

Report of the 8th meeting of the Arab National Contact Points for Codex Alimentarius

This coordination meeting was held via remote communication technology on Tuesday 24 January 2023 to discuss the outcomes of the 45th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission CAC45, as well as the outcomes of the expert meeting on 23 January 2023 on extrapolation studies of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs related to the Arab region.

Delegates from 16 Arab countries attended the meeting:

- Jordan
- UAE
- Tunisia
- Algeria
- KSA
- Sudan
- Iraq
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Lebanon
- State of Libya
- Egypt
- Morocco
- Mauritania
- Yemen

Representatives of **AIDSMO**, 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 convening this meeting, which aims to discuss the outcomes of the 45th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission CAC45, as well as the outcomes of the expert meeting on 23 January 2023 on extrapolation studies of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs related to the Arab region.

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	Major outputs of the 45th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission CAC45 Prof. Samuel Godefroy
3	Interventions and remarks on the participation of Arab delegations in the 45th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and the results of coordination between them before and during the session
4	Outputs of Expert Meeting: Extrapolation studies of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs related to the Arab region
5	Future activities of the Arab Codex Initiative

Professor Samuel Godefroy, board president and COO of GForSS, presented the outputs of the 45th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC45), where he touched on the outcomes of the meetings of a group of technical committees of the Codex Alimentarius Commission that have priority for the Arab initiative of the Codex Alimentarius, namely:

- Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)
- Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)
- Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)
- Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)
- Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)
- Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)

During his presentation, Professor Samuel Godefroy highlighted the effective contribution of the Arab delegations during the session (CAC45), as well as the importance of coordination meetings of the contact points of Arab countries and the importance of cooperation within the regions.

This presentation received a positive interaction from the contact points of the Arab countries through the interventions of the representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Libya, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and the representative of GSO, where they all confirmed that the session(CAC45) witnessed strong participation by the Arab countries, Whether physically or remotely, and it was a great achievement that supports joint Arab action.

After that, Dr. Karima Zouine/Member of the Arab Expert Working Group introduced the outputs of the extrapolation studies of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs related to the Arab region used in aquaculture and the camel sector in the Arab region.

Among the recommendations made for the Arab region concerning the extrapolation study of maximum limits for residues of veterinary drugs used in:

Aquaculture:

- The possibility of applying the MRLs extrapolation approach is considered an appropriate solution to develop the required standards and meet the needs of aquaculture in the Arab region.
- Possibility of adopting the proposed MRLs as temporary limits in the Arab region, until more data on the residues of these drugs are provided in the relevant categories.
- A proposal to send a request from the Arab countries to the CCRVDF Committee to include the veterinary drugs concerned with this study in the list of priority so that it can be discussed in the work of the Committee.

Camels:

Work will continue by the team to collect and analyze available scientific data and studies on the list of veterinary drugs used in the Arab region in order to meet the needs of the region and in response to the recommendations of the Arab delegations in the meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Committee.

Lastly, the following 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 the scientific report of extrapolation studies of the maximum limits of veterinary drug residues related to the Arab region, with the Arab national contact points in the Codex and requesting them to provide their opinions on the proposals.
3. 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).