

Report of the 19th meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points

As part of the implementation of recommendation (3) of the 18th meeting report of the Arab Codex Contact Points, held virtually on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, which states:

“The holding of the 19th meeting of the Arab CCPs on a date to be determined in coordination with the GFORSS. »

A coordination meeting was held remotely on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, with the aim of preparing the CAC46, with the participation of representatives of the following Arab States:

- Jordan
- UAE
- Bahrein
- Sudan
- Syria
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Libya
- Egypt
- Morocco
- Yemen

As well as AIDSMO, GFORSS and GSO representatives.

The coordinator of the Arab Codex initiative within AIDSMO launched the meeting with introductory remarks. He commenced the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all the participants and expressing his gratitude for their prompt response to the invitation. He indicated that during this meeting, the agenda items of the 46th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which is scheduled to be held in person in Rome, Italy during the period November 27 until December 2, 2023, and virtually, will be presented and analyzed.

The meeting agenda was approved and included the following items:

Agenda item	Subject matter
1	Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda: Coordinator Arab Codex Initiative, AIDSMO
2	Preparation for the 46th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46)
3	Arab Electronic Working Group Of aflatoxins in peanuts
4	Arab Food Standards Program: Discussion paper
5	Food safety symposium in Abu Dhabi
6	The logo for the Arab Codex Initiative

Item2: Preparation for the 46th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46)

Professor Samuel Godefroy, GForSS COO, made an analytical presentation on the agenda items of the 46th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46), as follows:

Item 4.1 – FAO/WHO Codex Committee for Asia

Item 4.2 – FAO/WHO Codex Committee for Latin America and The Caribbean

Item 4.3 –Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

Item 4.4 – FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the Southwest Pacific (CCNASWP)

Item 4.5 Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF)

Item 4.6: Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

Item 4.7: Codex Committee on Food Additives

Item 4.8: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food

Item 4.9: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

Item 4.10: Codex Committee on Food Labelling

Item3: Arab Electronic Working Group Of aflatoxins in peanuts

This item was presented by Engineer Hanan Fouad, representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt and head of the working group on aflatoxins in peanuts, and two members of the group participated in the presentation (Engineer Noha Attia and Engineer Ghada Khedewi), where the stages of the group’s progress were reviewed, as well as the developments in collecting data related to imports and exports. In addition to scientific research and studies, this data will be verified at a later stage and a special database will be created, and the group members will prepare a unified position on this matter.

Item4: Arab Food Standards Program: Discussion paper

Professor Samuel Godefroy presented a discussion paper on the Arab Program for Arab Food Standards, which includes the background and objectives of establishing a program for Arab Food Standards, and the areas that will be focused on are as follows:

- Contaminants in Food,
- Food Additives,
- Food Allergen Management,
- Reference Methods of Analysis and Sampling

This item defined certain interventions by the contact points, so that it was suggested that the presentation of the topic should be postponed, especially since the establishment of any regional committee on specifications would require a review and consultation with the relevant national body within the State.

Item5: Food safety symposium in Abu Dhabi

Professor Samuel Godfrey presented this item. The poster of the event was presented with sponsors. Contact points were invited to participate in the symposium in view of the importance of the topics raised. The Coordinator of the Arab Codex Initiative stated that all contact points will be provided with the electronic link to register and participate in the symposium.

Item6: The logo for the Arab Codex Initiative

Two proposals (annex1) for the logo of the Arab Codex Initiative were reviewed to the participants in the meeting, to vote on the appropriate proposal, as proposal (2) was selected by a majority.

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).
2. Thanking Prof. Samuel Godefroy for his presentation on the agenda items of the 46th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46).
3. Thanking Engineer Hanan Fouad, Engineer Naha Attiyah and Engineer Ghada Khadiwi for presenting the updates of the working group of Aflatoxins in peanut, inviting all members to interact within the group and completing the rest of the required data.
4. Postponing a decision on the issue of the Arab Program for Arabic Standards until referring to the official national authorities within the country.
5. Invite the Arab CCPs to register and participate (virtually) in the food safety symposium to be held on November 28, 2023, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
6. Approval of Model Proposal No. (2) Logo of the Arab Codex Initiative (Annex 1).
7. Holding the 20th meeting of the Arab CCPs on a date to be determined in coordination with the GFoRSS.

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Model 1

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Model 2