certain national methods (FDA) rather than internationally validated methods. It was clarified that while internationally validated methods were desirable, the FDA methods had been agreed upon by CCSCH and were fit for purpose, and no other internationally validated methods had been identified or were available at this time.

Sampling plans

22. The Committee did not endorse the sampling plans since the values in the table did not correspond to those recommended in the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CAC/GL 50-2004). It was unclear whether the attributes sampling plan actually applied to attributes and not to characteristics that might be described as variable and requested CCSCH to reconsider the values in line with GL50. The Committee also agreed to inform CCSCH that it would be providing commodity committees with a template for developing sampling plans in case the Committee would like to await developing sampling plans until such time CCMAS would provide the aforesaid template.

Other matters

Presentation of methods in CODEX STAN 234

23. The Committee clarified the presentation of multiple methods for a provision in CODEX STAN 234. When methods were identical and/or collaboratively developed, the references for these methods were separated by a vertical bar |, whereas when methods were technically identical, but were formatted or written differently, then the references for these methods were separated by a horizontal dash /. In the latter case, these methods could be typed as Type I as the methods were technically identical and would produce the same analytical results.

Process for timely information on endorsement of methods

24. The Committee noted the need for a procedure to ensure that information to assist in the endorsement work of the PWG is provided in a timely manner. The USA, as chair of the WG, informed the Committee that he was in consultation with the Codex Secretariat to address this matter. Ways were being explored to deliver methods for endorsement to SDOs earlier to allow feedback to the PWG co-chairs in advance so that a preparatory document could be circulated to all delegates prior to the session.

Presentation of methods of analysis by commodity committees

25. The Committee agreed to remind commodity committees that when methods are submitted to CCMAS for endorsement, these methods should indicate also the principle as well as proposed typing for the methods.

Conclusion

26. The Committee agreed to send:

- the methods of analysis, as endorsed, to CAC40 for adoption (Appendix II, Part 1),
- the methods for revocation to CAC40 (Appendix II, Part 2); and
- the recommendation on the methods for trans fatty acids to CCNFSDU for their consideration (Appendix II, Part 3).

27. Uruguay expressed their reservation to the decision on the methods of analysis for quick frozen vegetables, as the methods of analysis presented for endorsement (Appendix I, CX/MAS 17/38/3) had been omitted from the Spanish version of the document. Uruguay was therefore not in a position to examine the methods prior to the session.

28. The Committee agreed to re-establish the PWG on methods of analysis and sampling, chaired by USA and co-chaired by Australia, working in English only, to meet immediately prior to the next session.

GUIDANCE ON THE CRITERIA APPROACH FOR METHODS WHICH USE A "SUM OF COMPONENTS" (Agenda Item 4)[5]

29. The United Kingdom, as Chair of the EWG, introduced the item. The Delegation reminded the Committee of the decision of CCMAS37 for the work to continue and that this session would take a decision on how to take this work forward[6].

[5] CX/MAS 17/38/4; Comments from Philippines, Kenya, EU, Mexico and Ghana (CRD 7), Senegal (CRD 14), Nigeria (CRD 15), Ecuador (CRD 17; Information document proposal by UK (CRD20)

[6] REP16/MAS, paras. 62-63

30. The Delegation indicated that overall the EWG agreed that the approaches available in developing criteria approaches for methods that use a sum of components were complex and need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis. In order to take the work forward the Delegation suggested that firstly Note 2 to the *Working Instructions for the Implementation of the Criteria Approach in Codex* of the Procedural Manual be revised to reinforce the complexity of the issues involved and secondly, Appendix 1 of CX/MAS 17/38/4 be converted into an Information Document format for publication on the Codex website so that the information and guidance developed was readily accessible to users wishing to develop numeric method performance criteria for methods that are a sum of components.

31. The Committee recognized that there were numerous ways in which methods and limits that involve a sum of components could be converted into numeric method performance criteria and that approaches taken needed to be developed and decided on a case-by-case basis and would be influenced by several factors including but not limited to whether: (i) components are equally weighted, (ii) there is a known natural-abundance of the components, (iii) measured values for individual components are correlated or uncorrelated, etc.

