



GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY
SCIENCE SOCIETY



A r a b
C O D E X

Outcomes of the 45th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

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Content of intervention

- Importance of Codex Standards
- The most important standards adopted by the Commission at its 45 session
- Top approved specifications at step 5
- New or important actions for the Arab region
- Arab participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission
- Recommendations

Importance of Codex Standards

- Means to ensure the safety and quality of food
- Ensuring fair practices in food trade
- Based on strong scientific foundations provided by independent international risk assessment bodies
- Provide States with the tools to develop a strong, objective and recognized regulatory framework
- Facilitation of international food trade
- Reference to the World Trade Organization for the Resolution of Trade Disputes



Background

- The 45th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission of Rome was held during 21-25 November 2022 with the active participation of the Arab States
- Participating States: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Kingdom of Morocco, Sudan, United Arab Emirates



Top approved specifications

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF)

- Maximum Lead limits in cereal food for infants and young children, white and refined sugar, corn and maple syrup, honey and sugar desserts
- Methylmercury maximum limits in orange halibut and pink parsm eels
- Maximum limits for total aflatoxins in various food categories.



Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

- Review general principles of food hygiene (adoption of decision tree for hazard analysis and critical control points).
- Guidelines for managing food-borne biological outbreaks

Top approved specifications

[Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs \(CCSCH\)](#)

- Specification for dried floral parts - saffron
- Specification for dried seeds - nutmeg
- Specification for chili pepper and dried red pepper



[Codex Committee on Fats and Oils \(CCFO\)](#)

- Update the specification relating to vegetable oils with a specific name : The base composition of sunflower seed oils.



[Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues \(CCPR\)](#)

- Maximum residue limits for different pesticide/commodity groups

Top approved specifications at step 5

Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)

- Adopt the maximum residue limits for zilpaterol hydrochloride in step 5 by voting.



- Lack of consensus despite JECFA's scientific assessment and extensive consultations by the Chair and Vice-Chairs
- The primary role of the draft guidance on the application of principles data on the role of science in decision-making.



Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

- Arab date-producing countries objected to the progress of the draft standard for fresh dates to step 5/8
- Proposed range of moisture content in fresh dates (30 - 85%) Excludes certain Arabic varieties with negative effects on exports



- Decision of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (45): Adoption of the draft standard in step 5 rather than 5/8
- Encouraging members comments in step 6 on substantive issues
- Establishment of a working group for Arab States to prepare a common position (humidity for fresh dates)

CCFFV22 's proposal: recommended the adoption of the draft standard at step 5/8

Arabic Position: Adopt the draft standard at step 5 and review the range of humidity based on existing scientific data

Prior coordination and support for other delegations is an important pillar of effective participation in Codex's work



New or important actions for the Arab region

Principles and guidelines on the use of remote audit and verification in regulatory frameworks

Draft guidance on traditional food markets

- These markets often lack hygiene requirements for food safety, which poses a risk to consumer health
- Establishment of an EWG under Kenya's chairmanship, co-chaired by Bolivia and Nigeria, to prepare the project (CCFH53 (CAC46 approval requirement)
- First project sent to collect feedback from members 03/04/2023



Maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs in camel tissue

- Discussion document submitted by Jordan, Morocco, AIDSMO, IUFOST during the 26th Session of the Codex Committee on Veterinary Drug Residues in Food
- The Commission approved the Working group on Extrapolation to Work on Limits for Residues of Veterinary Medicinal Products in Camel Tissues.

Degree of consideration for other factors.

- The Codex Alimentarius Commission (45) forwarded this draft to the Chairmen of the Codex Subcommittees for testing in order to improve it.
- And urged members to take into account the project.
- A circular letter calling for specific proposals to improve the draft guidance was issued for consideration by the Commission's 46th Session (04/2023 - 31/08/2023)



Consideration of next steps during the 46th Session of the Codex Alimentarius

The nature and specificity of the constraints encountered in developing countries' production, processing, transport and storage methods may be taken into account.

Food sources and new production systems

- ✓ Food sources and new production systems are becoming increasingly important, with a lack of international guidance to assist countries in their legalization.
- ✓ The Commission encouraged Members to put forward relevant proposals using existing Codex mechanisms
- ✓ A circular letter was sent to members and observers to identify possible related issues that cannot be addressed under the current structure, current procedures and options for addressing them, for discussion during the Commission's 46th Session (04/2023-31/08/2023).
- ✓ Consider establishing an Arabic working group to discuss the halal aspects of this products.

HALAL OR NOT?

