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## Outputs of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification System CCFICS26

**Second Arab Codex colloquium**

10-11 June 2023 Muscat - Sultanate of Oman

**Dr Abdelkarim MOUJANNI PhD, DVM, MSc. | National Office of Food Safety, Morocco**

# Background



- Date: 5 -1 May 2023
- Session :Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems CCFICS26
- Location: Hobart Tasmania, Australia
- Participation (Virtual) :

DR. Abdelkarim Moujanni (Head of the Moroccan delegation):

Head of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary watch and Market access Service  
National Food Safety Office - General Administration - Rabat - Morocco

DR. Sana Wazani

Eng. in Standardisation and CodexS ervice

National Office of Food Safety - General Administration - Rabat - Morocco



# Main outcomes of the CCFICS26 discussions

## Item4-Proposed draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS) – In Step 3 and recommended for adoption in Step 5/8 (CAC46)

- ❑ These guidelines provide practical guidance, information and recommendations for importing and exporting countries to use when considering the equivalence or comparison of whole or part of SNCA systems .
- ❑ Many of the discussions have taken place within the framework of the EWG since ,dnalaeZ weN yb deriahc ,2016 siht fo rebmem a neeb sah occoroM .ayneKyb decalper neeb sah hcihw elihC dna ASU eht yb detroppus dnaEWG since 2018 and Egypt joined in 2020
- ❑ Main points of discussion :
  - Additional editorial and linguistic changes have been made as well as some concepts have been modified
  - Section 2 purpose: The Committee agreed to retain footnote 2 m noting that it would enhance the readability of paragraph 4
  - Section 3 -Definitions and Section 4 - Principles:
  - A long debate took place on the need to define the principle of the "level of protection" and, for greater clarity, the term "appropriate level of protection" was adopted by ALP. It was emphasized that the SPS Convention covers animal and plant health which is outside the competence of Codex. It was pointed out that the "level of protection" concerns sanitary and phytosanitary requirements as well as technical barriers to trade.
  - The EWG Chair explained that the words "objectives" and "level of protection" were used with the term "outcomes" as the guidelines apply to both TBT and SPS measures. The president of EWG showed that these terms were carefully formulated and used .



# Main outcomes of the CCFICS26 discussions

## Item 7. Proposed draft principles and guidelines on the use of remote audit and inspection in regulatory frameworks - in Step 3 recommended in Step 5/8 (CAC46)

- ❑ This project is concerned with the use of technological and information tools as well as advanced means of communication, by the monitoring bodies in the process of auditing and remote verification as alternative methods and as part of a modern regulatory framework
- ❑ Many of the discussions have taken place within the framework of the EWG since 2021 chaired by Australia, and supported by Canada, China and Singapore. Morocco is a member of this EWG
- ❑ Main points of discussion :
  - Additional editorial and language changes were agreed
  - In the title, the word "guidance" was replaced by the words "principles and guidelines", as well as the term "verification - verification" by "inspection - inspection" in the entirety of the project, which includes verification activities by the competent authorities
  - The issue of complementarity between audit and remote inspection activities and attendance, where it was agreed that the former is complementary to the second, but may replace it in some cases
  - The concept of "timing of remote audits and inspections" was clarified by the competent authorities, highlighted in paragraph 19 (a), that reasonable advance notice should be given by the competent authorities to allow planning of activities, and that the time of scrutiny should also be agreed between the competent authorities and the institutions to be audited or inspected. .



# Main outcomes of the CCFICS26 discussions

## Item 5. Proposed draft consolidated Codex Guidelines related to equivalence

### in step 3 recommended for drafting, discussion and/or comments in steps 2 and 4.

- ❑ This project aims to compile all existing Codex documents on equivalence in order to obtain a single, consolidated and updated document
- ❑ Many of the discussions have taken place within the framework of the EWG since 2016 chaired by New Zealand, and supported by the USA and Kenya. Morocco and Egypt are members of this EWG
- ❑ Main points of discussion :
  - Then consider the updated version of the document, as amended by the PWG(CRD2), where additional editorial and linguistic changes were made as well as some concepts were modified
  - Several members suggested that once the merger was completed, all existing documents on parity should be revoked (para. – 4 Appendix V). However, the Chairman of the EWG recommended that this decision should be taken with care



