





THE THIRD ARAB CODEX COLLOQUIUM

11-13 June 2024, Amman, Jordan

Review of Outputs of Key Codex Committees (2024)

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS (CCCF17)

Dr. Karima Zouine, Head of Risk Assessment Unit, ONSSA, Morocco June 11, 2024

OUTLINE

- > Background
- > Priority Agenda Items
- > Highlights of Discussions
- > Key Recommendations

> Summary and Future Work

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS International Food Standards World Health Organization of Crganization of the United Nations CCCF المنادرة العربية للدستور الغذائي ARAB CODEX

BACKGROUND





The Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods Held its 17th Session, in Panama City, from 15 to 19 April 2024, at the kind invitation of the Governments of Panama and Netherlands (Kingdom of the).



Dr Sally Hoffer, chaired the session attended by 54 Member countries (6 countries from Arab region), one Member organization and 7 Observer organizations.

> OMAN EGYPT ALGERIA

Manager Safe and Sustainable Food, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Plant Agro , Chains and Food Quality, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)

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SAUDI ARABIA

CCCF17: More than 20 topics/agenda items



	Agenda item	Topic
Industrial,		MLs for lead in spices and culinary herbs
environmental, and	5	
naturally occurring		Sampling plans for methylmercury in fish
toxicants	6	
Toxins	Agenda item 7	Toxins Definition for ready-to-eat peanuts for the establishment of a maximum level for total aflatoxins in this product
	Agenda item 8	Sampling plans for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in certain spices
	Agenda item 9	Code of practice/guidelines for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning
Discussion paper	Agenda item 10	Discussion papers Pyrrolizidine alkaloids
	Agenda item 11	Tropane alkaloids
	Agenda item 12	Acrylamide in foods
	Agenda item 13	Cadmium and lead in quinoa
	Agenda item 14	Review of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts (CXC 55- 2004)
	Agenda item 15	Review of the Code of Practice for the Reduction of Aflatoxin B1 in Raw Materials and Supplemental Feeding stuffs for Milk-Producing Animals (CXC 45-1997)
	Agenda item 16	Development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods
General Issues	Agenda item 17	General Issues Guidance on data analysis for development of maximum levels and for improved data collection
Future work	Agenda item	Future work Review of Codex standards for contaminants

PRIORITY AGENDA ITEMS



The Committee had discussed a number of important topics, which resulted in <u>new CCCF</u> <u>standards and texts</u> being forwarded to the 47th Codex Alimentarius Commission and in agreements on the development of new work.

- New maximum levels (MLs) were agreed for <u>lead in a variety of spices</u>, and dried culinary herbs.
- > New MLs were agreed for <u>cadmium and lead in quinoa</u>.
- > the draft code of practice/guidelines for the prevention and reduction of <u>ciguatera poisoning</u>.
- > the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of <u>Aflatoxin</u> <u>Contamination in Peanuts;</u>
- > the draft code of practice/guidelines for the prevention and reduction
 of Cadmium and lead in quinoa;
- > the Code of Practice for the Reduction of <u>Aflatoxin B1 in Raw Materials</u> and Supplemental Feeding stuffs for Milk-Producing Animals;
- To develop a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of <u>cadmium contamination</u> in foods,
- > to update of the Code of Practice for Weed Control to Prevent and Reduce
- Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid Contamination in Food and Feed (CXC 74-2014).
 To develop a code of practice to prevent and reduce the presence of the
 - plant toxins, tropane alkaloids, in food.
- > to revise the Code of Practice for the Reduction of <u>Acrylamide in Foods</u>

The Arab Codex Initiative adopt a dynamic approach to support Arab countries in analyzing agenda items and strengthening their participation during committee meetings



Effective participation of delegations from the Arab region in the meetings of the technical committees of the Codex Alimentarius

reating an effective and capable economic force To achieve common Arab interests

Strengthening national and Arab capacities in setting international standards for food Understand the various impacts of the proposition (standards/texts) for the Arab region.

