

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2,3,4

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Thirtieth Session

Paris, France, 11 - 15 April 2016

COMMENTS OF INDIA

Agenda Item 2 CX/GP 16/30/2 Add.1 Matters Arising from the 37th Session of the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS37)

Amendments to Section II "Elaboration of Codex texts" of the Procedural manual proposed by CCMAS37:

1. Amendments to sub section "Working Instructions for the Implementation of the Criteria Approach in Codex" (Principle for the establishment of the Codex Methods of Analysis)
2. Amendments to sub section "Methods of Analysis" (Format for Codex Commodity Standards)

Comments: The proposed amendments to the above sub sections in the Procedural manual are acceptable to India.

Agenda Item 3 CX/GP 16/30/3 Codex Work Management and Functioning of the Executive Committee Terms of Reference for Secretariat Led Internal Review (Phase 1)

India appreciates the work done by Codex Secretariat and FAO/WHO on Terms of reference for the Secretariat-led internal review of Codex Work Management and functioning of the Executive Committee and is thankful for the opportunity to provide comments on the document.

General Comments:

The last evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius was jointly conducted by FAO/WHO in 2002. Subsequently, the implementation of the decision taken by the Commission on the recommendations in the evaluation report was completed by the year 2009. Post implementation, the discussions on the Codex work management again commenced leading to the current preparatory work for conducting a fresh evaluation (internal and external review). While the need for such a review cannot be overlooked, it is important that the direction taken in the course of evaluation/review is for the larger purpose of making the organization more responsive to the changing environment and the needs of the member countries. Therefore, for the review/ evaluation, a logical course should have been to focus initially on impact of the implementation of decisions pertaining to the 2002 Joint FAO/WHO evaluation and the same would largely serve the purpose of the review of the Codex work without wasting resources. Besides, it would also be prudent to undertake such a review once implementation of the current Strategic Plan (2014-2019) is completed.

Having said that, we also note that the proposed Terms of Reference for the review do not encompass all aspects in respect of the Codex work management, but are largely limited to the roles and responsibilities of the CCEXEC. More specifically, the first bullet under the 'Purpose' does not include any reference to the assessment of Codex work management which otherwise was the main reason for initiation of the review work. Besides, the range of issues identified for evaluation as defined through the four review questions do not appropriately cover the "six key areas" identified by CCEXEC70, particularly the "Responsiveness to emerging issues, Consensus and Cross collaboration amongst Codex Committees" and are more focused on the functioning of CCEXEC.

In view of the above, the review subject matter needs to be discussed by the Regional Coordinating Committees to ensure wider response from more number of members, since not all the members of the Regional Committees, who participate in the Regional Committee meetings, are able to attend the CAC or CCEXEC meetings. Such an approach will be consistent with the general agreement by the CCEXEC70 that the process to define the scope of the Review (Phase 1) should be transparent and inclusive with strong engagement of Codex members.

Agenda Item 4 CX/GP 16/30/3 Consistency of the Risk Analysis Texts across the Relevant Committees

India appreciates the work done by Codex Secretariat on the analysis of the consistency of different texts on risk analysis principles developed by Codex Committees and providing comparison of the risk analysis texts in different Committees.

Recommendations

The recommendations given under the agenda are acceptable to India.