

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

This coordination meeting was held via remote communication technology on August 25, 2022, to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH6).

Delegates from 11 Arab countries attended the meeting:

- Jordan
- UAE
- Tunisia
- Sudan
- Iraq
- Palestine
- Lebanon
- 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, additionally he referred to the importance that AIDSMO's General Administration attaches to the Arab Codex Initiative for its success and achievement of its objectives, as well as the role that the AIDSMO's Training and Industrial Consultation Institute will play in building the capacities of member states in the field of Codex Alimentarius.

The meeting agenda was approved and included the following items:

Agenda item	Subject matter
1	Introduction by the Arab Codex Coordinator
2	Presentation of outcomes of the 53rd session of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Pesticides Residues
3	Preparation of agenda items for the main meeting of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH6)
4	Updates about extrapolation studies of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs related to the Arab region
5	Future activities of Arab Codex Initiative and discussion of conducting training courses for the benefit of CCP
6	Updates of the interactive platform of the Arab Codex Initiative and user Instructions

Dr. Wiem Guissouma and Dr. Ruba Goussous /Member of the Arab Expert Working Group introduced the outcomes of the 53rd session of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Pesticides Residues (CCPR53), they started by a brief reminder about all priority items discussed during the plenary sessions held between 4-8 July and 13 July 2022. Then detailed the main decisions and recommendations advanced in their regard, as well as their potential implications on the Arab region.

Later, Dr. Amine Kassouf and Eng. Hajar Tiglifet / member of the Arab Expert Working Group, presented the agenda items of the next session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH6). During their presentation, they introduced the priority agenda items of interest for the Arab region, recalling in parallel the outputs of this committee in its last session (CCSCH5), and concluded by stating the short-term activities which will be undertaken in the framework of the Arab Codex Initiative, for the preparation of the CCSCH6.

Dr. Karima Zouine /member of the Arab Expert Working Group presented the updates about extrapolation studies of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs related to the Arab region, including the framework and background of work, objectives, approach, and the expected executive program.

The meeting was marked by an extensive discussion of the Arab countries' focal points in the Codex Alimentarius and the interventions of experts from the Arab Working Group.

After that, Dr. Abu Bakr Salama reviewed the upcoming activities of the Arab initiative, including conducting training courses for the benefit of the Arab countries' focal points in the Codex to prepare for the meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC45), in cooperation with the Organization's Training and Industrial Consulting Institute and GForSS.

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**.

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

1. Appreciating the efforts made by all members of the Arab Expert Working Group.
2. Consider the outputs of the fifth session of CCSCCH in preparation for its next session (CCSCCH6).
3. Holding the sixth meeting of CCP on Monday, September 12, 2022, to present the analyses and recommendations of the Arab Expert Working Group, regarding the CCSCCH6 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