

Report of the 24th meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points

As part of the implementation of recommendation (3) of the 23rd meeting report of the Arab Codex Contact Points, held virtually on Monday 4 April 2024, which states:

“The 24th meeting of Arab CCPs will be held at a date to be determined later in coordination with GFORSS.”
This coordination meeting was held virtually on Thursday 18 April 2024 to prepare the meeting (54) of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA54), with the participation of representatives of the following Arab countries:

1. Jordan
2. United Arab Emirates
3. Bahrain
4. Saudi Arabia
5. Sudan
6. Syria
7. Oman
8. Palestine
9. Qatar
10. Lebanon
11. Egypt
12. Morocco
13. Yemen

As well as AIDSMO, GFORSS, and GSO representatives.

The meeting was opened by the representative of AIDSMO and the coordinator of the Arab Codex Initiative, in a speech in which he welcomed the participants and thanked them for responding to the invitation to participate, noting that the meeting is concerned with analyzing the agenda items of the 54th meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) to be held in China during the period 22 - 26 April 2024. He also welcomed the efforts made by the experts of the Arab Codex Initiative under Prof. Samuel Godefroy and thanked the representatives of Morocco, Qatar, for preparing and presenting the meeting's presentations.

The meeting agenda items were approved as follows:

Agenda item	Subject
Item 1	Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda: Arab Codex Initiative Coordinator
Item 2	Review and analysis of agenda Items of Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA54)
Item 3	Future events of the Arab Region

During the second item of this meeting, the items that will be presented during the 54th meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Additives (CCFA54), which are important to Arab countries, were reviewed and analyzed, as follows:

- Professor Samuel Godefroy presented the General Standard for Food Additives, its definition, structure, objectives, types, and exceptions.
- Representatives of Qatar presented the item 3.11, 4.1 and 4.2, as follows:
 - Agenda item 3.11: Matters related to Azodicarbonamide (INS 927a)
 - Agenda item 4.1: Endorsement and/or revision of maximum levels for food additives and processing aids in Codex standards
 - Agenda item 4.2: Alignment of the food additive provisions of commodity standards: Report of the Electronic Working Group on Alignment
- Dr. Amine Kassouf presented the item 5.a and 5.b, as follows:
 - Agenda item 5.a: General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA): Report of the Electronic Working Group on the GSFA
 - Agenda item 5.b: General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA): Proposals for new and/or revision of food additive provisions (replies to CL 2023/46-FA)
- Dr. Karima Zouine presented the item 6, as follows:
 - Agenda item 6: Proposed draft revision to the Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (CXG 36-1989)

- Dr. Wiem Guissouma presented the item 7, as follows:
 - Agenda item 7: Proposals for additions and changes to the Priority List of Substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA (replies to CL 2023/47-FA)
- Representatives of Morocco presented the item 8 and 9, as follows:
 - Agenda item 8: Discussion paper on divergence between the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), Codex commodity standards and other texts –Identification of outstanding issues
 - Agenda item 9: Discussion paper on the development of a standard for yeast

During the third item of this meeting, future events of interest to the Arab region were reviewed as follows:

- The Second Symposium of the Arab Section of AOAC International during the period 7-8 May 2024 / Amman Jordan
- The Egyptian International Food Safety Symposium on May 29-30, 2024 / Cairo - Egypt.
- The Third Arab Codex Symposium during the period June 11-13, 2024 / Doha - Qatar

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/President of GFoRSS, the experts of the Arab Codex Initiative, and the representatives of the following Arab countries: Qatar, and Morocco for preparing and presenting analysis presentations for the agenda items of the 54th meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA54).
3. The 25th meeting of Arab CCPs will be held at a date to be determined later in coordination with GFoRSS.