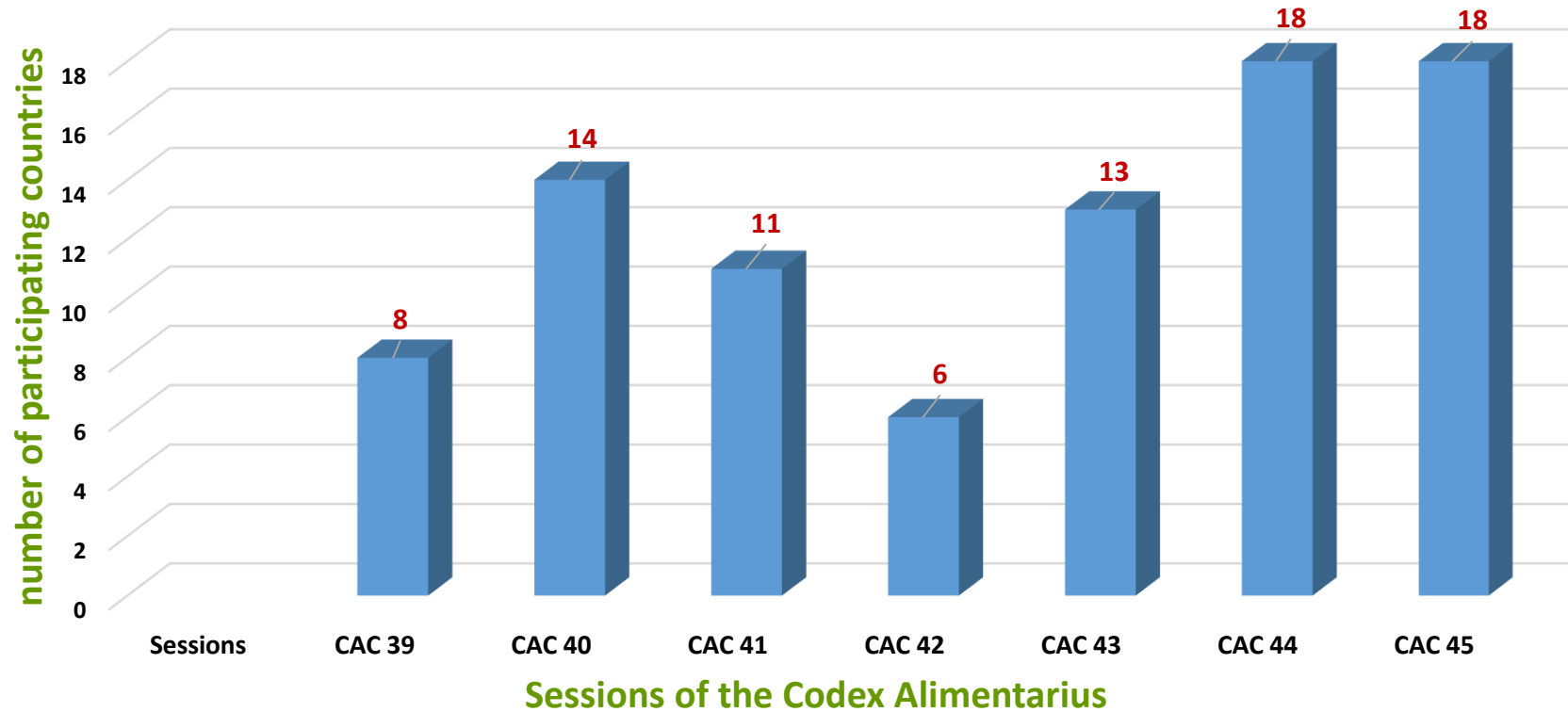


The future of Codex



- ❑ The Executive Committee established the Subcommittee during its 82nd session with a view to outlining the future of Codex.
- ❑ The future of Codex constitutes a broad issue: the focus to date is on working methods and the development of practices within Codex regarding the format of meetings, schedules, working groups and other formal Green virtual working mechanisms.
- ❑ The Commission requested the Codex Secretariat to consult the Office of Legal Affairs on the possibility of amending the Rules of Procedure, allowing the Commission to meet virtually when necessary (without obtaining majority approval 2/3)
- ❑ Preparation of a document on this issue for consideration by the Committee on General Principles at its 33rd session to advise the Commission at its 46th session

Arab participation in the Codex Alimentarius



	CAC 39	CAC 40	CAC 41	CAC 42	CAC 43	CAC 44	CAC 45
Number of participating countries	8	14	11	6	13	18	18

Recommendations for a more effective contribution



- ❑ Strengthening coordination among Arab countries with regard to the Codex Alimentarius Commission's work on the region and expanding it to other regions or focal points
- ❑ Active participation in E-working groups
- ❑ Overcome obstacles to send the data of Arab countries to be taken into account during the risk assessment for the preparation of the Codex specifications
- ❑ The initiative in leading the work of electronic groups is important for the Arab region
- ❑ Cooperation in research and studies
- ❑ The initiative to propose new works of interest to the Arab region
- ❑ Lead leadership roles in the Codex Alimentarius Commission

