

Report of the third meeting of the Arab National Contact Points for Codex Alimentarius

This coordination meeting was held via remote communication technology on June 15, 2022, to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the Codex Committee on PESTICIDE RESIDUES (CCPR53).

Delegates from 11 Arab countries attended the meeting:

- Jordan
- Bahrain
- Saudi Arabia
- Iraq
- Oman
- Qatar
- Kuwait
- State of Libya
- Egypt
- Morocco
- Yemen

Representatives of AIDSMO, the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS) and GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) were also present at the meeting (see participants list in the attachment).

Mr. Ahmed Eddouaicer, coordinator of the Arab Codex initiative within AIDSMO, launched the meeting with introductory remarks, where he welcomed all participants and thanked them for accepting the organization's invitation to attend. He acknowledged also all the efforts deployed through the previous coordination meetings and noted the valuable achievements made during the previous period, wishing that this meeting's agenda items would be approached in a similar way, resulting in substantial recommendations for the Arab region.

The meeting agenda was approved and included the following items:

Agenda item	Subject matter
1	Introduction by the Arab Codex Coordinator
2	Presentation of the outcomes of the 15th session of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF15)
3	Announcement of selected experts admitted by order of merit
4	Introduction of agenda items for the upcoming meeting of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR53)
5	Future activities of the Arab Codex Initiative and discussion of the possibility to conduct training courses for the benefit of CCP
6	Advantages of the interactive platform of the Arab Codex Initiative and user Instructions

Dr. Karima Zouine/Member of the Arab Expert Working Group, introduced the outcomes of the 15th session of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF15). Dr. Zouine started her talk by a brief reminder about all priority items discussed during the plenary sessions held between 9 and 13 May 2022. She then detailed the main decisions and recommendations advanced in their regard, as well as their potential implications on the Arab region.

Afterward, the initiative's coordinator announced the list of experts admitted to join the Arab Expert Working Group, by order of merit, and he mentioned that they would carry out their duties under the supervision of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS), and explained that the selection was fully transparent and was based on merely technical and scientific criteria.

The nominated experts briefly introduced themselves, their professional background and their current occupation. They also expressed their full commitment to work towards achieving the goals of the Arab Codex Initiative.

The following are the names of selected experts:

- Jamal El-Mabrouk Ben Zeglam (Libya)
- Ashraf Mohamed Sami Hassanin Badreldin (Egypt)
- Ahmed Jaafari (Morocco)

Later on, Dr. Amine Kassouf/ Research Scientist at GForSS and member of the Arab Expert Working Group, presented the agenda items of the next session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR53). During his presentation, he introduced the priority agenda items of interest for the Arab region, recalling in parallel the outputs of this committee in its last session (CCPR52). He concluded by stating the short-term activities which will be undertaken in the framework of the Arab Codex Initiative, for the preparation of the CCPR53.

Professor Samuel Godefroy, board president and COO of GForSS, presented potential future ideas that can be implemented in the framework of the Arab Codex Initiative, such as the preparation of Codex Alimentarius events through the organization of training workshops and courses about Codex procedures, for the benefit of the Arab Contact Points. In addition, he reminded about the upcoming face-to-face meeting during the Codex Colloquium this year, which will hopefully be held before the date of the 45th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC45).

The meeting's agenda items were concluded with the intervention of Mr. Mohamed Kamal, IT expert at AIDSMO, where he provided some clarifications regarding the interactive platform of the Arab Codex Initiative, **arabcodex.com**, and how it can be used by CCP, in addition to the services it provides. The contact points were also reminded that all account data had been sent, in a personalized manner, by Mr. Mohamed Laaraj via e-mail arabcodex@aidsmo.org and that they can access the platform and benefit from it at any time, whether through the browser or its dedicated mobile application, which works on the most common smartphone operating systems (Android + iOS).

At the end, the following conclusions and recommendations were adopted:

1. Appreciating the efforts made by Drs: Amine Kassouf and Karima Zouine.
2. Consider the outputs of the fifty-second session of CCPR in preparation for its next session (CCPR53).
3. Holding the fourth meeting of CCP on Thursday, June 30, 2022 to present the analyses and recommendations of the Arab Expert Working Group, regarding the CCPR53 priority agenda items.
4. Sending of the analysis documents prepared by the Arab Expert Working Group for the consideration of the CCPs from the Arab Region in the aim of facilitating the discussions during the next meeting
5. Invite the Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Pesticides, U.S. Codex Office coordinator and CCNE coordinator to participate to the next meeting.