



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### Twenty-third Session

#### Virtual

22-26 July 2024

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 45th and 46th SESSIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC45 and CAC46) AND ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CCEXEC82, CCEXEC83, CCEXEC84 and CCEXEC85)

##### Standards and related texts adopted by the Commission<sup>1</sup>

1. CAC46 adopted the:
  - i. amendment to the provisions for labelling of non-retail containers in the *Regional Standards for Culantro Coyote* (Latin America and the Caribbean) (CXS 304R-2011), *Lucuma* (Latin America and the Caribbean) (CXS 305R-2011), and *Yakon* (Latin America and the Caribbean) (CXS 324R-2017); and
  - ii. food additive provisions in the *Regional Standards for Culantro Coyote* (Latin America and the Caribbean) (CXS 304R-2011) and *Lucuma* (Latin America and the Caribbean) (CXS 305R-2011), noting that the proposed food additive provisions (“No food additives are permitted in foods conforming to this standard”) had been endorsed by CCFA53.

##### Development of a regional standard on Castilla Lulo<sup>2</sup>

2. CAC45 did not approve the proposal for new work on developing a worldwide standard for Castilla Lulo due to the limited volume of international trade, however CAC45 approved new work on developing a regional standard on Castilla Lulo under CCLAC.

##### Appointments and elections<sup>3</sup>

3. CAC45 (2022) re-appointed Ecuador as Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to hold office from the end of CAC45 until the end of the first regular session of the Commission following the next session of CCLAC (i.e. CAC47, 2024).
4. CAC46 (2023) elected Costa Rica as the Member of the Executive Committee on a geographic basis for LAC, for the period from the end of CAC46 to the end of the second succeeding regular session of the Commission (CAC48, 2025).

##### Codex budgetary and financial matters<sup>4</sup>

5. CAC46 (2023) urged Members to advocate with their government representatives to FAO and WHO for adequate funding for the Codex programme.

<sup>1</sup> REP23/CAC, paragraph 30, Appendix II and VII

<sup>2</sup> REP22/CAC, paragraph 63

<sup>3</sup> REP22/CAC, paragraphs 215 and 217; REP23/CAC, paragraph 222.

<sup>4</sup> REP23/CAC, paragraph 214(v,vii)

6. CAC46 noted the increasing difficulty of delivering the Codex work plan, thanked Members already contributing extra-budgetary resources to Codex, and encouraged Members to consider extra-budgetary funding of the ongoing project to increase accessibility to Codex texts in the six official languages and work on monitoring the use and impact of Codex texts.

Application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (SoP)<sup>5</sup>

7. CAC46 (2023) reiterated its previous conclusion that the draft “Guidance for Codex Chairpersons and Members on the application of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of Science in the Codex decision making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account” remained serviceable and available as practical guidance for Chairpersons of CAC and its subsidiary bodies and for Members in situations when there is agreement on science but differing views on other factors/considerations. CAC46 also agreed on the need to gain more experience on application of the draft guidance, and to revisit the draft guidance in the light of experience gained.

Future of Codex<sup>6</sup>

8. CCEXEC85 (2023) agreed that rather than develop a blueprint for the future of Codex, it was more appropriate to use the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 to guide the future direction of Codex and to consider, in parallel, a working model for future Codex work; and that the document (i.e. CX/EXEC 23/85/3, Appendix II) describing the key elements of a model for future Codex work remained a living document that should be periodically reviewed in light of experiences and learnings.

9. CAC46 (2023) endorsed the conclusions of CCEXEC85 regarding matters pertaining to the future of Codex.

Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031<sup>7</sup>

10. CCEXEC84 (2023) recommended taking into account the lessons learnt from the development and implementation of the monitoring framework for the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 when developing the monitoring framework for the Strategic Plan 2026-2031.

11. CCEXEC85 (2023) discussed the first draft of the elements to be included in the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 and agreed to send a Circular Letter (CL) to Members and Observers requesting comments on these elements. CCEXEC85 further agreed that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons should hold informal consultations with Members and Observers to encourage interaction, discussion and reflection, and to support Members and Observers in responding to the CL.

12. CAC46 (2023) endorsed the conclusions of CCEXEC85 regarding matters pertaining to the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031. The Circular Letter, CL 2024/10-EXEC, which was issued in January 2024, also posed questions intended to initiate discussion around strategic goals for the Plan. The responses to this CL are collated in Appendix II of CX/EXEC 24/86/4 and will be further discussed by CCEXEC86 (July 2024).

New Food Sources and Production Systems (NFPS)<sup>8</sup>

13. CAC46 (2023) highlighted the importance of addressing challenges posed by NFPS and the important role Codex could play in this, noted that the current working mechanisms were adequate to address any new work on NFPS that Members might propose, and encouraged Members to submit discussion papers or new work proposals, either to active Codex committees or to the Executive Committee through the Codex Secretariat.