32. The Committee thus agreed that it would not be appropriate to develop a criteria approach for methods which use a "sum of components" but rather (i) to amend Note 2 (Working Instructions for the Implementation of the Criteria Approach in Codex) to improve clarity on the implementation of the criteria approach when developing numeric method performance criteria for approaches that involve a sum of components and (i) to provide information to Codex committees and CCMAS on a variety of (non-exhaustive) issues they may wish to consider when developing numeric method performance for approaches that involve sum of components as well as examples of such approaches and to place this information in an Information Document.

33. The Committee made a number of adjustments to Appendix 1 of CX/MAS 17/84/4 to improve the clarity and accuracy of the information provided. The EU and its member states asked whether the Information Document could be referenced in the proposed amendment to Note 2 in the Procedural Manual. The Codex Secretariat commented that this was not possible as information documents are not formally adopted by the Commission, but they could be made available on the Codex website for consultation.

Conclusion

34. The Committee agreed:

- to forward the revised Note 2 to the Working Instructions for the Implementation of the Criteria Approach in Codex to the Commission for adoption and inclusion in the Procedural Manual (Appendix III); and
- to make the Information Document available on the Codex website (Appendix IV).

CRITERIA FOR ENDORSEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL METHODS USED TO DETECT CHEMICALS OF CONCERN (Agenda Item 5)[7]

35. The Delegations of Chile and France, co-chairs of the EWG, presented the report of the WG (CX/MAS 17/38/5) and explained the process followed by the WG and the key outcomes; which were a modified list of biological methods (Part I) and biological methods and their validation criteria (Part II).

36. The chairs of the EWG recommended that the Committee consider the recommendations and agree on a way forward.

Part I

37. The Committee noted that while many old microbiological methods to quantify vitamins had been replaced by HPLC methods, there were still some microbiological methods considered useful for the quantification of vitamin B12, folates and pantothenic acid in foods. A modified list of biological methods had been prepared by the EWG with proposals for possible new methods and proposals to either retype or remove the microbiological methods.

Conclusion

38. The Committee agreed to request CCNFSDU to consider the proposed alternate methods and whether they wished to retain the older microbiological methods (Appendix V) The replies from these committees would be considered by the PWG on endorsement of methods of analysis (see Agenda Item 3) at CCMAS39.

Part II

39. The Committee considered whether to proceed with the development of criteria for biological methods.

[7] CX/MAS 17/38/5; Comments from EU and Mexico (CRD 8), Senegal (CRD 14), Ecuador (CRD 17).

40. Delegations in favour of proceeding with the work were of the opinion that the *General Criteria for Selection of Methods of Analysis* were not applicable to biological methods; and specific criteria were needed for the review in a consistent and scientific manner of the currently endorsed biological methods in CODEX STAN 234 and for any biological methods that might be introduced in future.

41. These delegations also explained that biological methods continued to be used in their countries and that chemical methods were not always available to replace these methods.

42. Delegations opposing to proceeding with further work, expressed the opinion that the General Criteria for Selection of Methods of Analysis in the Procedural Manual were applicable also to biological methods and therefore additional criteria were not necessary; and if numerical criteria were needed, these could be considered on a case-by-case basis.

43. These delegations further expressed the view that priority should be given to the extensive work currently being undertaken on the review and update of CODEX STAN 234, especially since biological methods were increasingly being replaced by newer chemical methods and that it was unlikely that many new biological methods would be developed in future.

Conclusion

44. The Committee noted the need to continue work on biological methods criteria and agreed to establish an EWG chaired by Chile and Mexico, working in English and Spanish:

- to use the General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis laid down in the Procedural Manual and other related Procedural Manual referenced documents for the validation of methods of analysis to assess methods in which potency of a substance is measured by the response of living organisms or living systems,
- to determine which criteria would not apply and propose some other criteria that might be necessary for biological methods which are currently endorsed by Codex.

45. The Committee further agreed that the work should be discontinued if the EWG not produce a concrete result for consideration by CCMAS39.

REVIEW AND UPDATE OF METHODS IN CODEX STAN 234-1999 (Agenda Item 6)[8]

46. Brazil, as Chair of the EWG and the PWG on the review and update of methods of analysis and sampling in CODEX STAN 234, presented the item and highlighted the key points of discussion and recommendations of the PWG held prior to the session (points 1-5 of CRD4).

