GEOBAL FOOD REGULATORY SCIENCE SOCIETY

14th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

> May 3 – 7, 2021 Virtual

MENA Codex Colloquium 12-14 September 2021

Overview

- The 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF14) was held virtually from 3 to 7 and 13 May 2021, and was a very productive session.
- Attendees: 92 Member Countries, among which 5 from the MENA region (Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates), one Member Organization (European Union) and 32 observer organizations.
- 22 agenda items including COP (Code of Practices), contaminants MLs, etc.
- CCCF15 is scheduled to be held in approximately one year, final arrangements subject to confirmation by the Host Country "The Netherlands" and the Codex Secretariat.





Standards Recommended for Adoption

Step 5/8 and 8



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Maximum Level for Cadmium in Chocolates Containing or Declaring <30% Total Cocoa Solids on a Dry Matter Basis

- CCCF agreed to:
 - advance the ML of 0.3 mg/kg for chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids for final adoption at Step 8 by CAC44 (2021).
- Reservations to this decision: the European Union, Norway, and Egypt.
- The Chair asked member countries to respect the decisions made in CCCF and not to reopen the issue at CAC44 (2021).



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Chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids

- CCCF agreed to advance the ML of 0.7 mg/kg for chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids to Step 5/8 for final adoption by CAC44 (2021).
- Reservations to the decision: the European Union, Switzerland, Norway, and **Egypt.**
- The CCCF Chair urged Codex members to respect the decision and not to reopen discussions at CAC44.



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Revision of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods (CXS 56-2004)

The Committee noted general support for the final adoption of the revised COP and agreed to forward the revised COP to CAC44 **for adoption at Step 5/8**.

The Committee also agreed to recommend to the Codex Committee on Food Additives to request JECFA to review and evaluate some other items.



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Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans

- **CCCF supported the development** of the Code Of Practice (COP) and agreed to work further on it, specifically focusing on practical and real-world mitigation measures.
- CCCF agreed to advance the COP for **adoption** at **Step 5** by CAC44 (2021) and established an EWG to continue the work with Peru as chair and Ecuador and Ghana as co-chairs.



Highlights: Texts for final adoption at CAC44 (2021)

The Committee sent the following to CAC44 (2021):

- Draft ML for Cd in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis: adoption at <u>Step 8</u> (final adoption).
- Draft ML for Cd in chocolate containing or declaring ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis and draft revision of the COP for the Prevention and Reduction of Lead Contamination in Foods (CXS 56-2004): adoption at <u>Step 5/8</u> (final adoption).
- Draft COP for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium in Cocoa Beans: adoption at <u>Step 5</u> (interim adoption, allowing for another round of consideration by the Committee at its next session).
- Amendment to the MLs in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (GSCTFF) for lead in fruit juices to add notes/remarks that the MLs for lead in fruit juices and grape juice also apply to fruit juices for infants and young children.



Highlights: Ongoing

The Committee agreed to continue working on the following for CCCF15 (2022):

- COP for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans; <u>Step 6/7</u>
- ML for cadmium in cocoa powder containing or declaring 100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis; CCCF agreed to postpone discussion of MLs for another year to allow for more data submissions and new ML proposals; <u>Step 2/3</u>



Highlights: New work requiring data input

The Committee also agreed to start working on the following for CCCF15 (2022):

- Draft MLs for lead in dried spices and culinary herbs, including dried bulbs, rhizomes and roots; eggs, sugars and sugar-based candies, cereal-based products and ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children;
- MLs for total aflatoxins (AFT) in maize grain; flour, meal, semolina, and flakes derived from maize; husked and polished rice; sorghum grain destined for further processing; and cereal-based food for infants and young children; and associated sampling plans;
- MLs for AFT in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan;
- MLs for AFT and ochratoxin A (OTA) in spices: nutmeg, chili and paprika, ginger, pepper, and turmeric, and associated sampling plans;
- A revised discussion paper for CCCF17 (2024) by JECFA Secretariat on occurrence of lead and cadmium in quinoa;



Highlights: Other New work

The Committee also agreed to start working on the following for CCCF15 (2022):

