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ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS AND PREPARATION FOR THE 15th SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

9th – 13th and 24th MAY 2022 Virtual Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 6

*Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans
(At Step 7)*

Objectives

This document offers a review and analysis of the agenda items planned for discussion at the 15th session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF), scheduled to take place virtually from May 9th– 13th and 24th, 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. It provides a synthesis and analysis of the work currently under discussion in the CCCF committee, which may be useful for delegations from Arab countries to prepare their positions taking into account the needs and specificity of the region and potential impact of the proposed food standards.

This analysis is prepared as part of the **Codex Initiative for the Arab region : Arab Codex Initiative**, implemented by [PARERA](#) and [GForSS](#), hosted and coordinated by the Arab Industrial Development, Standardization and Mining Organization (AIDSMO) and funded by the US Codex Office, US Department of Agriculture.

**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.*

Agenda Item 6: proposed draft Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of Cadmium contamination in Cocoa Beans (at Step 7)

Documents

- ❖ CX/CF 22/15/6
- ❖ CX/CF 22/15/6-Add.1

CCCF15 will examine the proposed draft Code of Practice for the prevention and reduction of Cadmium contamination in Cocoa Beans (at Step 7).

Background of Work

This proposed draft Code of Practice (COP) will provide guidance to member states and the cocoa production industry on the prevention and reduction of cadmium (Cd) contamination in cocoa beans during production and postharvest processing: fermentation, drying, storage and transportation.

At CCCF11 (April 2017), Peru introduced a proposal for the development of the draft Code of practice (COP), An electronic WG was established (eWG) chaired by Peru, and was tasked to develop a discussion paper and a project document for the development of a COP documenting risk mitigation measures available for Cd in Cocoa products.

At CCCF12 (March 2018), the discussion paper was presented by Peru and discussed. The Committee agreed to re-establish the EWG chaired by Peru and co-chaired by Ghana and Ecuador to further elaborate the discussion paper with the aim to:

- ❖ Investigate whether existing mitigation measures would enable the development of the COP
- ❖ Define the scope of the COP (whether it should cover the entire production chain or only primary production), using information collected from a survey administered by the Codex Secretariat.

On this basis, a **project document** and a draft COP would be developed. Emphasis was made to ensure that the COP includes mitigation measures that are proven cost-effective and applicable worldwide by large and **small scale producers**.

CCCF13 (April 2019) discussed the progress in the discussion paper and agreed to submit a project document to CAC42 for approval as new work and to establish an EWG chaired by Peru and co-chaired by Ghana and Ecuador to prepare the draft COP. CAC42 (July 2019) approved the new work.

CCCF14 (2021) agreed to advance the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans for adoption at Step 5 by CAC44 and Re-establish the EWG, chaired by Peru and co-chaired by Ecuador and Ghana to work further on the COP. CAC44 (2021) adopted COP at step 5.

Analysis

- ❖ There was significant progress achieved in the development of the COP, which will contribute to the reduction of occurrence of Cadmium in cocoa beans, in certain regions, supporting international trade.
- ❖ There may be a need to better qualify the practices that have been proven to be effective and their performance and distinguish them from experimental measures.
- ❖ Several countries provided extensive comments to the draft COP.



General Comments

- ❖ There is sufficient information on mitigation measures available for field production and post-harvest processes that could assist in the further development of the COP in the EWG.
- ❖ The COP should address agricultural realities and recommend mitigation measures that are practical for all the options given in the COP as opposed to theoretical options that are currently described in the document, therefore there needs to be more work to ensure that these measures will be achievable for farmers and producers.
- ❖ The COP should identify mitigation measures that are also applicable in the short-term and so more readily available to producers for implementation, but should also look into more medium and long-term measures.
- ❖ While, some short-term measures could be achieved more readily, long-term mitigation measures identified in the COP might need to be looked into in more detail to avoid committing to measures that might be difficult for farmers or producers to comply in the future.

Proposed Recommendations

Codex delegations from the Arab region may consider supporting the adoption of this COP at Step 8, with a request for the following clarifications that may be made during the discussions:

- ❖ Ensure that the document reflects the mitigation measures that are still considered experimental from those that are proven to be effective, with listing of the latter earlier in the document.
- ❖ Arab delegations should consider to assemble and review monitoring data related to Cadmium in food products consumed in the Arab region, including cocoa containing products, available in these markets and use this data to Conduct / Update dietary exposure assessments and risk assessments for the Arab region and determine risk mitigation measures where needed.