

24th Meeting of the Codex Contact Points in the Arab Region

ANALYSIS OF AGENDA ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 54th SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (CCFA54)

April 18, 2024

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AGENDA ITEM 9 : Discussion paper on the development of a standard for baker's yeast

Document: CX/FA 24/54/12



At the 44th Session of CAC (2021),

China introduced the new work proposal for the development of a Codex standard for yeast for discussion.

China requested guidance from CAC44 regarding the Codex committee that could undertake new work on yeast, noting that this product fell outside of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the existing committees.

CAC44 decision

Agreed that the discussion paper on the development of a standard for yeast should be presented at the 53rd Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA53) in 2023.



BACKGROUND

At the CCFA53 (2023)

China presented the discussion paper) emphasizing the need to establish a standard for yeast

The purpose would be to protect consumer health, and promote fair international trade by removing trade barriers in line with the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

China clarified that yeast was not a food additive but a food ingredient as identified in Food Category System (FC 12.8), and that CCFA was the most suitable Codex Committee to undertake this work.



At the CCFA53 (2023)

Members and Observers expressed the following different views:

- ✓ The scope and proposal needed to be further refined with a focus on baker's yeast,
- ✓ Edible yeast should be excluded from the scope and some edible yeast products could potentially overlap with the ongoing discussions on the work on new food sources and food production systems;
- ✓ The need to consider restricting the scope to live baker's yeast only and not including a gassing power as it may create trade barriers;
- ✓ The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) was in the process of initiating work on a standard for yeast, and Codex and ISO should coordinate in this regard to avoid duplication.



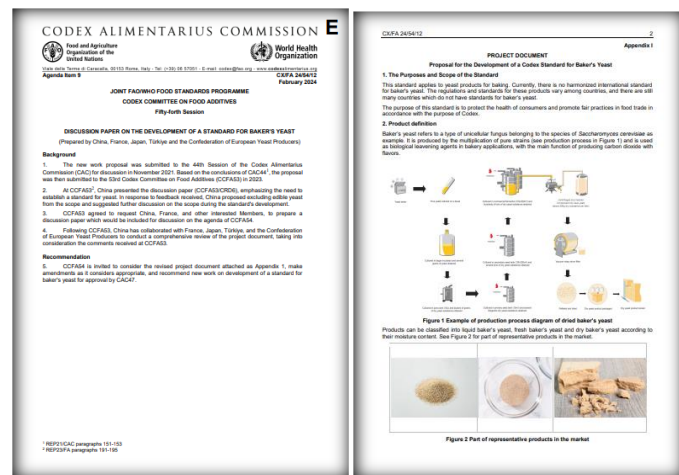
In response to feedback received, China proposed excluding edible yeast from the scope and suggested further discussion on the scope during the standard's development.

CCFA agreed to request China, France, and other interested Members, to prepare a discussion paper which would be included for discussion on the agenda of CCFA54.

BACKGROUND

At the CCFA54 (2024)

Delegates will discuss the EWG's proposals related to the establishment of the revised project document, to make amendments as it considers appropriate, and recommend new work on development of a standard for baker's yeast for approval by CAC47



