

Report of the 9th meeting of the Arab Contact Points in Codex Alimentarius

As part of the implementation of recommendation (3) of the Eighth meeting report of the Arab Codex Contact Points (CCPs), held via telecommunication technology on 24/01/2023, which states:

“Holding the 9th coordination meeting for Arab CCP, virtually on 2/2/2023 with the aim of preparations for the main items of interest to the Arab region and included in the agenda of the meeting of the Technical Committee of the Codex Alimentarius on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF).”

This coordination meeting was held via remote communication technology on February 02, 2023, to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF).

Delegates from 14 Arab countries attended the meeting:

- Jordan
- UAE
- Bahrein
- Sudan
- Iraq
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Kuwait
- State of Libya
- Egypt
- Morocco
- Mauritania
- Yemen

As well as **AIDSMO** representatives, the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (**GFoRSS**), GCC Standardization Organization (**GSO**).

The 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 participate in the meeting, stressing the importance of it. He noted the importance attached by the organization's General Administration to the initiative and the need to involve all Arab States in the implementation of the activities in order to achieve the desired objectives. The coordinator thanked the Initiative's experts and their efforts in preparing scientific documents on Codex and requested all focal points to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Initiative in coordinating Arab positions in order to serve joint Arab work in the field of Codex. He also noted that the main objective of the meeting was to prepare for the work of the meeting (26) of the Codex Technical Committee on Veterinary Drug Residues in Food (CCRVDF 26), to be held during the period 13-17 February 2023.

The meeting agenda was approved and included the following items:

Agenda item	Subject matter
1	Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda: Coordinator Arab Codex Initiative, AIDSMO
2	Review and analysis of CCRVDF26 agenda Items
3	Extrapolation studies of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs related to the Arab region (continued)
4	Other points

Dr. Wiem Guissouma and Dr. Karima Zouine / members of the Arab Expert Working Group introduced the analysis of the following items of the (CCRVDF26) agenda:

Item6: MRLs for veterinary drugs in foods

Item7: Extrapolation of MRLs for veterinary drugs in foods to one or more species

Item8: Criteria and procedures for the establishment of action levels for unintended and unavoidable carryover of veterinary drugs from feed to food of animal origin

Item9: Coordination of work between CCPR and CCRVDF

Item10: Priority list of veterinary drugs for evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA

The meeting included a series of interventions by the Arab Codex Contact Points (CCPs), including the representatives of Morocco, Libya, and Egypt.

The meeting's agenda items were concluded with Professor Samuel Godefroy's intervention on extrapolation studies of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs related to the Arab region as well as preparations for the forthcoming meeting of the Codex Technical Committee on Veterinary Drug Residues in Food (CCRVD26), to be held from 13 to 17 February 2023 in Portland, Oregon, USA.

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. Preparing and circulating a draft CRD with the Arab Contact 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 Veterinary Drug Residues in Food (CCRVD26) at its next meeting (13-17 February 2023.)
3. Professor Samuel Godefroy convened a physical meeting of the Arab Codex Contact points participating in the 26th session of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food, with the aim of coordinating the Arab position on issues of common concern.
4. Participation of AIDSMO as an observer member in the 26 Session of the Committee on Veterinary Drug Residues in Food (13-17 February 2023.)
5. Programming the dates of future coordination meetings of CCPs in coordination between AIDSMO and GForSS.