47. The Committee considered the report of the PWG as follows:

Codex general methods

48. The Committee agreed that at this stage there was no need for a definition nor a separate section to list Codex general methods in CODEX STAN 234. Update of such methods would be done on a case-by-case basis by the PWG on Endorsement as work on the review progresses (including those general methods related to additives and contaminants as described in CODEX STAN 239-2003 and CODEX STAN 228-2001, respectively).

Structure of CODEX STAN 234-1999

49. The Committee agreed that new work on the standard would address the preamble, scope, structure and other relevant information aimed at facilitating the reading of the methods listed in CODEX STAN 234.

50. The Committee noted that such information did not refer to intellectual property associated to the methods in CODEX STAN 234 (e.g. performance data that may not be available or may be proprietary), but rather to complementary information such as description of CAC/RMs when no internationally validated methods from SDOs had been identified to replace these methods or performance criteria of methods as endorsed by CCMAS.

51. The Committee agreed that this work would constitute new work for approval by CAC40.

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8 CL 2017/4-MAS; CX/MAS 17/38/6; CX/MAS 17/38/6-Add.1 (Comments of Argentina, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Switzerland); summary report of the PWG on the review and update of methods in CODEX STAN 234-1999 (CRD4); IDF (CRD5); Kenya, Peru, EU, Mexico, Ghana and Egypt (CRD9); Senegal (CRD14); Nigeria (CRD15); Ecuador (CRD17).

Follow-up work on the review and update of CODEX STAN 234-1999

52. The Committee agreed that it would continue to work on the workable packages for the review and update of CODEX STAN 234-1999 as described in CX/MAS 17/38/6. The workable packages will be prepared by the EWG on the review and updated of CODEX STAN 234-1999 and will be sent to the Codex Secretariat in order to be considered by the PWG on Endorsement and CCMAS. Depending on the complexity of the issues associated to the workable package a circular letter (CL) could be issued by the Codex Secretariat to seek specific comments from Codex members and observer organizations.

53. The Committee recognized that the above approach would not preclude the Codex Secretariat from already proceeding with the editorial update of CODEX STAN 234and/or commodity standards in those cases where (i) inconsistencies had been identified between the methods endorsed in CODEX STAN 234-1999 and the methods listed in the commodity standards for the same provision(s) and (ii) the inclusion of CAC/RMs that have been confirmed by CCMAS in the absence of other international references. This work will be done in close collaboration with the Chair of the EWG on the review and update of CODEX STAN 234-1999 and submitted to CCMAS for information and to CAC for adoption as editorial amendments.

54. The Committee further acknowledged that some work could already be advanced in parallel with work on the workable package by addressing methods of analysis for groups of products e.g. all methods of analysis for dairy products in CODEX STAN 234. This could alleviate the work envisaged on some of the workable packages and could also lead to enhance cooperation with SDOs in the review and update of other food groups.

55. The Committee agreed that the above work (including consideration of Codex general methods) may imply confirmation, removal, retyping or reassignment of the method to a specific food or group of foods.

56. The Observer of IDF in partnership with ISO and AOAC expressed their willingness to consider all the dairy-related methods as one pack and provide CCMAS with updated references for consideration by CCMAS39.

57. The Observer from AOCS referred to the discussion held at the IAM meeting (Agenda Item 10) in regard to the review and update of methods of analysis and sampling plans in CODEX STAN 234-1999. The Observer conveyed the views of the SDOs that updating method references in CODEX STAN 234should be the responsibility of each SDO to ensure that references and harmonization information are correct though this work will likely take several years. The Committee further agreed (i) to continue to work on the workable packages as well as to pilot an update of all methods related to dairy products with the assistance of IDF, ISO and AOAC and (ii) that the Codex Secretariat will closely work with the Chair of the EWG on the review and update of CODEX STAN 234on those editorial amendments identified in paragraph X that can be presented for information to CCMAS39 and editorial amendments to CAC41.

Future work on database for Codex methods of analysis and sampling plans

58. The Committee noted the importance of having a searchable database with information specific to CCMAS to manage the regular review process and a general interface with information on methods of analysis and sampling adopted by CAC for Codex members and observers available on the Codex website. In the meanwhile, CCMAS can work with an informative document to track the review process.

