



ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 54th SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

26 June - 1 July 2023 in Beijing, P.R. China

AGENDA ITEM 4(b): MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT FAO/IAEA CENTRE OF NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RELEVANT TO CCPR WORK (Prepared by the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre)

OBJECTIVES

This document offers a review and analysis of the agenda items planned for discussion at the 54th session of the **Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)**, scheduled to take place from 26 June - 1 July, 2023.

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 CCPR, which may be useful for delegations from Arab countries to prepare their positions taking into account 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 Arab Expert Working Group – do not represent the organizations and / or jurisdictions to which they are affiliated. The selection and participation in the Arab Expert Working Group 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.*

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FAO and IAEA, through the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre, support and implement activities relevant to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR). The support is delivered to member countries through technical cooperation projects (TCPs), coordinated research projects (CRPs) and additional extra-budgetary projects, as well as laboratory-led applied research and technology adaptation.

COORDINATED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (CRP)

Three projects are on:

1. **Integrated Radiometric and Complementary Techniques for Mixed Contaminants and Residues in Foods'**; More than 25 methods have been established for the testing of a wide scope of the analytes in a range of food commodities of plant and animal origin
2. **Depletion of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals and Radiometric Analysis of their Residues in Animal Matrices'**; under implementation from 2021 to 2026, aims at supporting the establishment of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for certain veterinary drugs including dual-use compounds of relevance to CCPR and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs.

The CRP's 2nd research coordination meeting was held virtually from 28 February to 4 March 2022 while the next meeting is planned for **21–25 August 2023** in North Macedonia.

3. **New CRP on 'Rapid Screening for Safe Food'**. The objective is to develop or adapt and test transferable, reliable, rapid, cost-effective, affordable, sensitive, field-deployable and high-throughput targeted and untargeted nuclear and complementary techniques to support analytical food control programmes in member countries. The focus is mainly on the control of contaminants and residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS, CAPACITY BUILDING, NETWORKS, DATA GENERATION, MEETING

The Joint FAO/IAEA Centre currently provides technical support to more than 80 IAEA TCPs in food safety and control (see Table 1 for selected active TCPs). The process of designing new TCPs for the 2024-2025 cycle will soon be concluded.

Some of TCPs worth mentioning, held in MENA/Arab Region:

- ✓ **Lebanon:** Strengthening Capacity for Exposure Assessment of Residues and Contaminants in the National Diet
- ✓ **Mauritania:** Strengthening Laboratory Capacity to Analyse and Monitor Residues and Contaminants in Foods
- ✓ **Palestine:** Strengthening Capability to Monitor Contaminants in Food and Related Matrices through Nuclear and Complementary Analytical Techniques
- ✓ **Qatar:** Enhancing National Food Safety Capacity to Test and Monitor Residues/Contaminants Using Nuclear and Related Isotopic Techniques
- ✓ **Sudan:** Strengthening the Evaluation of Quality, Monitoring and Control Programmes for Food Contaminants

Conclusion Considerations for the Arab Region

The Arab region can benefit from the support offered by the Centre, to strengthen its capacity in analytical sciences and can request technical cooperation and support, even though the signing of agreements, according to its needs, in relation to the expertise provided by the Centre.

Closer collaboration between the Centre and the newly created section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL in the Arab region will be considered, in order to create an Arab network of food safety laboratories.

