

## Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points

As part of the implementation of recommendation (7) of the 19th meeting report of the Arab Codex Contact Points, held virtually on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, which states:

**“Holding the 20th meeting of the Arab CCPs on a date to be determined in coordination with the GFORSS.”**

A coordination meeting was held remotely on Monday, January 15, 2024, with the aim of preparing the CCSC7, with the participation of representatives of the following Arab States:

- Jordan
- Bahrein
- Sudan
- Syria
- Iraq
- Oman
- Palestine
- Libya
- Morocco
- Yemen

As well as AIDSMO, GFORSS and GSO representatives.

The coordinator of the Arab Codex initiative within AIDSMO launched the meeting by expressing a warm welcome to the participants and extending New Year's wishes. He also thanked them for responding to the meeting invitation. Stressing the significance of the Arab Codex Initiative's work, he mentioned that its achievements were presented during the 64th session of the organization's Executive Council in Rabat, Morocco, from December 13-15, 2023. The coordinator highlighted the review of recommendations from Resolution No. 1065, underlining the importance of support from Arab countries to achieve the initiative's goals. Additionally, he explained a new approach for Codex Contact points' coordination meetings, where countries will discuss and analyze agenda items from Codex technical committees. In this meeting, representatives from Morocco and Oman will present and analyze the agenda items of the 7th session of

the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH7). Notably, this session is planned to be conducted in person in Kochi, Kerala, India, from January 29 to February 2, 2024.

The meeting agenda was approved and included the following items:

Agenda item	Subject matter
1	<b>Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda:</b> Coordinator Arab Codex Initiative, AIDSMO
2	<b>Review and analysis of agenda Items of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH7)</b>
3	<b>Future methodology for the coordination meetings of the Arab Codex Contact Points</b>

**Item 2: Presentation and analysis of the agenda items for the 7th meeting of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH7):**

The representative of Morocco, Engineer Mohammed Assban, made a presentation on the comments of Morocco regarding the following items:

- **Point 3.1: Draft Standard for dried small cardamom**
  - As for styles: Morocco does not agree to adding open capsules as a style.
  - Opening capsules can pose a risk of losing their content, which reduces the quality and value of the product. In addition, once the pod is opened, its integrity cannot be guaranteed, resulting in the possibility of its seeds falling out.
- **Point 3.2: Draft standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries: Part A - Requirements for Allspice, Juniper berry, Star anise.**
  - Morocco proposes to add the name “Badian” as a trade name for star anise, because there is a common use of this term in commercial markets.
- **Point 3.3: Draft standard for spices in the form of dried fruits and berries: Part B - Requirements for Vanilla**
  - Morocco proposes to add: “This standard does not apply to spent vanilla products.
  - Excluding spent vanilla from the scope of the standard helps avoid potential confusion and ensures clearer application. Furthermore, spent vanilla has different properties compared to regular vanilla products.
  - Spent vanilla is vanilla that has been completely or almost completely used in the production or preparation processes of a particular item, leaving it without the full value or flavor that is present in regular, unspent vanilla.
  - Morocco agrees that the country of harvest is mandatory, in case the country of origin differs from the country of harvest.

- **Point 4: Proposed Draft Standard for Turmeric**
  - Morocco, Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia are considered the most important importers of this product.
  - Maintain consistency with the standard for ginger.
  - Propose the inclusion of primary or secondary roots in the product definition.
  - Add the phrase “Deshydrated” in the figure paragraph.
  - Replace - “cracked/cracked/broken” with “cut”: includes various styles of cuts, cubes, or slices.
- **Point 5.1: Consideration of the proposals for new work**
  - Morocco supports the proposed project for new work on the standard related to marjoram submitted by Egypt.
  - Considering that Morocco is the fifth largest exporter and one of the most important producers of dried coriander seeds in the world, it supports the proposed project regarding the specification related to this substance submitted by India.

This item included a group of interventions, including the representative of Oman, who stated that Oman supports the proposals and comments of Morocco regarding these submitted items.

### **Item 3: Future methodology for the coordination meetings of the Arab Codex Contact Points**

This item was introduced by Professor Samuel Godefroy, COO of GForSS, as he explained the future methodology to be adopted during the coordination meetings. In this context, one or more countries will be given a leading role in preparing the presentations that will be presented during the coordination meetings on the agenda items of the Codex committees, in coordination with the focal points in the Arab countries, with support provided by experts from the Arab Codex Initiative.

In this context, a preliminary timetable was presented for the priority committees during the period from January to June 2024, to identify the countries responsible for preparing each committee.

In conclusion, Professor Samuel Godefroy confirmed that special funding will be allocated from the Arab Codex Initiative to support attendance at meetings of Codex committees for countries committed to preparing for meetings of a specific technical committee.

### **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](http://www.Arabcodex.com)).
2. Thanking the representatives of Morocco and Oman for the presentation on the agenda items of the 7th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH7).

3. Preparing a table for the priority committees of the Arab Codex Initiative and its participation with Codex Contact points, to identify the States responsible for preparing the agenda items of each committee.
4. Holding the next meeting of the Arab CCPs on a date to be determined in coordination with the GForSS.