Conclusion

59. The Committee agreed:

1) To start new work on a new format for CODEX STAN 234-1999 subject to approval of CAC40 (Appendix VI).
2) To continue work on the review and update of methods of analysis and sampling plans in CODEX STAN 234-1999 through the workable packages
3) To proceed with the review and update of methods of analysis for dairy products in CODEX STAN 234-1999 in collaboration with IDF, ISO and AOAC.
4) To establish an EWG, chaired by Brazil and Uruguay, working in English and Spanish, to carry out the work indicated in points 1 and 2.

INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON PRACTICAL EXAMPLES ON THE SELECTION OF APPROPRIATE SAMPLING PLANS (AGENDA ITEM 7)[9]

60. The Delegation of Germany, as chair of the eWG on the development of practical examples for the selection of appropriate sampling plans, presented the paper (CX/MAS 17/38/7) and sought approval of the committee to publish the information document. The committee agreed on the content of the information document (Appendix VII), which will be made available on the Codex website.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE GUIDELINES ON MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY (CAC/GL 54-2004) (Agenda Item 8)[10]

61. Germany, as Chair of the EWG on the review of CAC/GL54, introduced the item and recalled that CCMAS37 agreed to establish an EWG to (i) identify areas for improvements and amendments to CAC/GL 54, (ii) recommend procedures if necessary for determining uncertainty of measurement results including sub-sampling, sample processing and analysis and (iii) avoid overlapping with the Guidelines on Estimation of Uncertainty of Results (CAC/GL 59) and to proceed with work based on CRD26 presented at CCMAS37.

62. The Delegation informed the Committee on the output of the work of the EWG in order to keep CAC/GL 54 as simple as possible as follows: (i) the explanatory notes have been relieved from redundancies and are now integrated into the main texts, (ii) a new chapter with recommended procedures for determining uncertainty of measurement results has been introduced based on the document contained in CRD26/MAS37, (iii) the examples have been revised to be in line with the cited standards and international guidelines, and (iv) the tables of the anticipated measurement uncertainties is now harmonized with the Procedural Manual, Section II, Chapter 1.3. Apart from these changes, all the aspects of general importance of measurement of uncertainty (MU) of CAC/GL 54 were maintained. The proposed revised CAC/GL54 with the changes indicated in points (i) – (iv) are presented in Appendix I to CX/MAS 17/38/8.

63. The Delegation also explained that the proposed introductory text in the proposed revised CAC/GL 54 was necessary to clarify why MU is important in its influence on sampling plans (i.e. on the procedure of lot assessment) and its role in conformity assessment of a particular analytical test sample. Therefore, the proposed revised CAC/GL 54 explains the influence of MU on sampling plans and the corresponding decisions of lot compliance and contain a reference to the concerning ISO standards on sampling.

64. The Delegation further clarified that MU deals with laboratory samples and not with the homogeneity of the lot (i.e. CAC/GL 54 do not address sampling uncertainties). MU of laboratory samples can however influence the sampling plans and the subsequent lot acceptance and conformity assessment of the product with the specification in the standards.

65. The Committee noted that CAC/GL54, as all Codex standards and related texts, are primarily targeted to Codex member countries and as such to any stakeholder in government (i.e. laboratories dealing with MU in the particular case of CAC/GL 54).

66. The Committee noted that the proposed revision to CAC/GL 54 would envisage new work for CCMAS and that a clear outline of what the work would entail should be given in a project document for consideration by CCMAS39. Besides, the recommended procedures for estimating MU (new addition) would be better developed as an information document and that it would address examples of procedures for estimating MU. The Committee reasserted that such examples were of illustrative nature and by no means were limited to nor restricted to those to be described in the information document.

Conclusion

67. The Committee agreed to establish an EWG chaired by Germany and working in English only with the following TOR:

- Preparation of a project document that indicates which amendments and improvements should be identified and used in GL54.
- Revision of GL54 considering the identified areas of improvement and technical and other amendments taking into account the need to simplify the content.
- Elaboration of an information document with examples of procedures for estimating measurement uncertainty.

