

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

In the course of the implementation of recommendation (3) of the third meeting of the National Contact Points (CCPs) of countries of the League of Arab States held via remote communication technology on 15/06/2022, which states:

"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"

This coordination meeting was held via remote communication technology on June 30, 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
- Tunisia
- Iraq
- Palestine
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Egypt
- Morocco
- Yemen

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

Mr. Khaled Al-Zahrani (Coordinator of the Near East Committee) and Sudan CCP sent their regrets for not being able to participate in the meeting.

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.

The meeting agenda was approved and included the following items:

Agenda item	Subject matter
1	Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda : Mr. Ahmed Eddouaicer, Coordinator Arab Codex Initiative, AIDSMO
2	Review and analysis of CCPR53 agenda Items: Dr Amine Kassouf Dr. Wiem Guissouma, Dr. Karima Zouine and Dr. Ruba Goussous
3	Input and Remarks from Arab Codex Contact Points
4	Introduction – Terms of reference concerning study to support methodological development regarding the extrapolation of veterinary drug MRLs for tissues relevant to the Arab Region : Application to aquaculture fish Prof. Samuel Godefroy
5	Engagement with other Delegations in Preparation for CCPR53 : ❖ CCNE ❖ U.S. Codex Office

Dr. Karima Zouine/Member of the Arab Expert Working Group, introduced the analysis of the following items of the (CCPR53) agenda:

- Item 5a:** Report on items of general consideration arising from the 2021 JMPR extra and regular meetings
- Item 5b and 6:** Report on responses to specific concerns raised by CCPR arising from the 2021 JMPR regular meeting, MRLs for pesticides in food and feed (at Steps 7 and 4)
- Item 4:** Matters arising from other international organizations
- Item 16:** Mitigation of trade impacts associated with the use of environmental inhibitors in agriculture
- Item 17:** Modification of Group 14 (Assorted fruits – inedible peel)

Dr. Wiem Guissouma/Member of the Arab Expert Working Group presented the analysis of:

Item 7:

- **7a:** Establishment of MRLs for pesticides for okra
- **7b:** Class B – Primary Food Commodities of Animal Origin (All Types) (at Step 4)
- **7c:** Class E - Processed Foods of Animal Origin (All Types) (at Step 4)
- **7d:** Coordination of work between CCPR and CCRVDF:Harmonized definition for edible offal and other edible animal tissues

Dr. Ruba Goussous /Member of the Arab Expert Working Group inserted the analysis of:

Item9: Guidelines for compounds of low public health concern that may be exempted from the establishment of Codex MRLs or do not give rise to residues (at Step 7)

Dr. Amine Kassouf/ member of the Arab Expert Working Group developed the analysis of the following items:

Item 11: Management of unsupported compounds without public health concern scheduled for periodic review

Item 12: National registrations of pesticides

Item 13: Establishment of Codex Schedules and Priority Lists of Pesticides for Evaluation/Re-Evaluation by JMPR

Item 14: Discussion paper on the review of mass spectrometry provisions in the Guidelines on the use of mass spectrometry for the identification, confirmation and quantitative determination of pesticide residues (CXG 56- 2005) and the Guidelines on performance criteria of pesticide residues in food and feed (CXG 90-2017)

Item 15: Discussion paper on monitoring the purity and stability of certified reference material of multi-class pesticides during prolonged storage

Later on, the coordinator of the Arab Codex Initiative welcomed the representatives of U.S. Codex and provided an overview of the Initiative, its aims and the purpose of holding coordination meetings between CCPs.

A follow-up presentation was then given by Dr. Amine Kassouf, who presented the preparatory documents for CCPR53, as well as conclusions and considerations related to the Arab region, which were discussed extensively with the US Codex, especially with Mr. Bill Barney chair of the electronic working group (EWG), who was instrumental in enriching the recommendations that will be generated by the Arab region during CCPR53.

The meeting's agenda items were concluded with the presentation of Professor Samuel Godefroy, board president and COO of GFoRSS, where he introduced the terms of reference concerning study to support methodological development regarding the extrapolation of veterinary drug MRLs for tissues relevant to the Arab Region.

Lastly, the following conclusions and recommendations were adopted:

1. Inclusion of all documents and presentations presented during the meeting in the interactive platform of the Arab Codex Initiative (**www.Arabcodex.com**)
2. Circulating a draft CRD (attached) with the Arab national focal points in the Codex and requesting them to provide their opinions on the proposals, in preparation for its sharing by AIDSMO with the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues at its next meeting (4-8 and 13 July 2022).