

## Report of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points

As part of the implementation of recommendation (3) of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting report of the Arab Codex Contact Points (CCPs), held via telecommunication technology on 23/03/2023, which states:

**“Holding the 12th coordination meeting for Arab CCPs, 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 Contaminants in Food CCCF16 (Utrecht, Netherlands 17-21 April 2023)”**

This coordination meeting was held via remote communication technology on April 04, 2023, to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF16).

Delegates from 16 Arab countries attended the meeting:

- Jordan
- UAE
- Bahrein
- Tunisia
- Saudi Arabia
- Sudan
- Iraq
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Lebanon
- State of Libya
- Egypt
- Morocco
- Mauritania
- Yemen

As well as AIDSMO representatives and the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFORSS).

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 affirmed the confidence given by AIDSMO to the Arab Codex Contact Points in the success of the initiative with the support and implementation of GForSS, in particular Professor Samuel Godefroy, thanking him for his efforts to promote joint Arab action in the field of Codex, the coordinator of the Initiative also thanked the collaborating experts in the good preparation of the coordination meetings, in particular Dr. Karima zouine, Dr. Wiem Guissaouma and Dr. Ruba goussous.

He then reviewed the agenda items for the meeting, which will focus on the topics to be discussed at the 16 meeting of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF16), to be held in Utrecht, Netherlands, from 17 to 21 April 2023, as follows:

Agenda item	Subject matter
1	<b>Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda:</b> Coordinator Arab Codex Initiative, AIDSMO
2	<b>Review and analysis of CCCF16 agenda Items</b>
3	<b>Arab Codex Initiative future activities</b>

**Dr. Wiem Guissaouma and Dr. Karima Zouine** / members of the Arab Expert Working Group introduced the analysis of the following items of the (CCCF16) agenda:

- **Agenda Item2:** Matters referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies
- **Agenda item5:** Maximum levels for lead in certain food categories (at Steps 4 and 7)
- **Agenda item6:** Code of Practice for prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products (at Step 7)
- **Agenda item7:** Sampling plans for total aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children (at Step 4)
- **Agenda item8:** Maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan (at Step 4)
- **Agenda Item9:** Maximum levels for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper and turmeric and associated sampling plans (at Step 4)
- **Agenda item10:** Prevention or reduction of ciguatera poisoning
- **Agenda item16:** Priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA

The meeting included a series of interventions by the Arab Codex Contact Points (CCPs), including the representatives of Oman, Sudan, Libya, and Egypt on the item regarding the maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan, due to the presence of some Arab countries (Egypt and Sudan) that produce this commodity, this item has experienced a consensus at the level of the Arab positions.

After that, Professor Samuel Godefroy/ board president and COO of GFORSS presented the third item related to the follow-up of the future activities of the Arab Codex Initiative, where he announced the possibility of holding a physical meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points (CCPs) in Oman during the month of June which will also coincide with the Oman Food Safety and Quality Conference.

The meeting's agenda items were concluded with the intervention of Eng. Hajar Tiglifet, where she provided some clarifications regarding the interactive platform of the Arab Codex Initiative (**arabcodex.com**), and how it can be used by CCPs, in addition to the services it provides.

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](http://www.Arabcodex.com)).
2. Communicate with all Arab Codex Contact Points to identify members with the aim of working on the following electronic Arab working groups:
  - The electronic Arab working group on the collection and analysis of data on moisture in fresh dates in the Arab region.
  - The electronic Arab working group on the maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts
  - The electronic Arab working group on Harissa
3. Holding the 13<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting for Arab CCPs, virtually on (date not yet specified) 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 Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (1-5/05/2023 Hobart, Tasmania Australia)