[9] CX/MAS 17/38/7; Comments from Kenya, Mexico (CRD 10); Senegal (CRD14); Ecuador (CRD)

[10] CX/MAS 17/38/8; Comments of Kenya, Peru, EU, IDF, Mexico and Ghana (CRD 11), Senegal (CRD 14), Nigeria (CRD 15), Ecuador (CRD 17).

68. The Committee further agreed that the above work will be developed on the basis of the document presented in Appendix I to CX/MAS 17/38/8.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE GENERAL GUIDELINES ON SAMPLING (CAC/GL 50-2004) (AGENDA ITEM 9)[11]

69. The Delegation of New Zealand, chair of the EWG, introduced the paper (CX/MAS 17/38/9) and explained that there was wide support in the EWG to undertake new work on simplifying/updating CAC/GL 50-2004.

70. The Delegation highlighted some of the general and technical areas of improvements that could be considered in the revision. Some of the improvements will be developed to assist understanding of the principles of sampling, i.e. (i) an initial section discussing the principles of acceptance sampling and how it works, and how to determine a sampling plan for a particular application; (ii) sampling of materials sold in bulk, and (iii) especially about the use of the terms 'consumers' risk' and 'producers' risk'.

71. The Delegation further pointed out that there might be a need for assistance from outside technical experts in undertaking the work.

72. The Delegation recommended that the Committee consider the review paper and agree on a method to achieve the work, in particular its prioritisation and the means of undertaking the first priority work, whereafter a project document could be prepared.

Discussion

73. The following views were expressed:

- The current CAC/GL50 was very theoretical and needed simplification and therefore the future revision should avoid inclusion of additional theoretical information;
- The review document was a good starting point to update CAC/GL 50, but work proposed was considerable and prioritization was necessary as was the need for assistance from external experts;
- The revision of CAC/GL 50 would be extensive and it was premature to embark on the new work. An outline of the possible revised CAC/GL50 would assist in taking a decision on new work.

74. The Codex Secretariat emphasized that the revision should aim at providing a simple and understandable guidance and avoid the overuse of statistical information; that consideration should be given cross-referencing existing guidance on sampling developed by other internationally recognized standards organisations and the use of examples within the revised document should be avoided to the extent possible.

Conclusion

75. The Committee noted that it was not in a position to request approval at this stage, and agreed to re-establish an EWG chaired by NZ, working in English, to:

i. prepare a project document with a clear scope of the work to be undertaken; and
ii. an outline of a new CAC/GL 50; and
iii. prioritization of technical and other improvements; and
iv. timeframes for the different phases of the work.

REPORT OF AN INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS (AGENDA ITEM 10)[12]

76. The Observer of the American Oil Chemists' Society (AOCS), as chair of IAM, introduced the report of the IAM and highlighted the various issues discussed in the IAM with respect to the work of CCMAS and other related matters.

77. The Committee noted that several of the issues raised in CRD 16 had been considered under the relevant agenda items.

78. The Committee also noted that a revised version of the proposed ISO Technical Specification for the Assessment of Qualitative Methods will be circulated by ISO/TC 34/SC16 for comment shortly and the guidance document on the validation of non-targeted methods of analysis for detecting adulteration by USP/FCC are under review for publication in late 2017.

[11] CX/MAS 17/38/9; Comments from Kenya, Peru, EU and Ghana (CRD 12), Senegal (CRD 14), Nigeria (CRD 15), Ecuador(CRD 17); draft Project document prepared by NZ (CRD19).
[12] Report of the 29th IAM (CRD16)

79. In relation to timely and extensive review of methods of analysis for endorsement by CCMAS, the Committee noted that IAM agreed to provide feedback to the PWG on endorsement of methods of analysis and sampling where documents are available at least 4 weeks prior to meeting of the PWG.

80. The Committee thanked the members of IAM for their contribution to the work of the Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK (AGENDA ITEM 11)

81. The Committee noted that no other business had been put forward during the adoption of the Provisional Agenda.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 12)

82. The Committee was informed that the 39th Session would take place in Budapest, Hungary, within the next 18 to 24 months, the final arrangements being subject to confirmation by the host country and the Codex Secretariat.