Consultation on the potential health and economic impacts of applying the proposed standards/texts in Arab countries

Exchange of opinions between Arab countries and regional committees (CCAFRICA/CCLAC/USDA)

The process of analyzing agenda items and organizing coordination meetings between national and regional committees is among the good practices followed by most developed countries in the world to support their positions and ensure effective participation in Codex committee meetings.



منهجية اقتراح الحدود القصوى من قبل فرق العمل الالكترونية







Agenda Item 5 MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR LEAD IN CERTAIN FOOD CATEGORIES

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BACKGROUND





The EWG used the approach "As Low As Reasonably Achievable" (ALARA) to propose MLs, with rejection rates of less than 5%.

		e work was EWG chai Brazil	
REP24/CF17-Append	lix II		32
	MAYIMU	IM LEVELS FOR LEAD IN CERTAIN FOO	APPENDIX II
	MAXIMO	(For adoption at Step 5/8)	IN CATEGORIES
Commodity/ Product name	Maximum level (ML) mg/kg	Portion of the commodity/ Product to which the ML applies	Notes/Remarks
Spices, dried aril	0.9	Whole, ground, powder, crushed	
Spices, dried floral parts	2.5	Whole, ground, powder, crushed	Relevant Codex commodity standard is CXS 344-2021.
Spices, dried fruit and berries	0.6	Whole, ground, powder, crushed	The ML does not apply to dried Sichuan pepper, star anise, dried paprika and sumac.
Spices, dried paprika and sumac	0.8	Whole, ground, powder, crushed	Relevant Codex commodity standard is CXS 353-2022.
Spices, Dried Sichuan pepper and Star anise	3.0	Whole, ground, powder, crushed	
Spices, dried rhizomes, and roots	2.0	Whole, ground, powder, crushed	Relevant Codex commodity standard is CXS 343-2021.
Spices, dried seeds	0.9	Whole, ground, powder, crushed	The ML does not apply to dried celery seeds. Relevant Codex commodity standards are CXS 327-2021 and CXS 352- 2022.
Spices, dried celery seeds	1.5	Whole, ground, powder, crushed	
		(For adoption at Step 5)	
Commodity/ Product name	Maximum level (ML) mg/kg	Portion of the commodity/ Product to which the ML applies	Notes/Remarks
Spices, dried bark	2.5	Whole, ground, powder, crushed	
Culinary herbs, dried	2.5	Whole commodity	MLs for fresh culinary herbs may be derived based on the moisture content of the fresh herb in relation to the dry herb.





CCCF17 DECISIONS (1/2)

Forward to CAC47 the following : 8 LMs at step 5/8 and 2 LMs at step 5



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Commodity/ Product Name	ML (mg/kg)	Step
Spices, dried bark	2.5	(5)
Spices, dried flower parts reservations of the European Union, Egypt, Turkey, and India	2.5	(5/8)
<pre>Spices, dried fruits and berries (excluding Sichuan pepper, star anise, paprika and sumac) / reservation of India spices, dried paprika and sumac</pre>	0.6 0,8	(5/8) (5/8) (5/8)
Sichuan pepper and dried Star anise <u>reservations of</u> the European Union	3.0	(5/8)
Spices, dried rhizomes, bulbs and roots reservations of the European Union, Indonesia, Egypt, and India	2.0	(5/8) (5/8)
Spices, dried seeds(excluding celery seeds)/ <u>reservations</u> of India Dried colory seeds /reservations of the European	0.9	(5/8)
Dried culinary herbs	2.5	(5)
Spices, dried aril / reservation of India	0.9	

CCCF17 DECISIONS (2/2)



Discontinue work on the MLs for spices, dried flowers and for fresh culinary herbs and to inform CAC47 accordingly;
 Re-establish the EWG chaired by Brazil, to work on MLs for lead in dried bark and dried culinary herbs, to consider the relevance of the note on moisture content to the ML for fresh culinary herbs, for comments and consideration by CCCF18;

□ Request JECFA to:

- Issue a call for data for lead in spices, dried bark, including a note not to submit data that could be related to economic adulteration and for dried culinary herbs; and
- Perform an analysis of the available data for spice mixtures for consideration by CCCF18; and
- □ Request the Secretariat to issue a CL requesting comments on application of MLs to multi-ingredient products.