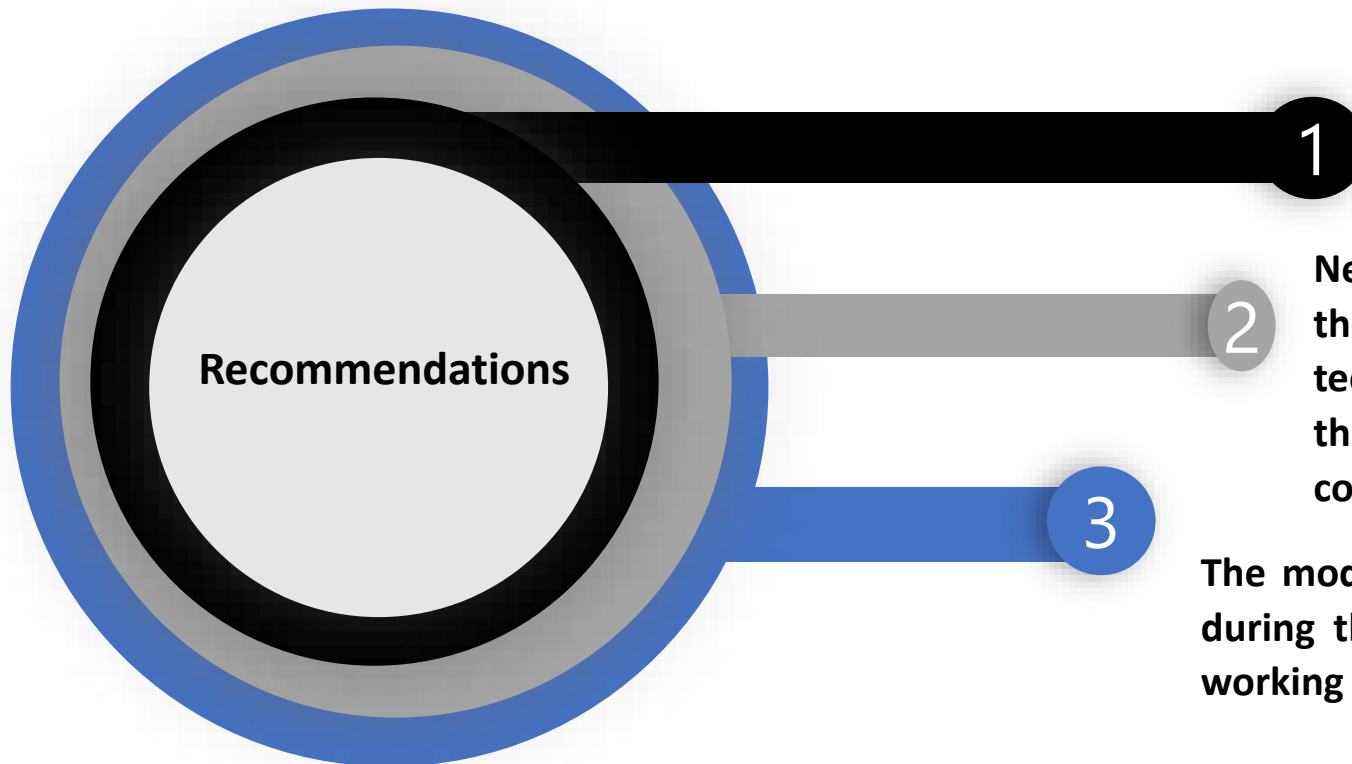
- China has collaborated with France, Japan, Turkey, and the Confederation of European Yeast Producers to conduct a comprehensive review of the project document, taking into consideration the comments received at CCFA53.

- The EWG lead by China has revised the new work proposal document, considering:
 - The discussion and recommendations of the CAC44, about the revision of the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA Category 12.8) on yeast and yeast products;
 - The information that ISO has begun their work on microbial food cultures including yeast and that such work be considered by Codex moving forward, as well as a suggestion to exclude yeast used to produce alcoholic beverages;
 - The new information provided by members; and
 - Comments received at CCFA53.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Yeast is an essential ingredient which is widely used in our daily food preparation (especially in Arab countries) given its beneficial effects in food technology (preparation of bread and its derived products which are highly consumed in the Arab region).

The new work proposed for the development of standard for yeast is needed to harmonize the production approaches, to protect consumer health, and promote fair international trade by removing trade barriers.



Arab Codex delegations might give their support for advancing the work on the establishment of a standard for yeast.

Nevertheless, knowing that this standard must include all the instructions and guidelines related to safety and technology for instance, therefore the establishment of this standard must involve all relevant technical committees, e.g. CCCF, CCFH, etc.

The modalities for developing the standard must be discussed during the CCFA, with even the possibility of creating a joint working group.

