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ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 53rd SESSION OF CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE (CCFH53)

November 29 – December 2nd and December 8th, 2022

San Diego, California, United States

AGENDA ITEM 7

Discussion paper on revision of the Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood

Objectives

This document offers an analysis of agenda items to support participation to the 53rd session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH53), taking place in November 2022. 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, in particular in **Arab Region**.

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 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 7: Discussion paper on revision of the *Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood*

Documents

- ❖ CXG 73-2010 and CX/FH 22/53/7

Background

Japan and New Zealand prepared a *Discussion Paper on Revision of the Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic Vibrio Species in Seafood* (CX/FH 22/53/7), considering the scientific advice provided in *Advances in science and risk assessment tools for Vibrio parahaemolyticus and V. vulnificus associated with seafood: meeting report* (MRA 35) – a report of a JEMRA meeting **conducted in 2019** and published in 2021. The discussion paper outlines specific sections of CXG 73-2010 that could be updated (Appendix 1 of CX/FH 22/53/7) based on new information provided in MRA 35, and proposes a project document (Appendix 2 of CX/FH 22/53/7) to guide the revision of CXG 73-2010, for consideration by CCFH53.

Comments

This discussion paper **raises relevant points that would enhance the existing Guidelines** (CXG 73-2010). Indeed, the information provided in MRA35, especially the **updated risk assessment models for *V. parahaemolyticus* and *V. vulnificus*** would help support risk management strategies in the Arab region.

For scientific accuracy and to better inform risk managers, it is also important to update CXG 73-2010 to reflect enhanced understanding of the dose-response relationship of different strains (i.e., not only high numbers of viable cells can lead to infection).

Regarding control measures, enhanced guidance **on time-temperature parameters**, both pre- and post-harvest (as noted in Para 10, Para 28 and Section 5.2.1), as well as on the safe use and reuse of water (as noted in Para 25 and Section 5.5), would be greatly beneficial.

Enhanced guidance could also include specific considerations for farmed fish / seafood – a sector that has seen increased popularity in the Arab region.

Of particular interest to the Arab region, **it would be important to consider the addition of enhanced information on *V. cholerae*** in CXG 73-2010.

Environmental conditions (especially considering climate change), inadequate sanitation facilities, consumption habits and insufficient control measures make the Arab region more vulnerable to cholera epidemics (e.g., [Yemen](#), [Algeria](#), Lebanon, [region-wide](#)), as is the case for other areas in Asia and the Americas.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Arab delegations consider supporting the approval of the new work recommended in CX/FH 22/53/7 to revise CXG 73-2010.