POSITION OF ARAB COUNTRIES



- Support the establishment of MLs for Lead in Spices and Culinary Herbs given their important consumption in several diets, including the Arab diets and the potential detrimental health impact of Lead.
- ✤ 19 countries submited their comments via CRD related to the EWG proposals, including one Arab country (Egypt).

CODEX ALIME	NTARIUS COMMISSION
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	World Health Organization
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Ita	lly - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org
Agenda Items 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15	CRD35
	April 2024 <u>ORIGINAL LANGUAGE</u>
JOINT FAO	WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COI	MMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS
	17th Session
	15-19 April 2024
	Comments submitted by Egypt
Agenda Item 5: Maximum levels for lead in	certain food categories (at Step 4)
	he maximum levels (MLs) for lead by EWG chaired by Brazil, and regarding idividual commodities, Egypt supports the following maximum levels (MLs)
 For Spices, dried bark 	2 mg/kg
 For Spices, dried floral parts 	1 mg/kg

Agenda Item 6:

SAMPLING PLANS FOR METHYLMERCURY IN FISH





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Background/CCCF decisions





Overall Considerations

VWG: The changes made to the sampling plan addressed all written comments submitted and discussions in the EWG and VWG.

VWG: MLs for methylmercury in fish should be accompanied by sampling plans

VWG: Tissue distribution data for shark, alfonsino, marlin, orange roughy and pink cusk eel, this was not likely to become available in the near future.



VWG: Practicality of the sampling plan will only be confirmed only once the sampling was in place





Agenda Item 7:

DEFINITION FOR READY-TO-EAT PEANUTS FOR THE

ESTABLISHMENT OF A MAXIMUM LEVEL FOR TOTAL

AFLATOXINS IN THIS PRODUCT



BACKGROUND





- The work was done by EWG chaired by India to develop a definition for ready to eat (RTE) peanuts,
- Should be followed by data compilation and analysis for the development of the ML and sampling plan for this category of peanuts.

The new definition suggested by the EWG is the following:

Ready-to-Eat Peanut is a product intended for direct human consumption, not intended to undergo an additional processing/treatment that has proven to reduce levels of aflatoxins, before being used as ingredients in foodstuffs, otherwise processed, packed in all types of packaging such as consumer or bulk, labeled as 'RTE Peanuts'. It includes but is not restricted to (i) raw shelled peanuts, (ii) raw in-shell peanuts, (iii) roasted in-shell peanuts, (iv) roasted/blanched shelled peanuts, (v) fried shelled peanuts with or without skin, (vi) coated peanuts, (vii) seasoned peanuts, (viii) smoked peanuts, (ix) salted and cooked peanuts, (x) peanut butter.



CCCF17 DECISION



- (i) apply the existing definition for RTE treenuts in CXS 193 to RTE peanuts;
- (ii) establish an EWG chaired by India and co-chaired by USA, to develop the ML for AFT in RTE peanuts and the associated sampling plan for comments and consideration by CCCF18;
- (iii) request JECFA Secretariat to issue a call for data, with a guidance to specify the raw peanuts as RTE or FFP; and
- (iv) request the GEMS/Food database administrator to clarify with the submitters whether the data currently identified as unknown were RTE or for further processing.



POSITION OF ARAB COUNTRIES



- ✤ 45 members from 24 countries participated to the EWG including one Arab country (SAUDI ARABIA)
- ✤ 16 countries submited their comments via CRD related to the EWG proposal, including one Arab country (Egypt).

