

the 21st meeting of the Arab National Contact Points for Codex Alimentarius

Review of key Agenda items of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH54) March 11-15th, 2024

Nairobi, Kenya

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Introduction

CCFH54 offers key agenda items with important impacts on the advancement of food safety risk management measures.



Key Agenda items were found important, globally and for the **Arab Region** :



Agenda Item 5:

Guidelines for the control of shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts – Proposed draft Annex II on fresh leafy vegetables and Annex VI on sprouts

Agenda Item 6:

Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing at Step 4 – to be presented by Oman

Agenda Item 8:

Agenda Item 8: Proposed draft Guidelines for food hygiene control measures traditional markets for food at Step 4

Agenda Item 9:

Alignment of Codex texts developed by CCFH with the revised General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969) – to be Presented by Jordan



Plan

Agenda item 5 : Guidelines for the control of shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in raw beef, fresh leafy vegetables, raw milk and raw milk cheeses, and sprouts – Proposed draft Annex II on fresh leafy vegetables and Annex VI on sprouts

- ✓ Background
- ✓ Comments
- ✓ Recommendations



Agenda Item 5 :



Background Documents: CX/FH 24/54/5; CX/FH 24/54/6

- CAC46 adopted the proposed draft Guidelines for the control of STEC and the annexes on **raw beef and raw milk and milk cheeses** (CXG 99-2023).
- The annexes **on leafy vegetables and on sprouts were** returned to Step 2/3 for redrafting and circulation for comments,
- EWG was established (chaired by Chile, and co-chaired by New Zealand, Kenya and USA).

Agenda Item 5 :



Comments on the current draft – Annex II Leafy Vegetables

- The annex is clear and thorough.
- The information provided would be of great use to leafy greens producers in the region.

Only 2 minor comments are noted:

-Section 3.1.1, para. 11: “although guidelines exist for the distance between fields and nearby animal operations, ...”. We recommend adding a reference to the cited guidelines.

- Figure 1: Replace “dewatering” with “removal of water” to be consistent with the change made in the previous round of consultation to the text in section 5.3.

Agenda Item 5 :



Comments on the current draft – Annex IV Sprouts

- The annex is clear and thorough.
- The information provided would be of great use to sprouts producers in our region.
- The only minor comment noted would be to replace “De-water” with “Removal of water” in Figure 1, to be consistent with the leafy vegetables annex.

Agenda Item 5 :



Recommendations

Based on the review of the expert of the Arab Codex Initiative:

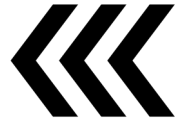
- ❖ We recommend that both proposed drafts (Annexes II and IV of CXG 99-2023) advance to Step 5/8 for final adoption



Agenda Item 8 - Plan

Agenda Item 8: Proposed draft Guidelines for food hygiene control measures traditional markets for food at Step 4

- ✓ **Background**
- ✓ **Comments**
- ✓ **Recommendations**



Background - Documents: CX/FH 24/54/9

- As agreed during CCHH53, and EWG (chaired by Kenya and co-chaired by Bolivia and Nigeria) prepared a draft of the Guidelines for food hygiene control measures traditional markets for food,
- The draft went through two rounds of comments and reviews.
- The proposed draft heavily borrows from **various regional codes of practice and guidelines.**

Agenda Item 8: Proposed draft Guidelines for food hygiene control measures traditional markets for food at Step 4



Comments

- The document requires various changes – some of which are fundamental



Recommendation

- ✓ recommend that a new draft is prepared and circulated at Step 4.



