

Report of the 11th meeting of the Arab Contact Points in Codex Alimentarius

This coordination meeting was held virtually on Thursday, March 23, 2023, to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA53)

Delegates from 16 Arab countries attended the meeting:

- Jordan
- Bahrein
- Tunisia
- Saudi Arabia
- Sudan
- Somalia
- 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**) and **Dr. Yongxiang Fan, CCFA53 chairman and Deputy Director General, China National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment.**

The coordinator of the Arab Codex initiative within AIDSMO launched the meeting with introductory remarks. He welcomed all participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation to participate in the meeting, stressing the importance of it. He also noted that the speech of Mr. " Steve Wearne", Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which he delivered during the opening session of the 58th Meeting of the Arab High Committee for Standardization, included praise for the achievements of the initiative, which resulted in active participation and concrete for the Arab countries in the meetings of the Codex, he

also indicated that this meeting would address the items of work of the meeting (53) of the Technical Committee of the Codex Alimentarius on Food Additives (CCFA53), to be held during the period 27-31 March 2023 in Hong Kong, China.

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	Follow-up on submission of Data from the Arab region on the fresh dates
3	Discussion of the agenda items of the meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA53) with the Chairperson of the Committee: Dr. Yongxiang Fan, Deputy Director General, China National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment
4	16th meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Contaminants in Foods

Professor Samuel Godefroy/board president and COO of GForSS, introduced the item on the follow-up to the submission of data from the Arab region on fresh dates, and the possibility of establishing an Arab electronic working group, chaired by one or a group of Arab States and coordinated by the Arab Codex Initiative, for collecting and analyzing data on moisture in fresh dates in the Arab region. The formed group will work on preparing a technical document and its future participation with the secretariat of the Codex. The meeting included a series of interventions by the Arab Codex Contact Points (CCPs), including the representatives of Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen which everyone supported the proposal to establish an Arab electronic working group and agreed on the following name: Arab electronic working group on the collection and analysis of data on the moisture in fresh dates in the Arab region.

Dr. Yongxiang Fan, Chairman of the CCFA Technical Committee on Food Additives and Deputy Director General of the Chinese National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment, provided a summary of a set of items that will receive important discussions during the 53rd meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Technical Committee on Food Additives, after that, Professor Samuel Godefroy presented the items of common interest for the Arab countries, namely:

- Agenda Item 2: Matters Referred
- Agenda Item 3a: MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO/WHO AND FROM THE 92ND AND 95TH MEETINGS OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (JECFA) RESPECTIVELY

- Agenda Item 3b: PROPOSED DRAFT SPECIFICATIONS FOR IDENTITY AND PURITY OF FOOD ADDITIVES ARISING FROM THE 92ND AND 95TH JECFA MEETINGS RESPECTIVELY
- Agenda Item 4a: ENDORSEMENT AND/OR REVISION OF MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR FOOD ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS IN CODEX STANDARDS
- Agenda Item 4b: ALIGNMENT OF THE FOOD ADDITIVE PROVISIONS OF COMMODITY STANDARDS: REPORT OF THE EWG ON ALIGNMENT (Document Number: CX/FA 23/53/6)

A video was then shown containing Professor Samuel Godfrey's discussion with the Canadian delegation on other items to be discussed, as well as during the meeting of the Codex Technical Committee on Food Additives (CCFA53):

- Agenda Item 8: DISCUSSION PAPER ON MAPPING FOOD CATEGORIES OF THE GSFA TO THE FOODEX2 DATABASE
- Agenda Item 9: DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE FOOD ADDITIVE PROVISION FOR THE USE OF TRISODIUM CITRATE IN FC 01.1.1 "FLUID MILK (PLAIN)
- Agenda Item 10: DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE USE OF FOOD ADDITIVES IN THE PRODUCTION OF WINE

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. Establishment of an electronic Arab working group on the collection and analysis of data on moisture in fresh dates in the Arab region.
3. Holding the 12th coordination meeting for Arab CCP, virtually on 04/04/2023 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 Food Contaminants CCCF16 (Utrecht, Netherlands 17-21 April 2023)