- MLs for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk-eel, and associated sampling plan;
- COP for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products;



Highlights: New work – Methodology Items (II)

The Committee also agreed to continue or start work on the following for CCCF15 (2022):

• Guidance on data analysis for development of MLs and for improved data collection,

- Implementation of a pilot project on the review of Codex standards on a three-year basis, including plans for establishment of an In-Session Working Group at CCCF15 (2022), chaired by Canada; and
- Work on a forward work plan for CCCF:
 - Review of contaminant/staple food combinations by the Netherlands and the JECFA and Codex Secretariats
 - Project plan on evaluation of implementation of COPs by the Codex Secretariat in consultation with FAO and WHO and the Netherlands.



Electronic Working Group	Chaired	Co-Chaired
Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans	Peru	Ecuador Ghana
Maximum Levels for Cocoa powder containing or declaring 100% total cocoa solids ready for consumption	Ecuador	Ghana
 Maximum Levels for Lead in Certain Food Categories: Quinoa Sugars and candies Dried spices Fruit Juice Cereal and cereal based products Tea, Herbal Tea 	Brazil	
Maximum Levels for Aflatoxins (AFT) in Certain Cereals and Cereal-Based Products Including Food for Infants and Young Children	Brazil	India
Maximum Level for Total Aflatoxins in Ready-To-Eat Peanuts and Associated Sampling Plan and Maximum Levels for Total Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in Nutmeg, Dried Chili and Paprika, Ginger, Pepper, and Turmeric and Associated Sampling Plans	India	



Electronic Working Group	Chaired	Co-Chaired
Discussion Paper on Methylmercury in Fish	New Zealand	Canada
Discussion Paper on Hydrocyanic Acid and Mycotoxins Contamination in Cassava and Cassava-Based Products	Nigeria	Ghana
Guidance on Data Analysis for Development of Maximum Levels and for Improved Data Collection	EU	Japan Netherlands USA
Making recommendations on standards revision and related texts developed by CCCF	Canada	



Items of relevance for the region





Items of Relevance for the Region



GFORRSS GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY

Data Collection





Discussion Paper

MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA –	MENA Codex Colloquium Session 2: Setting the Stage – Workshap Expectations, Current Status of Codex Participation from the Region	MENA Codex Colloquium Session 2: Setting the Stage - Workshop Expectations, Current Status of Codex Participation from the Region
	2. Documenting Priorities of Codex Committees	3. Challenges and Enablers Related to Participation in Codex Proceedings
الدية ديني المالية الم	Please capture information collected from delegates seated at your table:	Discuss the key challenges that impede your country's:
	A. Discuss, at your table, what are the top 5 Codex Committees that your country consider as high priority	A. Participation in Codex meetings.
	warranting participation and contribution. Explain why. For example:	B. Effective preparation for Codex proceedings – electronic working groups / committees.
	 Strategic importance for national standard development. 	C. Participation in coordination committees at the regional level – within the MENA region – and with other
egai dede bis de	 Strategic importance for import / export control. 	delegations beyond the region.
	 Importance related to market access considerations. 	
CODEX COLLOQUIUM FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION	 Importance related to interest in leveraging Codex resources for national standard development. 	
12-14 September 2021	• Etc.	
JW Marriott Marquis, Dubai, United Arab Emirates		
Session 2: Setting the Stage – Workshop Expectations, Current Status of		
Codex Participation from the Region		
12 September 2021, Emirates Ballroom 5 & 6		
How can we bolster participation in Codex proceedings?		
This facilitated discussion aims to capture the current level of participation in Codex Committees from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.		
It will attempt to document current challenges faced by Codex teams in the region, preventing / limiting participation in and effective preparation for Codex Committees.		 Possible Solutions and Enablers Discuss at your table and record what you consider as enablers / solutions to address the challenges and
1. Documenting Level of Participation		impediments identified above.
Please capture information collected from delegates seated at your table:		
A. Which Codex Committee(s) have your Country participated in during 2021?		
Country \rightarrow Codex Committee(s)		
B. How different was your participation pre-pandemic, i.e. in comparison to the period before 2019?		
Pre-2019: Country \rightarrow Codex Committee(s)		
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