# Main outcomes of the CCFICS26 discussions

## Continue

### □ Main points of discussion :

- A debate was opened about the term » **conditions of trade** lareves txet eht ni desu neeb dah hcihw " eht ni secalp tnereffid ni desu eb dluoc egaugnal evtianretla taht detseggus saw ti dna ,semti nihtiw tniop siht esiver ot deerga neht saw tl .denfied eb dluohs mret eht ro senilediug the EWG framework
- It was agreed not to consider the definitions at this session, but to reintegrate them into the current draft for consideration at a later stage .
- The term "**special measures**.8) "c (was debated and then decided to retain it
- There was an exchange of views on the definition **and definition of "health and technical measures "** taht erusne ot senilediug tnereffid eht erapmoc ot yrassedeb eb dluow ti taht desserts saw ti dna srebmem wolla ot sa llew sa ,derongi ton era senilediug tnerruc eht morf stxet ro stpecnoc tnatropmi .stxet/stpecnoc wen enfiend ot
- The term "**Convention** emos fo esu eht diova ot "tnemucod" htiw decalper dna deteled neeb sah " seirtnuoc emos ni tceffe fo smret lagel
- Section 6 :Practical steps –an eighth step has been proposed on maintaining parity

1. Retention of the text in step 4, "Section 1 Preamble"; "Section 2 Scope", "Section 3 Purpose" and "Section 4 Principles" found in Appendix V.

Noting that these provisions remain open for comment.

1. Return the remainder of the draft guidelines as presented in Annex 1 of CX/FICS 23/26/5 to step 2 for further drafting, taking into account the discussion in the CCFICS26 and the written comments received.



# Main outcomes of the CCFICS26 discussions

## Item 6. Proposed Draft guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud

- In step 3 it is recommended to return to step 2 for reformulation.

- ❑ Discussions held under EWG since 2018 under the presidency of the United States of America, with the support of the European Union, Iran and China (2020). Morocco and Egypt are members of this EWG. Iraq Enrolled in 2022
- ❑ The Committee was mandated to develop a set of guidance, including :
  - ❖ Types of risks that the competent authorities should take into account when designing control and response programs ;
  - ❖ Types of Food Fraud
  - ❖ Exchange of information and cooperation between different authorities at the national and international levels ;
  - ❖ Communicate with interviewers and the general public about incidents of food fraud ;
  - ❖ Measures to reduce food fraud ;



# Main outcomes of the CCFICS26 discussions

## Continu e

### □ Main points of discussion :

- Members expressed different views on GIs geographical data and related addressing requirements that do not pose a public health risk - are they within the terms of reference of Codex and the Coordinating Committee on Food Analysis or not? The President of CAC/President of CCEXEC will be approached for advice and guidance on this problem
- It was further agreed to continue the discussion on the inclusion of geographical data in the guidelines in the electronic working group and to keep all existing texts in square brackets for consideration by the group
- Some members stated that feed for food-producing animals fell outside the scope of these guidelines and required broader consultations as well as with the World Food Organization, while others felt that it should be retained, as there could be a risk to human health. It was decided to continue the discussion on this issue in the Open Working Group .
- Definition of "duarf doof fo epyt a sa " noitutitsbus : I suggest deleting references to the value of ingredients , because fraud can occur with components with different characteristics, but not necessarily with higher or lower value. The replacement of products in cases of food fraud was referred to the electronic working group for further consideration
- It was considered that judicial proceedings for food fraud would be dealt with by countries under their domestic laws and were outside the scope of the guidelines





# Other items discussed by the Committee

## Review of the discussion paper and conclusions

- ❑ Discussion paper on the review and update of "Project document for the on review and update of the "Principles for Traceability/Product tracing as a tool within a food inspection and certification system (CXG 60-2006)" - Item 8 \_ CCFICS26: Adopted in step 3/2 and recommended for drafting, discussion and/or comments
- ❑ Appendix A- Emerging Issues: It was agreed that the list of emerging issues would remain a standing item on the agenda of future meetings of the Committee and that the rotation of trusteeship through members would continue on a meeting-by-meeting basis (the United Kingdom agreed to be the next trustee on this file)

## Proposed new work

- ❑ Discussion paper and a draft document on guidance on the appeals mechanism in the context of refusal of imported food - India (supported by Nigeria) to prepare an updated discussion paper and draft document, prior to further consideration of the CCFICS27, taking into account comments made at the session. It also encourages other members to apply for assistance
- ❑ Preparation of a discussion paper and draft document on standardization of health requirements. The CCFICS26 Committee requested Brazil, with the assistance of Australia, New Zealand, Spain and the United States of America, to prepare an updated discussion paper and draft document for further consideration at the Committee's 27th session. It also encourages other members to come forward with support for action.