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World Health Organization	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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CRD35	Agenda Items 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15
April 2024 ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	
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	For Spices, dried bark
	For Spices, dried floral parts
	For Spices, dried rhizomes, bulbs and roots

Agenda Item 9: CODE OF PRACTICE/GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OR REDUCTION OF CIGUATERA POISONING



nition of CP poisoning

ting from the ingestion of sh and seafood from tropical tropical regions, particularly outh Pacific and Indian and Caribbean oceans.

mulation of certain toxins kin CTXx) in fish and seafood bughout the food chain. Source of poison These fat-soluble toxins are produced by algae of the *Gambierdiscius* and *Fukuyoa* species.

Was once limited to local residents ⁴ and visitors in regions where toxic algae are known to accumulate in fish, but global trade of fish has caused CP illnesses to be reported by a wider range of countries Effects on the health

50,000 cases of ciguatera poisoning each year, 1% are fatal .

The adverse effects can last of the weeks , even of the years .







DECISIONS MADE DURING THE SESSION





- (i) forward the code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning (Appendix V) to CAC47 for adoption at Step 5/8; and
- (ii) request the Codex Secretariat to publish the information on resources (examples of monitoring programs and training and guidance resources) with the relevant links, as an information document.

The objective is to present the background issues, approaches to prevention or reduction, and knowledge gaps and future challenges associated with ciguatoxins and ciguatera poisoning.

CCCF noted the general support to advance the CoP to Step 5/8 and in addition to some editorial corrections

EWG/PWG



- The Work was done during the EWG and PWG (Referring to CRD29) chaired by United States of America, co-Chairs by France, Panama, and Spain,
- ✓ The PWG had not identified any outstanding issues to be addressed and proposed that CCCF consider advancing the Code of Practice (CoP) to Step 5/8.



POSITION OF ARAB COUNTRIES



- ✤ 32 countries participated to the EWG including three Arab countries (SAUDI ARABIA, Qatar and Egypt)
- 16 countries submitted their comments via CRD related to the EWG proposal, including one Arab country (Egypt).

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	April 2024
<u>c</u>	ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
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17th Session	
15-19 April 2024	
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omments submitted by Egypt ertain food categories (at Step 4) le maximum levels (MLs) for lead by EWG chaired by dividual commodities, Egypt supports the following n	



Agenda Item 13:

DISCUSSION PAPER ON LEAD AND

CADMIUM IN QUINOA.

Discussion/CCCF decison

 ✓ Cereals are relevant contributor to the exposure of both cadmium and lead ✓ * the tolerable weekly intake (TWI) could exceed for many consumers ✓ *There was sufficient data for the establishment MLs for cadmium and lead in evince 	Separate MLs should be established as quinoa was not a cereal, but a pseudo-cereal
general s establishin MLs for ca	noted the support for og separate dmium and quinoa
MLs for cadmium should be set at levels following the ALARA principle	MLs of 0.15 mg/kg for cadmium and 0.2 mg/kg for lead were proposed for adoption by CAC47 as these MLs would generate the lowest rejection rates worldwide



POSITION OF ARAB COUNTRIES



12 countries and one organization (IUFOST) submitted their comments via CRD related to the EWG proposal, including one Arab country (Egypt).

World Health Organization	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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CRD3	genda Items 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15
April 202 ORIGINAL LANGUAG	
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Agenda Item 14:

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IN PEANUTS

Background



At CCCF16 (2023), the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts (CXC 55-2004) was identified for possible review.



Establishment of (EWG) chaired by Brazil.

At CCCF17: A discussion paper concerning the new work was presented by the EWG summarizing key points of discussion including:

 an assessment of the information on new risk management practices available; and
 a preliminary revised CoP.

