



## ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 16<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD (CCCF16)

*18 to 21 April 2023 (physical plenary meeting)*

*26 April 2023 (virtual report adoption)*

### Agenda Item 2: Matters Referred to The Committee by The Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or Its Subsidiary Bodies

#### OBJECTIVES

This document offers a review and analysis of the agenda items planned for discussion at the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the **Codex Committee on contaminants in Foods (CCCF16)**, scheduled to take place face to face from 18 to 21 April 2023 (physical plenary meeting) and 26 April 2023 (virtual report adoption). This 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.

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. It provides a synthesis and analysis of the work currently under discussion by the CCCF, which may be useful for delegations from Arab countries to prepare their positions considering the needs and specificity of the region and the potential impact of the proposed food standards.

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 2: Matters referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies

The main matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Executive Committee are the following:

### Matters for information

- ❖ **Adoption by the CAC45 (2022) of 8 Proposed standards and related texts by CCCF15, adopted at Steps 8 and 5/8 of the Procedure including consequential amendments and 2 standards at step 5:**
  - The Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans at Step 8;
  - The maximum level for cadmium in cocoa powder (100% cocoa solids on a dry matter basis) at Step 5/8;
  - the editorial amendment to the MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis and chocolates containing or declaring ≥30% to ≤50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis;
  - the MLs for lead in cereal-based foods for infants and young children, white and refined sugar, corn and maple syrups, honey and sugar-based candies at Step 5/8;
  - The MLs for methyl mercury in orange roughy and pink cusk eel at Steps 5/8;
  - the MLs for aflatoxins for maize grain destined for further processing, flour meal, semolina and flakes derived from maize, husked rice, polished rice, sorghum grain, destined for further processing, cereal-based food for infants and young children (excluding foods for food aid programs) and cereal-based food for infants and young children for food aid programs; and
  - The consequential amendment to the ML for DON (deoxynivalenol) in cereal-based foods for infants and young children.
  - The ML for lead in ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children at step 5; and
  - The Code of practice for prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products at step 5.
- ❖ **CAC45 requested CCCF to undertake a review of all the MLs for total aflatoxins in three years' time, if sufficient data were submitted by Members through GEMS/Food, but in any event to undertake this review in no more than five years' time.**
- ❖ **CAC45 endorsed the discontinuation of the work on MLs for lead in fresh eggs, dried garlic, and molasses for the reasons raised in CCCF15.**
- ❖ **New food sources and production systems (NFPS): CCEXEC agreed to establish a subcommittee to investigate potential mechanisms to address cross-cutting, overarching and emerging issues in Codex.**
  - CAC encouraged Members to submit proposals related to NFPS using existing Codex mechanisms, and Codex subsidiary bodies to consider NFPS in their deliberations, and requested the Codex Secretariat to send a CL to Members and Observers to identify possible issues related to NFPS that the current structure and procedures could not address and options to address them for discussion at CAC46.
- ❖ **Monitoring the use and impact of Codex Standards**
  - CCEXEC83 recommended extension of the deadline to 2024 for the completion of the work on the proposed draft MLs for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper, and turmeric and associated sampling plans. As regards the work on MLs for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and the associated sampling plan, it was recalled that an extension of the timeframe for completion of work to 2023 had already been granted by CCEXEC81.
- ❖ **Proposal for the establishment of Maximum Levels (MLs) for Inorganic Arsenic in shellfish and fish**
  - FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC22) supported the proposal for the establishment of MLs for inorganic arsenic in shellfish and fish.

❖ **Draft regional standard for fermented noni fruit juice**

- The Codex Secretariat drew attention of CCNASWP16 (2023) to the discussion that had taken place at CCCF14 (2021) and the identified data gap for conducting a safety evaluation of scopoletin.

❖ **CCNASWP16 agreed to: i) forward the Draft Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice to CAC46 for adoption at Step 8; ii) to task the Regional Coordinator to work on methods of analysis and sampling by 1st May 2023; iii) to request CCCF to keep scopoletin in the priority list for evaluation by JECFA and to provide further data as it becomes available and iv) Encouraged Members of the region to generate and submit data to GEMS/Food.**

Recommendations for endorsement by CCCF

CCCF is invited to:

- i. note the matters for information referred by CAC and CCEXEC;
- ii. encourage Members and Observers, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Codex, to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex and to engage high level political support for Codex work and to consider the implementation of a regional event to mark the 60th anniversary;
- iii. encourage Members and Observers to actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions in CCEXEC and CAC (i.e. the operationalization of the SoP; the future of Codex; new food sources and production systems, and monitoring the use of Codex standards) by providing replies to relevant CLs; and
- iv. note that matters concerning the evaluation of arsenic and scopoletin would be considered under Agenda Item 16 (priority list).