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<sup>5</sup> REP22/EXEC2, paragraphs 81-84; REP22/CAC, paragraph 22(iv, v); REP23/CAC, paragraph 194(ii, vi, vii)

<sup>6</sup> REP23/EXEC2, paragraph 38; REP23/CAC, paragraph 16

<sup>7</sup> REP23/EXEC1, paragraph 115; REP23/EXEC2, paragraphs 40-47, 54(i(a), ii); REP23/CAC, paragraph 16

<sup>8</sup> REP23/CAC, paragraph 206(i, ii, iii))

### Regional standards<sup>9</sup>

14. CCEXEC85 (2023) in addressing the challenges with application of the criteria for regional standards in the context of regional needs, indicated that regardless of whether a commodity was traded internationally or not, a proposal for new work for either a regional or worldwide standard could be submitted from FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to CCEXEC for critical review, and to CAC for final approval and decision on the nature of the standard and by whom it should be developed.

15. CCEXEC85 also indicated that FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (and proponents of new work) should prepare well researched and complete discussion papers/proposals for new work, which would facilitate the role of CCEXEC and enable it to advise CAC accordingly on a possible way forward.

16. CCEXEC85 recommended that the Codex Secretariat work to prepare practical guidance as well as engage with Members to address the challenges related to new work and work prioritization, as recommended by CCEXEC83.

### New standards or review of standards and guidelines<sup>10</sup>

17. At the request of the WHO representative, CCEXEC83 (2022) agreed to request that Codex committees, when prioritizing and undertaking work on new standards or the review of standards and guidelines relating to composition of foods, have due regard to ongoing global efforts to achieve health and nutrition related goals through reducing non-communicable diseases (NCD) risk factors such as sodium intake.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

### **26th Session of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and certification (CCFICS26)**<sup>11</sup>

18. CCFICS26 (2023) agreed to inform other Codex Committees about the review and update of the *Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System* (CXG 60-2006).<sup>12</sup>

### **33rd Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP33)**<sup>13</sup>

19. CCGP33 (2023) following its discussion on update to the Guide to the procedures for the amendment and revision of Codex standards and related texts in the Procedural Manual, agreed to inform other Codex committees of the ongoing work in this regard to better align with current practices in Codex and international publishing standards.

20. CCGP33 agreed to ask the host secretariats to review the procedures in Section 3 of the PM, Guidelines for subsidiary bodies, to identify text to be updated, in line with current practices; and to request the Codex Secretariat to circulate any proposed changes for comments by the Members.

### **53rd and 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA53 and CCFA54)**<sup>14</sup>

21. CCFA53 (2023) endorsed the food additive provisions in the *Regional Standards for Culantro Coyote* (CXS 304R-2011) and *Lucuma* (CXS 305R-2021) (i.e. *No food additives are permitted in foods conforming to this standard*).

22. CCFA54 revised food additive provisions of the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA, CXS 192-1995) in relation to the alignment of the food additives provisions in the *Regional Standard for Yacon* (CXS 324R-2017).

23. CCFA54 also revised the food additives sections in the *Regional Standards for Yacon* (CXS 324R-2017) to ensure consistency with other CCLAC standards.

### **54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54)**<sup>15</sup>

24. CAC46 in approving new work on the development of guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food to be developed by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), requested CCFH to carefully consider the relationship between the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969), these new guidelines and the regional guidelines/codes of practice on street vended foods which includes the

<sup>9</sup> REP23/EXEC2, paragraph 92(ii, iii)

<sup>10</sup> REP22/EXEC2, paragraph 154 (v)

<sup>11</sup> REP23/FICS, paragraph 117(c); REP23/CAC, paragraph 87

<sup>12</sup> This proposal for new work was approved by CAC46

<sup>13</sup> REP23/GP, paragraphs 36(ii) and 69(iv)

<sup>14</sup> REP24/FA, paragraph 66iii and Appendix V, Part B.6

<sup>15</sup> REP24/FH, paragraphs 134, 169-170

*Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street Foods* (Latin America and the Caribbean [CXC 43R-1995]).

25. CCFH54 agreed to forward the proposed draft guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8. Following adoption of this text by CAC47 in November 2024, and recalling the recent revision of CXC 1-1969 by CAC45 in November 2022, CCFH54 requested the relevant FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to review their respective texts on street vended foods to ensure consistency with CXC 1-1969 and the guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for foods and consider the necessary follow-up action (e.g. revision or revocation).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

26. CCLAC23 is invited to:

- (i) note the matters for information arising from CAC, CCEXEC, CCFICS, CCGP and CCFA;
- (ii) encourage Codex Members to:
  - (a) actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions in CCEXEC and CAC (e.g. sharing experience on application of the draft guidance on SoP and providing inputs on the development of Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031); and
  - (b) submit discussion papers or new work proposals on NFPS using existing mechanisms available in Codex.
- (iii) agree on an approach to review CXC 43R-1995 to ensure consistency with CXC 1-1969 and the guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food when adopted and provide suggestions/recommendations for next steps or consequential changes to CXC 43R-1995 to CCLAC24.