EWG concluded that there is new information available that justifies the revision of the CoP

CCCF17 DECISION

Agenda Item 14 🥪

CCCF noted the general support to start new work on the revision of CXC 55 and agreed to:

Start new work on the revision of Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts (CXC 55-2004)

Forward the project document (Appendix VIII) to CAC47 for approval; and

Establish an EWG, chaired by Brazil and co-chaired by India, working in English, to prepare a proposed revision of the CoP for comments and consideration by CCCF18



POSITION OF ARAB COUNTRIES



- ✤ 24 countries and one organization (FAO) participated to the EWG including three Arab countries (SAUDI ARABIA and Egypt).
- 13 countries and one organization (IUFOST) submitted their comments via CRD related to the EWG proposal, including one Arab country (Egypt).





Agenda Item 15:

DISCUSSION PAPER ON REVIEW OF THE CODE OF

PRACTICE FOR THE REDUCTION OF AFLATOXIN B1 IN

RAW MATERIALS AND SUPPLEMENTAL

FEEDINGSTUFFS FOR MILK-PRODUCING ANIMAL

Background



CCCF15: agreed to develop a discussion paper on the review of the Code of practice for the reduction of aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and supplemental feeding stuffs for milk-producing animals (CXC 45-1997).

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations World Health Organization Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.co Agenda item 14 CX/CF 24/17/14 March 2024 JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMM CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS 17th Session 15-19 April 2024 Panama City, Panama DISCUSSION DADED ON THE (Prepared by the Electronic Working Aflato Corrouppes (CXC chwadenfile retudiew by Due to the fact that all these exposure from plantic continues to be a bublic health cover and that new Information on risk managementers were not a stabilish an electronic Working Group (Evvo) community adoption of the CoP in 2004, CCCF1 pred to establish an electronic Working Group (Evvo) community of the CoP.¹ nuts may have become available since the Electronic Working Group (EWG) chaired by Brazil to The proposal for new work is presented in Appendix I. The discussion paper summarizing key points of discussion n the EWG, including an assessment of the information on new risk management practices available to the EWG, is presented in Appendix II. Based on this summary, a preliminary revised CoP is presented in Appendix III. The list of participants is available in Appendix IV. WORK PROCESS A search of the literature was done in order to identify publications that could help in the revision of the CoP. A first draft of the document was circulated in the EWG for comments, asking that members to identify new information, including new measures, proven to be effective in reducing or preventing aflatoxin contamination in peanuts, and to attach scientific references. Only the USA provided comments on the first draft and then a second one was issued with the inputs received and, including a project document proposal. Comments in the second round of discussion were provided by the USA, Thailand, Peru and FoodDrinkEurope. CONCLUSIONS Based on the discussion paper provided in Appendix II, it can be concluded that there is new information available that justifies the revision of the CoP. RECOMMENDATIONS

 CCCF is invited to consider if there is sufficient information available on new mitigation measures to justify the revision of the Code of Protice for the Prevention and Reduction of Allatoxin Contamination in Peanuts (CKCS-2004) based on the information provided in Appendices II and III.

REP23/CF16, paras 105 (iv) (a)

Establishment of (EWG) chaired by Canada

At CCCF17: A discussion paper concerning the new work was presented by the EWG summarizing key points of discussion :

revision of CX 45 would draw on information from other CoPs relevant to animal feed

> new/additional measures were identified to control AFB1 in raw materials and supplemental feeding stuffs for milk-EWG pshodukdnopeaniemaestandol bahed possfibiteher developishonsdthetussight papeededdfonchede a pfoposal for the revision of the CoP for consideration by CCCF18

CCCF17 Discussion



CCCF agreed that there was sufficient information available for the revision of the CoP and agreed with the recommendation to further develop the discussion paper and noted the following observations:

Concerns were raised with the use of some chemicals as mitigation measures and its possible impact on the quality of feed:

Other CoPs of relevance should be taken into account in the revision of the CXC 45. CXC 51 is of the most relevance and should be considered for alignment

It was agreed to develop a discussion paper on the review of the Code of practice for the reduction of aflatoxin B1 in raw materials and supplemental feedingstuffs for milk-producing animals (CXC 45-1997).



