



## THE THIRD ARAB CODEX COLLOQUIUM

*11-13 June 2024, Amman, Jordan*

### **Review of Outputs of Key Codex Committees (2024)**

**The 54th session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives  
(CCFA54)**

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# OUTLINE

- Background
- Priority Agenda Items
- Highlights of Discussion
- Key Recommendations
- Summary and Future Work



# BACKGROUND

- The Fifty-Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) held in Chengdu, China, from 22 to 26 April 2024, was attended by 41 Member Countries, one Member Organization, 23 Observer Organizations, FAO, and WHO.
- Arab countries that participated to the physical meeting: Algeria, Egypt; Morocco; Saudi Arabia;



# PRIORITY AGENDA ITEMS

Items discussed during the Arab coordination meetings

- 3.11: Matters related to azodicarbonamide (INS 927a)
- 4.1: Endorsement and/or revision of maximum levels for food additives and processing aids in Codex standards
- 4.2: Alignment of the food additive provisions of commodity standards: Report of the Electronic Working Group on Alignment
- 5.1: General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA): Report of the Electronic Working Group on the GSFA
- 5.2: General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA): Proposals for new and/or revision of food additive provisions (replies to CL 2023/46-FA)
- 6.1 and 6.2: Proposed draft revision to the class names and the international numbering system (ins) for food additives
- 7: Proposals for additions and changes to the priority list of substances proposed for evaluation by JECFA (replies to CL 2023/47-FA)
- 8: Discussion paper on divergence between the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), Codex commodity standards and other texts - Identification of outstanding issues
- 9: Discussion paper on the development of a standard for baker's yeast

By focusing on these key interests, the Arab region aims to ensure food safety, regulatory alignment, and consumer protection while facilitating trade and meeting international standards.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

Agenda Item	Priority Item	Highlights of Discussions	Committee Recommendations
3.11	Azodicarbonamide (INS 927a)	Safety concerns led to discussions on withdrawing its Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI).	Add to priority list for JECFA evaluation; may remove if no supporting data is provided.
4.1	Endorsement and/or Revision of Maximum Levels for Food Additives and Processing Aids	Discussed appropriate maximum levels to ensure safety and suitability for consumption.	Endorse proposed maximum levels; ensure they align with international standards.
4.2	Alignment of Food Additive Provisions of Commodity Standards	Discussed harmonizing food additive standards with international provisions for consistency.	Align regional standards with international provisions for consistency and safety.
5.2	GSFA: Proposals for New and/or Revision of Food Additive Provisions	Identified the need for updated safety evaluations for ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304) and propylene glycol (INS 1520).	Conduct full safety evaluation for ascorbyl palmitate; update evaluation for propylene glycol.
6.1 & 6.2	Draft Revision to Class Names and INS for Food Additives	Emphasized updating class names and INS for better clarity and consistency in food labeling.	Establish a working group to propose and consider changes to the INS.
7	Additions and Changes to JECFA Priority List	Discussed including new substances like sucroglycerides (INS 474) and steviol glycosides for evaluation.	Forward amended priority list for endorsement; request additional information and comments.
8	Divergence between GSFA and Codex Standards	Highlighted the challenges in aligning GSFA with Codex commodity standards to avoid inconsistencies.	Reaffirm GSFA as the primary source of food additive information; address alignment challenges.
	Development of	Discussed the importance of	Develop the standard within three

No specific positions noted from Arab countries

# FUTURE WORK / TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE INITIATIVE

## General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)

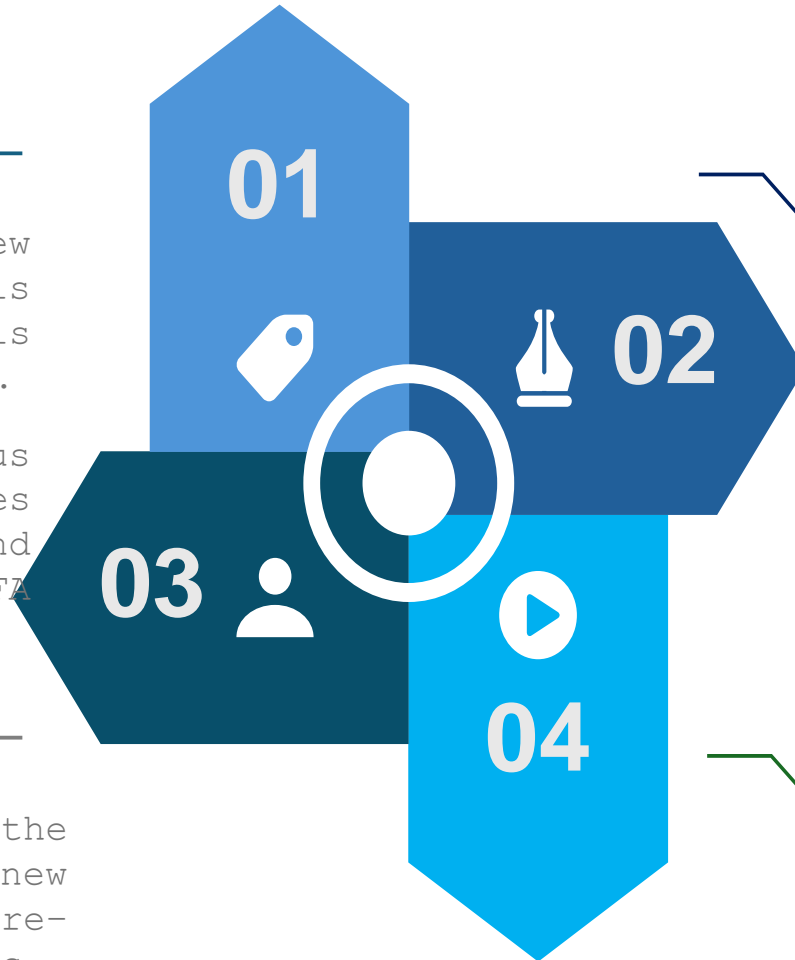
▪Work: Establish an EWG to review and update GSFA provisions. This includes addressing new proposals and revising existing provisions.

▪Support Needed: Continuous engagement from member countries to provide data, comments, and support for updating GSFA provisions

## Priority List for JECFA Evaluations

▪Work: Regular updates to the priority list, including new substances for evaluation and re-evaluation of existing substances.

▪Support Needed: Ongoing data submission and collaboration from member countries to ensure timely and comprehensive evaluations by JECFA



## International System (INS)

▪Work: Establish an EWG to consider and propose changes to the INS, ensuring it reflects current needs and practices.

▪Support Needed: Contributions from member countries to propose and review changes, ensuring the INS remains relevant and accurate

## Harmonization of Regional Standards

▪Work: Align regional standards with international provisions to ensure consistency and safety.

▪Support Needed: Active participation from regional committees to harmonize standards and address any discrepancies

## Numbering

# CONCLUSION

The CCFA discussed several key agenda items, resulting in recommendations for CAC47 to consider. These included :

- Adding azodicarbonamide to the jecfa priority list,
- Endorsing revised maximum levels for food additives,
- Aligning regional standards with international provisions,
- Updating safety evaluations for specific additives, and
- Developing a standard for baker's yeast.



These initiatives require robust support and participation from member countries to ensure successful implementation and continuous improvement of food additive standards, food safety and regulatory consistency.