# EWG summary to be activated for the next period

## Draft proposed Codex Standard Guidelines for Equivalence:

- Establishment of an electronic group chaired by the United States of America with the support of the United Kingdom, China, the European Union and Iran

A revised draft will be prepared to consider and discuss members' observations CRDs and comments submitted

- Submission of a report at least three months prior to the next session. E-Working Group may meet in advance of CCFICS27 to address outstanding issues

## Proposed draft guidance on preventing and controlling food fraud :

- Establish an electronic working group open to all members and observers, chaired by New Zealand and supported by the United States of America and Kenya .
- Prepare a revised draft for consideration of all discussions and comments (including text in square brackets) submitted in CCFICS26, for consideration in CCFICS27
- Submit a report at least three months before the next session. The Electronic Working Group may meet in attendance prior to CCFICS27 to address outstanding issues



# Recommendations for coordinated participation from the Arab region

## □ Level of coordination and representation of Arab countries

- A coordinating meeting of attitudes among Arab States participating in the 26 meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Screening and Certification Systems was organized on 4 April 2023
- The CCFICS26 registered the participation of 7 Arab countries (Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic).
- Morocco has made CRDS observations regarding all the items discussed and participated to the discussion

## □ Recommendations

- Mobilizing Arab countries to participate actively in the Committee's work CCFICS
- Selection of experts who participate in the work of the committee CCFICS carefully. In this regard, we propose the appointment of experts attending meetings of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures with expertise in border control
- Ensuring the continued presence of the same experts at CCFICS meetings
- organize a formative meeting of the newly appointed experts
- Active and continuous participation in electronic working groups
- Work on the preparation of joint and agreed observations and their presentation by each State
- Encouraging and preparing an Arab State or two to participate as a supporter (Co-Chairing) of an electronic set of proposed new works



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# The positions recommended for adoption by the Arab region emanating from the conclusions of the Commission

An Arab position	Recommended standards for adoption at CCFICS26 meeting	Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accreditation in step 5/8. With the aim of harmonizing the content of these guidelines with the draft proposed in item 5</b></li> </ul>	Proposed draft guidelines on the recognition and maintenance of national food control systems	4 & 4.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion (Sections 1,2,3 &amp; 4) in step 4 with endorsement of work on standardized guidelines and elimination of existing texts</li> <li>• Return the rest of the draft to step 2 and urge Arab States to propose wording commensurate with our specific circumstances</li> </ul>	Draft proposal for the Codex Standard Guidelines on parity	5 & 5.1
<b>Draft texts are being implemented during the CCFICS26 meeting</b>		<b>Item</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return the draft to Step 2 and Urge Arab States to Propose Formulation and Definitions that Strengthen the Control of Fraud in Arab States</li> <li>• The adoption of GIS geographic data and related address conditions outside the framework of the draft</li> <li>• The adoption of feed for food-producing animals within the scope of the draft</li> </ul>	Draft proposed guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud	6 & 6.1
<b>Accreditation in step 5/8</b>	Proposed draft principles and guidelines on the use of remote auditing and inspection in regulatory frameworks	7 & 7.1
Follow-up discussion of draft document for review and update (step 3/2)	Discussion paper on the review and update of the principles of tracking/tracking of food products as a tool under the Food Control and Certification System- CXG 60-2006. "	8
<b>New work proposed during the CCFICS26 meeting</b>		<b>Item</b>
Support the paper	Preparation of a discussion paper and draft document on guidance on the appeals mechanism in the context of the rejection of imported food - proposal by India and Nigeria	N
Support the paper	Preparation of a discussion paper and draft document on the standardization of health requirements -- proposed by Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Spain and the United States of America	N

