



**GFORSS** | GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY  
SCIENCE SOCIETY

ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS AND PREPARATION FOR THE  
46<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING (CCFL46)

*27 Sept – 07 October 2021 Virtual Meeting*

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Proposed Draft Guidelines on Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL)**

**Objectives**

This document offers a review and analysis of the agenda items planned for discussion at the 46th session of the Codex Committee on Food Labeling, scheduled to take place virtually from 27 September to 07<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. The document is intended for possible use by the Codex communities of practice promoted by [GFORSS](#) and [PARERA](#), as part of their contribution to enhancing awareness and supporting effective participation in international food standard setting meetings (Codex meetings) by representatives from members and observers.

The analysis provided in this document offers a factual review of agenda items, their background and a discussion of some considerations. This analysis is indicative in nature and does not represent an official position of the organizations mentioned above ([PARERA](#) and [GFORSS](#)), their membership or their management.

This analysis is prepared as part of the **Codex Initiative for the Middle East and North Africa: MENA Codex Initiative**, implemented by [PARERA](#) and [GFORSS](#) and funded by the US Codex Office, US Department of Agriculture.

This analysis has identified that the most relevant agenda items are agenda items 5, 6 and 8 where progress would be desired.

**Agenda Item 6: Proposed draft Guidelines on Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL)**

*Documents*

- ❖ [CX/FL 21/46/6](#) - Proposed draft guidelines on front of pack nutrition labelling CX/FL 21/46/6-Add.1
  - Comments in reply to [CL 2021/19/OCS-FL](#)

*\*It is important to note that experts – members of the Expert Working Group (EWG) – do not represent the organizations and / or jurisdictions to which they are affiliated. The selection and participation in the EWG proceedings is based on each expert's own credentials and experience which should not be misconstrued as the country's / delegation's / organization's position to which they belong.*

*Background*

CCFL 44 agreed to start new work to develop guidelines on FOPNL systems through an eWG chaired by Cost Rica and co-chaired by New-Zealand. The new work was approved by CAC41.

CCFL45 considered the proposed draft guidelines on FOPNL systems and noted general support for the work. Focus of the discussion was on sections 1-4.

A two-day FOPNL working group meeting prior to the CCFL46 plenary session (September 20-21, 2021) was held.

It will be important to consider whether the WG meeting has led to the development of added consensus on the progressed document.

There is interest on the part of the eWG to push this document for adoption at step 5/8.

*Considerations and Current State*

- **FOPNL practices are evolving quickly and Codex guidance is timely and needed.**
- **Several countries have already adopted various approaches for FOPNL, which has the potential to lead to consumer confusion and possible impediments to trade, if common principles are not agreed upon.**
- **The proposed guidelines offer consistent guidance to adopt supplementary nutrition information on the Front of Pack as a “tool” to facilitate understanding of nutritional value of food and facilitate consumer choice. The current document offers a set of principles for the establishment of these systems.**
- **Several countries from the MENA region contributed to this effort: Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, etc.**
- **A Change was proposed to indicate that the development of FOPNL should be government-led as the proposed text indicates. This statement implies that FOPNL development, whether voluntary or mandatory, will involve food competent authorities. This action would of course require stakeholder engagement and consultations as required.**
- **Several amendments have been recommended by the eWG.**
- **If consensus is achieved during the meeting, these guidelines could move to a recommended adoption.**