CCCF17 Conclusion



re-establish the EWG chaired by Canada and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia working to revise the discussion paper, with a proposal for a revised CoP and a project document for new work.

consider in future how the different CoPs could be integrated or merged to avoid overlap, inconsistencies, and redundancies Continue the development of the discussion paper in the EWG in order to have another year of discussion, to allow inclusion of a draft CoP to have a better basis for decision on starting new work.



POSITION OF ARAB COUNTRIES



- ✤ 33 countries and one organization (FAO) participated to the EWG including three Arab countries (SAUDI ARABIA, Qatar and Egypt.)
- 16 countries and one organization (IUFOST) submitted their comments via CRD related to the EWG proposal, including one Arab country (Egypt).



Agenda Item 16

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF CADMIUM CONTAMINATION IN

FOODS.



Background



CCCF16: agreed that the United States of America (USA) would prepare a discussion paper on a possible Code of Practice (CoP) for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Foods for consideration by the CCCF17



At CCCF17: USA presented the new work :

- \succ there was sufficient data to support a code of practice;
- the aim of the discussion paper was to present risk management practices to support the development of a CoP for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods.

The Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans (CXC 81-2022) had served as a basis for the proposed CoP.

CCCF17 decision



CCCF agreed to:

- (i) start new work on a code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods,
- (ii) forward the project document to CAC47 for approval; and
- (iii) establish an EWG chaired by the United States of America, to develop a code of practice for the prevention of reduction of cadmium contamination in foods for comments and consideration by CCCF18; and to determine the need for development of annexes with commodity specific recommendations.



Future Work



Follow-up work to the outcomes of JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert consultations (Agenda item 19)

(i) address the recommendations "Collect standardized data on fish contaminants" and "Develop, maintain and improve existing databases on levels and trends over time of specific contaminants, in particular MeHg, dioxins and dl-PCBs" in the frame of the ongoing discussions on the Guidance on data analysis for development of maximum levels and for improved data collection;

(ii) reconsider the elaboration of a discussion paper on the need and feasibility of possible follow-up actions on ergot alkaloids and trichothecenes T-2, HT-2, and DAS at CCCF18 by integrating these evaluations in the inventory of follow-up to previous JECFA evaluations (paragraphs 161-162);

(iii) merge this WG with the WG on the priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA and that USA would chair this merged WG; and

(iv) separate the inventory of the follow-up to JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert in recent and older evaluations.

Review of Codex standards for contaminants (Agenda item 18)

(i) agreed with the editorial amendments to Lists A, B and OHPL;(ii) to maintain the prioritization of existing Codex contaminant standards for review as an annual CCCF agenda item;

(iii) to solicit information annually via a CL and that Canada would present recommendations to plenary;

(iv) that the CL would also include a request for views on whether the request from CCMAS on the review of sampling plans was appropriate for this item or would best fit under another agenda item; and

(v) to re-convene the WG chaired by Canada as needed.

Priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA (Agenda item 20)

- endorse the priority list as amended;
- continue to request comments and/or information on the priority list for consideration by CCCF18; and
- re-convene the WG at CCCF18 chaired by the United States of America.



Future Work

Priority list of contaminants for evaluation by JECFA (Agenda item 20)

- endorse the priority list as amended;
- continue to request comments and/or information on the priority list for consideration by CCCF18; and
- re-convene the WG at CCCF18 chaired by the United States of America.

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Other matters Foresight on emerging issues in food and feed safety relevant to contaminants (Agenda item 21)

- agreed to remove foresight as a standing agenda item of the Committee and to organize a side event at subsequent CCCF meetings to have further exchange on this topic;
- agreed to issue a circular letter annually to gather more information on emerging issues relevant to the work of the Committee



